



25 August 2026

IOTC CIRCULAR 2026-36

Dear Madam / Sir

REGARDING OBJECTIONS TO MEASURES ADOPTED AT THE 30TH SESSION OF THE IOTC

Attached please find a letter from Japan on the above-mentioned subject

Yours sincerely

Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Letter from Japan

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia, Panama. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

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FISHERIES AGENCY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907, Japan

24 August 2026

Subject: Regarding Objections to Measures Adopted at the 30th Session of the IOTC

Dear Colleagues,

Japan emphasizes that IOTC Agreement is founded on the principle of cooperation among its members to ensure the conservation and optimum utilization of tuna stocks through appropriate management as outlined in Article V. Achieving these objectives necessitates collective effort in the adoption and implementation of robust conservation and management measures.

In this regard, Japan would like to express its concern that, as a result of objections, CPCs may cease to be bound by the measures adopted at the 30th Session of the IOTC. Japan reiterated at the 30th Session of the Commission that effective conservation and management, and the credibility and effectiveness of the IOTC, depend on all CPCs faithfully implementing adopted measures and fulfilling their responsibilities.

The right of CPCs to object to measures adopted by the Commission is provided for in the IOTC Agreement and should be respected. At the same time, Japan considers that this right should be exercised with due regard to the extensive efforts undertaken by CPCs to reach consensus and the need to maintain the effectiveness and credibility of the Commission.

Japan wishes to emphasize that these measures were the result of extensive negotiations and significant efforts by CPCs to accommodate differing views and arrive at balanced outcomes. CPCs demonstrated considerable flexibility and accepted modifications proposed during discussions in order to build consensus.

If, as a result of objections, adopted measures cease to be binding on CPCs, this would undermine the considerable efforts made by CPCs to reach consensus, discourage compromise in future negotiations, and weaken the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation and management framework.

Therefore, Japan encourages all CPCs to remain committed to the implementation of measures adopted by the Commission and to continue working constructively toward effective fisheries management in the Indian Ocean.

Yours sincerely,

Takaaki Suzuki

Head of Japanese delegation to IOTC