11 November 2026

# IOTC CIRCULAR 2026-49

Dear Madam / Sir

## REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE THE YELLOWFIN TUNA CATCH LIMITS

Please find attached a communication from the Federal Government of Somalia in relation to the information provided in IOTC Circular 2026-45.

As you will note in the attachment, the Federal Government of Somalia is requesting the flag States of the vessels mentioned in the above-referenced circular, the European Union (Spain) and Oman, to investigate the allegations presented therein, as provided for in paragraph 7 of IOTC Resolution 24/03.

Therefore, the European Union (Spain) and Oman, shall investigate the allegations set out in IOTC Circular 2026-45 and shall report the progress of the investigation to the IOTC Executive Secretary within 60 days; that is by 8th January 2027.

Yours sincerely



Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

**Attachment:**

- Communication from the Federal Government of Somalia

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.

This message has been transmitted by email only

**Communication from the Federal Government of Somalia**

**From:** H.E Abdi Dirshe <dg@mfbe.gov.so>
**Sent:** Monday, November 09, 2026 18:00
**To:** IOTC-Secretariat <IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org>
**Subject:** IOTC Circular 2026-45: Request under Paragraph 7 of Resolution 24/03 for investigation by the European Union (Spain) and Oman

Dear Dr de Bruyn,

Thank you for IOTC Circular 2026-45 of 6 November 2026, transmitting information received from an anonymous informant concerning alleged efforts to undermine yellowfin tuna catch limits.

In accordance with Paragraph 7 of Resolution 24/03, Somalia requests, through you, that the European Union (Spain) and Oman, as the flag States identified in the Circular, investigate these allegations and report on the progress of their investigations to the Executive Secretary. We further ask that you notify all CPCs and the flag States of the information received, as provided for in that paragraph, and that the outcomes be presented to the next session of the Compliance Committee and to the Commission.

The allegations remain unverified, and this request does not prejudge the findings. They are nonetheless specific and serious, and if substantiated would affect the integrity of catch reporting and the accounting of catches against yellowfin tuna limits, including across flags.

We would ask that the investigations address, at a minimum:

1. Catch reporting: whether reported yellowfin tuna catches for 2025 and 2026 by Inpesca Group vessels are accurate, including whether catch figures or final catch reports were altered and whether species were misreported or changed, through reconciliation of logbooks, landing declarations, weighing records, and sales and transhipment documents.

2. Attribution between vessels: whether yellowfin tuna caught by the vessels referred to as Argi and Zuri in 2025 was recorded against the Oman-flagged Txori Berri, and whether any other catches were attributed to a vessel other than the one that caught them.

3. Container traceability: whether containers were filled with catches from different vessels or flags and the catches subsequently allocated among vessels for accounting and reporting purposes, including the container load from Txori Argi that the informant states was reported earlier this year.

4. Vessels named in the Spanish portion of the message: recent and upcoming landings by Txori Gorri, Txori Argi and Itsas Txori, and their consistency with available quota. As the message indicates that Txori Gorri is expected to enter port loaded in the coming days, we encourage the European Union (Spain), in coordination with the relevant port State, to give urgent consideration to verifying that landing.

5. Roles of third parties: the alleged role of Socomep in recording catch quantities and species, and the alleged role of inspection personnel in determining reported quantities.

The informant has expressed a fear of professional retaliation. We ask the Secretariat and the flag States to take all appropriate steps to protect the source's identity and any information that could reveal it, including in dealings with the companies and vessels concerned.

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this request, circulate it to CPCs, and confirm the date from which the 60-day period will run.

Yours sincerely,

Abdi Dirshe

Director General
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