MAURITIUS National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2026

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INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02 (and other data related CMMs as noted below), final scientific data for the previous year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year, **for all fleets other than longline** [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2025, final data for the 2024 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2025)	YES 30/06/2026
In accordance with IOTC Resolution 15/02, provisional **longline data** for the previous year was provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the current year [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2025, preliminary data for the 2024 calendar year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2025). **REMINDER:** Final longline data for the previous year are due to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 Dec of the current year [e.g., for a National Report submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2025, final data for the 2024 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2025).	YES 30/06/2026
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

Executive Summary

In 2025, Mauritius had a small tuna fishing fleet comprising only 3 purse seiners supported by 1 supply vessel. There were 13 registered industrial longliners, all above 24 metres. Ten of the 13 longliners were active during the first two months that is from January and February 2025 before their de-registration.

During the two months of operation, the 10 longliners undertook 10 fishing trips and spent 576 days at sea mostly inside the EEZ of Mauritius. The total catch amounted to 338.4 tons consisting mainly of bigeye (44.5%) and yellowfin (28.6%). A total of 1,032,576 hooks were deployed resulting in a CPUE of 0.3kg/hook. Most of the main catch including yellowfin, albacore, bigeye and swordfish were transshipped at sea.

The Mauritian purse seiners operated between latitudes 18ºN to 21ºS and longitudes 41º to 69ºE. The total catch of the three purse seiners amounted to 27172.7 tons representing only 1.2% on the total catch (all species) made by all the member states. The purse seine catch comprised 28.6% yellowfin, 60.4% skipjack and 9.4% bigeye tuna for 826 positive sets out of a total of 919 sets.

The total amount of fish sampled in 2025 amounted to 17 319 (17 312 for the purse seine fishery and 307 for the artisanal fishery).

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1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION

Industrial tuna fishing started in Mauritius in the late nineteen seventies. The first Mauritian purse seiner, 'Lady Sushil' was launched in 1979 and joined eight years later by another vessel called the 'Lady Sushil II'. A third purse seiner, 'Cirné', started operation in 1991. The three vessels operated for the local canning factory till 1997. Due to financial problems and change in the administration of the factory, the vessels were sold off and the factory had to rely on import of raw materials to meet its commitments. The purse seine fishery was revived in 2013 with the coming into operation of a foreign owned Mauritius-flagged purse seiner.

In 2016, following the stock assessment which was carried out in 2015, the Commission came with an interim plan for the rebuilding of the yellowfin tuna stock (Resolution 16/01) which was found to be in an overfished state. Catch limitations were applicable as from January 1 2017.

Due to its negligible catches as compared to other large fleets, the quota was not applicable to the Mauritian fleet in 2017. The quota became applicable on Mauritius in 2019, 3 years after the first resolution. Due to the quota restrictions imposed on yellowfin, Mauritius, as a SIDS, had been unable to implement its fleet development plan.

From 2013 to 2025, the Mauritian purse seine fleet has increased from 1 to only 3 vessels in order to comply with the quota restrictions.

Industrial longlinf more than 24 m in length started their operation in 2022. In 2025, ten out of the thirteen registered industrial longliners operated during the first two months before their de-registration in March. The yellowfin quota was shared among the purse seine and longline fleet.

The total catch of the Mauritian tuna fishing fleet in 2025 represents only 2.4% on the total catch (all species) made by member states in the IOTC Area of Competence which categorises Mauritius as a small harvester of tuna in the Indian Ocean.

An artisanal fishery around Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (AFADS) exists since 1985 where a number of AFADs are set at distances ranging from 2 to 12nm from the coast. This fishery was developed to relieve fishing pressure in the lagoon and to improve the livelihood of artisanal fishermen. The number of active fishermen fishing around AFADs fluctuated over the years. It is to be noted that FADs fishermen are also engaged in other types of fisheries and do not fish exclusively on the FADs. In 2025, catch around the AFADs was not recorded due to internal issues such as staffing.

Mauritius also operated a surface longline fishery targeting mainly swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) from 1999 to 2020. It started with experimental longlining for tuna in the late eighties. The catch of a few swordfish in the coastal waters of Mauritius reported by Roullot et al. in 1988 triggered the commercial exploitation of swordfish by small surface longline fishing vessels of less than 24M in length. The number of vessels gradually increased as promoters were encouraged to exploit the swordfish resource. The fishery came to an end in 2020 following the reflagging of several vessels to other flags and the ceasing of operation of the company which was operating in the swordfish fishery.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE

In 2025, the Mauritian tuna fleet comprised three purse seiners, sixteen surface longliners and one supply vessel (Table 1). The purse seiners operated mostly outside the EEZ of Mauritius namely on the high seas and in the EEZ of Madagascar. The Overall Length and Gross Tonnage of the purse seiners ranged from 71.28 to 82.06 meters and 2072 to 3206 tons respectively.

The surface longliners all exceeding 24 meters in length operated mostly outside the EEZ. These vessels measure between 29.50 and 41.60 meters and have a Gross Tonnage ranging from 98 to 320 tons. Mauritius has only one supply vessel that services its purse seiners. The supply vessel is 40.66 meters in length and has a GT of 144t. Table 1 shows the number of vessels of the National fleet which operated in the IOTC area of competence by gear type and size from 2020 to 2025.

Table 1: Number of vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence, by gear type and size class

Year	Gear	Number of vessels	Number of fishing days	GT	LOA (m)	Preservation Methods
2020	Surface longline	2	141	38.41-49.0	13.50-20.10	Chilled/Frozen
	Purse seine	3	678	2667	89.4	Frozen
	Supply vessel	1	215 days at sea	287	30	
2021	Surface longline	1	84	49	20.1	Chilled/Frozen
	Purse seine	3	854	2667	89.4	Frozen
	Supply vessel	1	217 days at sea	287	30	
2022	Surface longline	13	2170	98-320	29.50-41.60	Frozen
	Purse seine	4	558	2347-2667	71.95-89.40	Frozen
	Supply vessel	1	217 days at sea	287	30	
2023	Surface longline	16	3413	98-320	29.50-41.60	Frozen
	Purse seine	5	691	2347-2667	71.95-89.40	Frozen
	Supply vessel	1	291 days at sea	287	30	
2024	Surface longline	16	3513	98.10-320	29.50-41.60	Frozen
	Purse seine	3	528	2072-3206	71.28-82.06	Frozen
	Supply vessel	1	176 days at sea	480	46.3	
2025	Surface longline	13	576	98.10-320	29.50-41.60	Frozen
	Purse seine	3	951	2072-3206	71.28-82.06	Frozen
	Supply vessel	1	281 days at sea	480	46.3	

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND FISHERY)

All fishing operations of the tuna fishing vessels operating under the Mauritian flag are monitored through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). The catch is verified through the fishing logbooks submitted by the masters of the fishing vessels. The submission of the logbooks is mandatory. Vessels that fail to do so may face penalties. .If a vessel fails to submit its logbook, it is subjected to penalties. The catch of the vessels is monitored by the Fisheries Protection and Technical officers based at the Port State Control Unit. An Electronic Reporting System (ERS) has also been introduced and is operational since mid-2025.

In 2025, the industrial longliners undertook 10 fishing trips covering 576 fishing days and deployed 1032576 hooks (Table 2a). The total catch of the industrial longline fleet was 338.37t. The vessels have been targeting tuna species which are usually gilled and gutted with both the head and tail off. The CPUE was 0.3kg/hook. Bigeye tuna made up 44.5% of the catch followed by yellowfin (28.6%), swordfish (9.9%) and albacore (4.6%), The other species caught were marlin (3.1%) and sailfish (0.5%) as well as some skipjack.

A total of 951 fishing days was recorded for the three super freezer purse seiners with a deployment of 919 sets and 826 successful ones (Table 2b). The total catch amounted to 33626.83 tons dominated by skipjack (60.4%), followed by yellowfin (28.6%), bigeye (9.4%) and albacore (0.04%). Miscellaneous fishes constituted 1.6% of the total catch. The purse seiners operated between 18°N to 21°S and longitude 41° to 69°E (Figure 2b). Log-associated schools accounted for 93.0% of the total catch (31,256.57t). Artificial logs accounted for the majority of log-associated catch at 96.7%, while natural logs contributed only 3.3%. Catch composition on artificial logs was dominated by skipjack (61.1%), with yellowfin (19.8%) and bigeye (9.0%) making up the remainder. Natural logs showed a similar pattern: skipjack (74.7%), yellowfin (26.7%), and bigeye (4.0%). The catch on free schools comprised 72.7% of yellowfin and 18.5% of skipjack.

The tables 2a and 2b below show the annual catch and effort of the Mauritian flagged longliner (Table 2a) and of the Mauritian flagged purse seiners (Table 2b) in the IOTC area of competence.

Table 2a. Annual catch and effort of Mauritian flagged longliners in the IOTC Area of Competence (2021 - 2025)

Species	Catch in Kgs				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Yellowfin	11774	1617649	2574668	2276636	96911
Bigeye	20	921033	1977829	2568739	150640
Albacore	7961	513226	560314	650837	15417
Swordfish	65	102781	197735	190361	33438
Billfishes	690	58257	120250	105823	10369
Other billfishes	0	12171	0	21114	1708
Sharks	0	23684	28220	3957	0
NEI	1278	136021	407230	633476	29883
Effort (No. of hooks)	84000	6877244	4454205	10994070	103257

Table 2b. Annual catch and effort of Mauritian flagged purse seiners in the IOTC Area of Competence (2021 - 2025)

Species	Catch (tons)				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Yellowfin	9641	9521	7264	7493	9606
Bigeye	1953	2053	1579	2283	3167
Skipjack	14129	13792	15510	16980	20294
Albacore	10	10	2	32	13
Total	25733	25376	24355	26788	33080
Effort (No. of sets)	804	717	856	845	919

The **figures 1a and 1b** below show the historical annual catch for the Mauritius longline and purse seine fleets. Regarding the longline fleet, there has been an increase in the catch since 2022 due to the coming into operation of industrial longliners. This was mainly due to the development of the fishing fleet which reached 16 vessels in 2024. In 2025, only 10 were in operation during January and February. All the vessels were de-registered afterwards except for one vessel.

The catch of the Mauritius purse seine fleet has known a gradual increase from 2013 to 2025 except for 2020 where the purse seine catch was 20 425t (Figure 1b). The gradual increase may be attributed to the increase in the catch of skipjack compared to a decrease in the yellowfin catch in order to comply with the allocated catch limit.

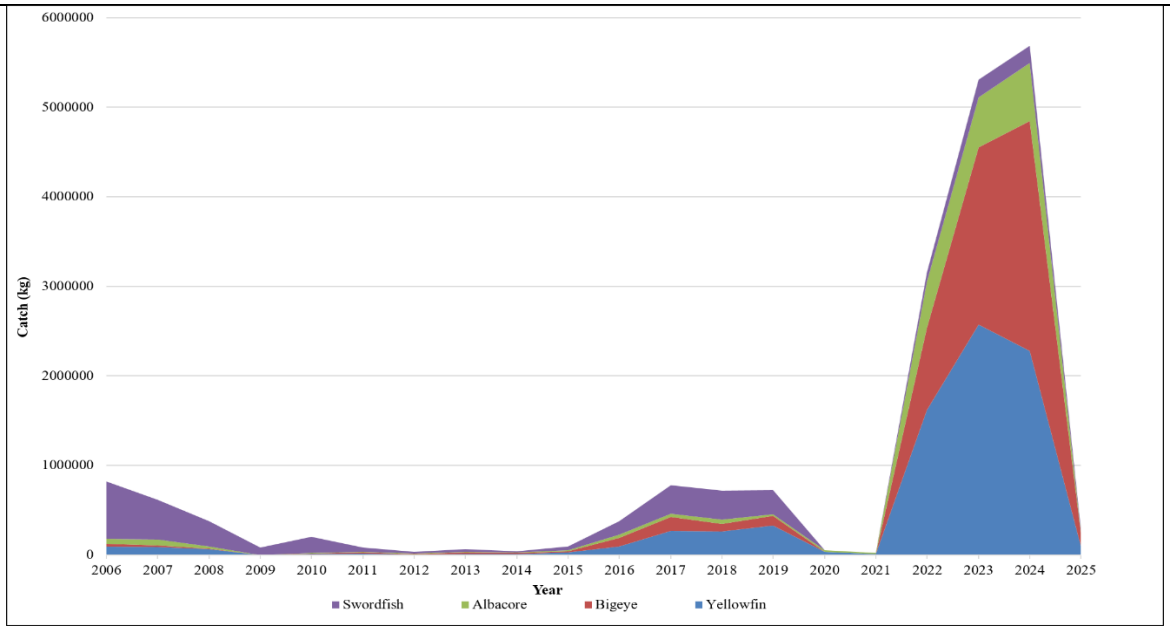

Figure 1a. Historical annual catch of the primary species, for the Mauritius longline fleet in the IOTC area of competence (2006-2025)

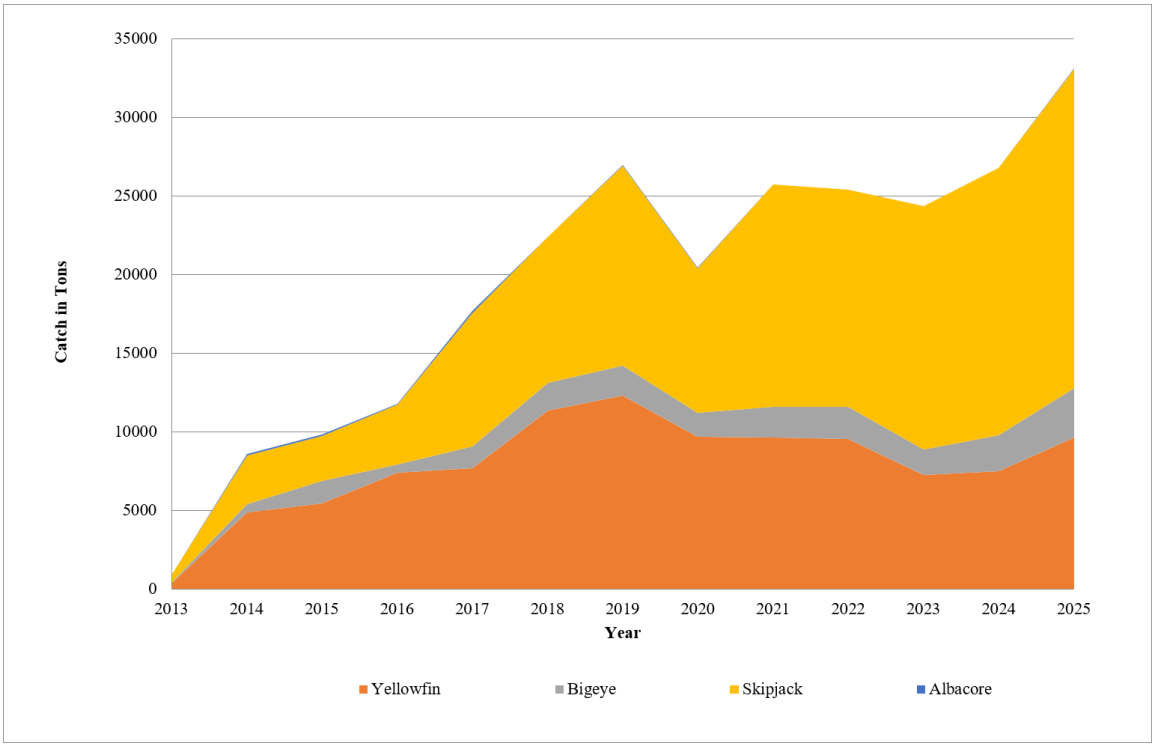

Figure 1b. Historical annual catch of the primary species, for the Mauritius purse seine fleet in the IOTC area of competence (2013-2025)

Figures 2a (i) and (ii) below show the fishing efforts of the Mauritius longline and purse seine fleets in 2025. Ten active Mauritius flagged longliners deployed a total of 1032576 hooks. The catch and effort distribution of the Mauritius purse seiners extended between latitudes 18°N and 21°S and longitudes 41°to 69°E with a concentration in the region north of the EEZ of Mauritius.

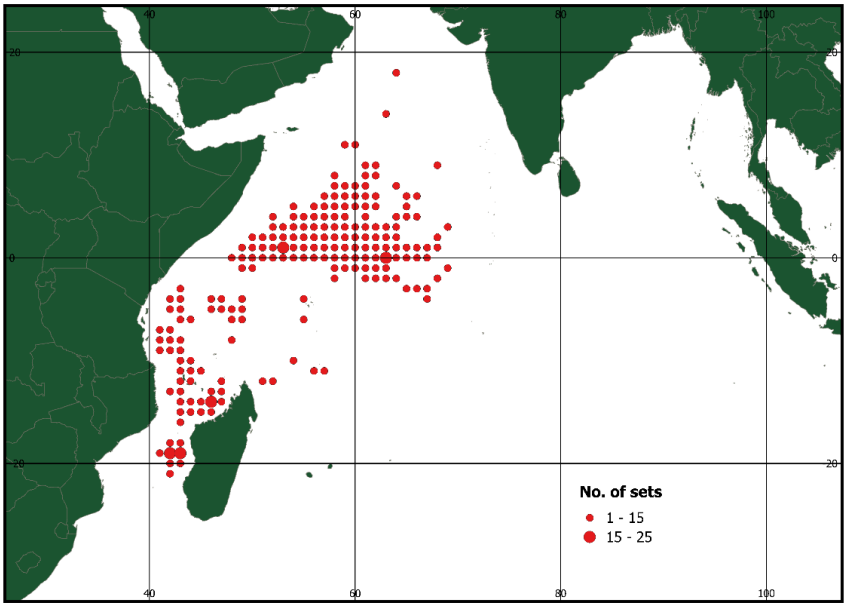

Figure 2a (i): Fishing effort (no of sets)- Mauritius flagged purse seiners (2025)

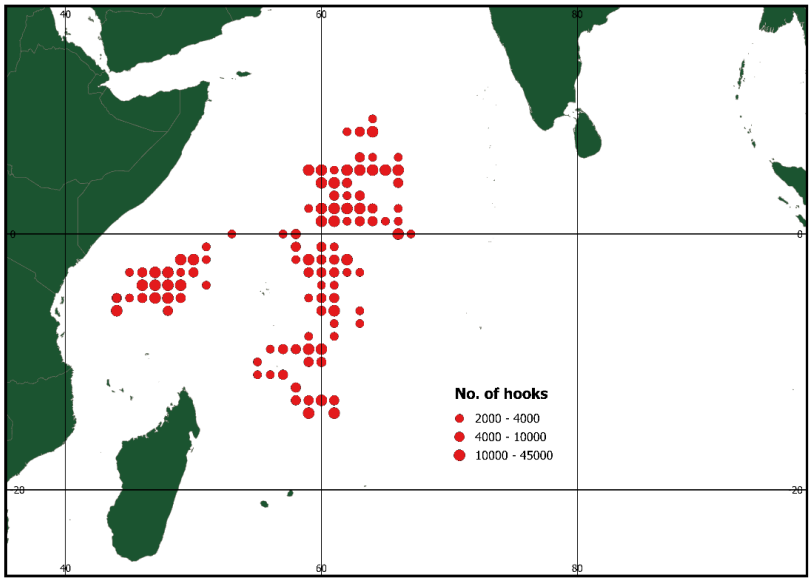

Figure 2a (ii): Fishing effort (no of hooks)- Mauritius flagged longliners (2025)

Figures 2b (i) and (ii) below show the fishing effort of the Mauritius purse seine and industrial longline fleets from 2021 to 2025. The fishing effort of the national longline fleet were concentrated between latitudes 9°N to 14°S and 44°to 67°E. During the last five years, the fishing efforts of the Mauritius purse seine fleet covered a large area extending from latitudes 19°N to 23°S and longitudes 40° to 78°E.

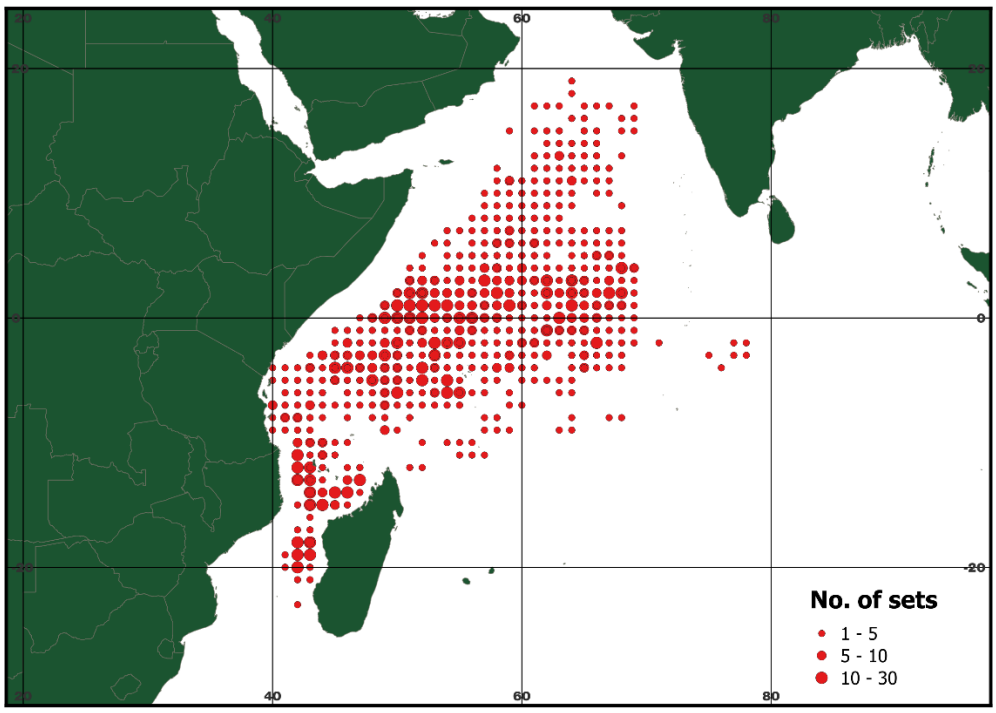

Figure 2b (i): Fishing effort (no. of sets) - Mauritius flagged purse seiners (2021 – 2025)

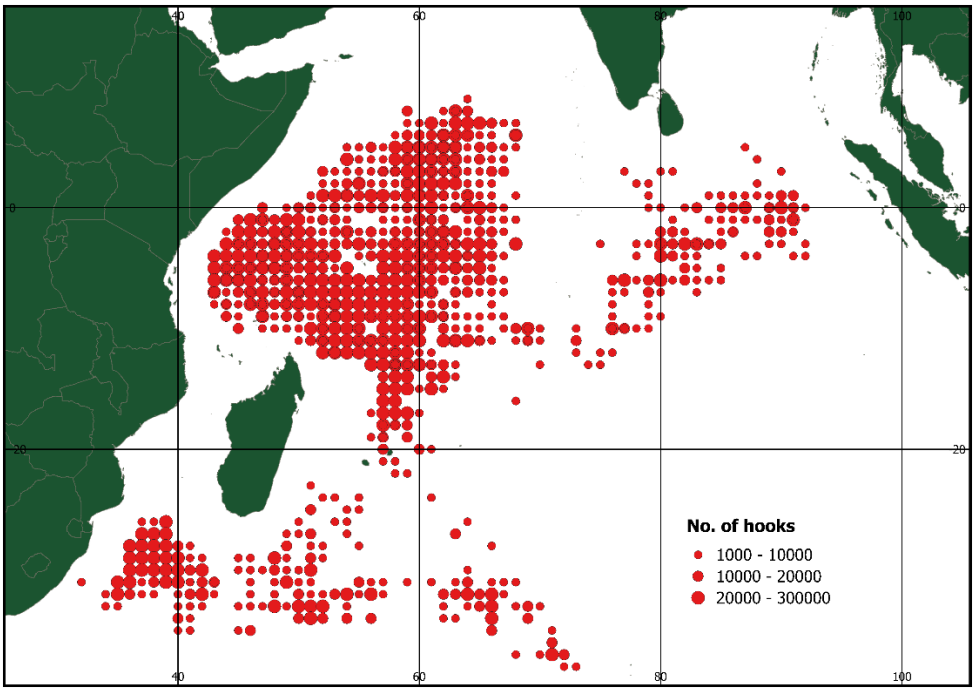

Figure 2b (ii): Fishing effort (no. of hooks) - Mauritius flagged longliners (2021 – 2025)

Figures 3a (i) and (ii) below show the maps of distribution of the catch of the national tuna fleets in 2025. For the national purse seine fleet, the spatial distribution of the catches of tropical tunas spanned from 18°N to 21°S and 41°to 69°E with the majority caught on the high seas. The longline catches were scattered between 9°N to 16°S and 44°to 67°E.

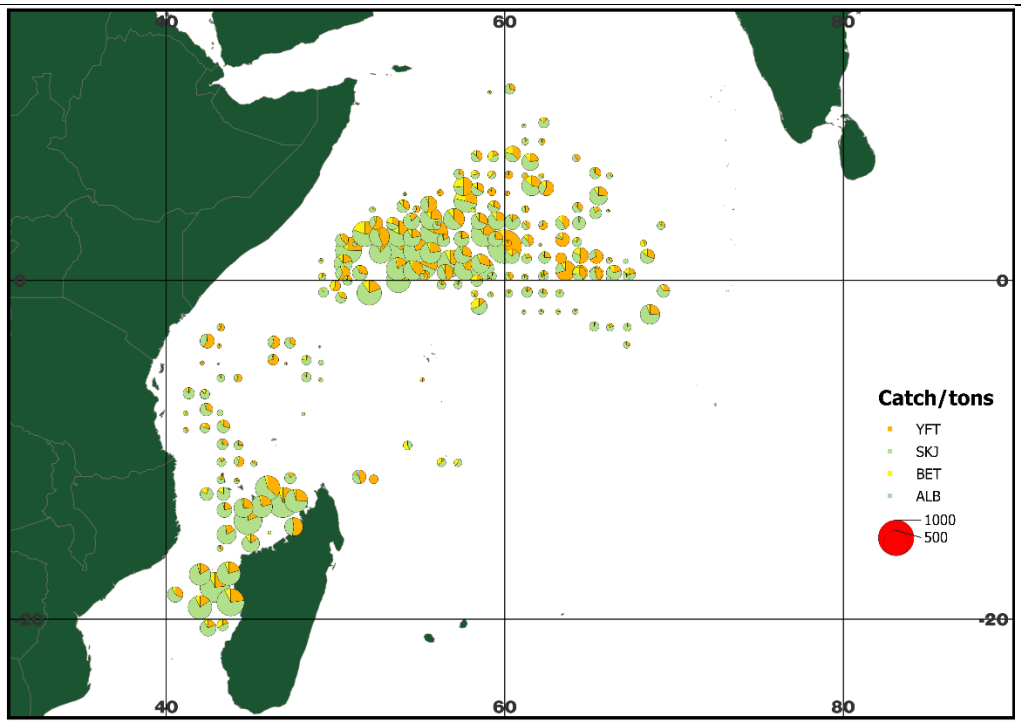

Figure 3a(i): Distribution of catch (in tons) by species for Mauritius flagged purse seiner (2025)

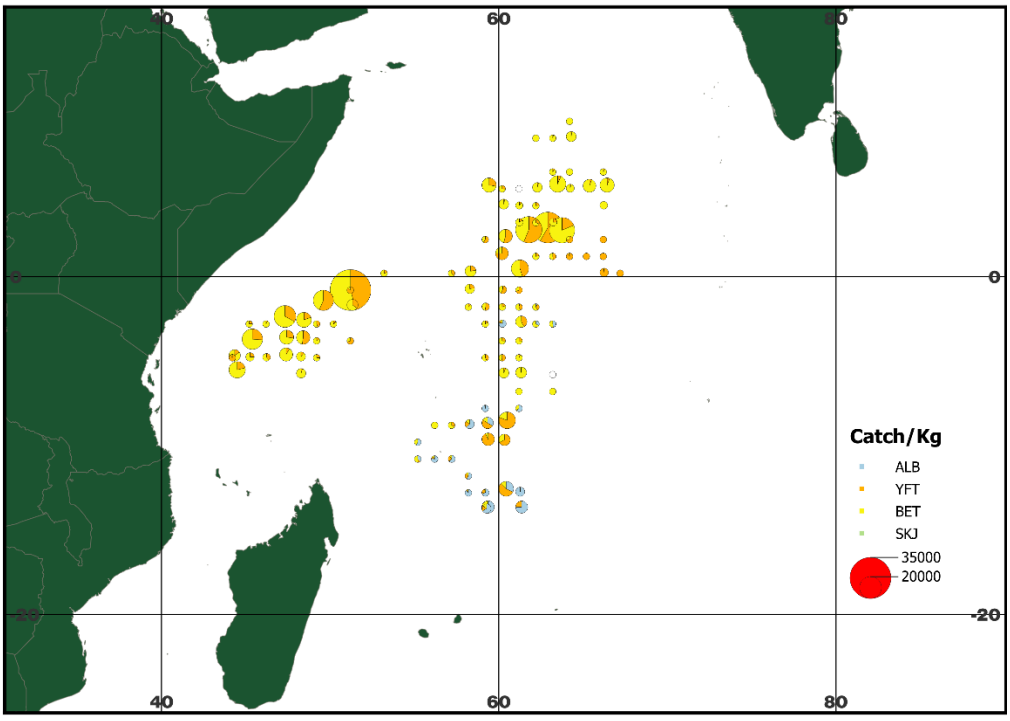

Figure 3a(ii): Distribution of catch (in kgs) by species for Mauritius flagged longliner (2025)

In figures 3b (i) and 3b (ii): The aggregated catches of the last five years have been compiled for the national longline and the purse seine fleets. Regarding the purse seine fleet, the spatial catch distribution were distributed across the area spanning 19°N to 23°S and 40°E to 78°E with most catches concentrated in international waters. For the longline fleet, catches extended from 9°N to 38°S and 32°to 92°E with a concentration in the EEZs of Mauritius.

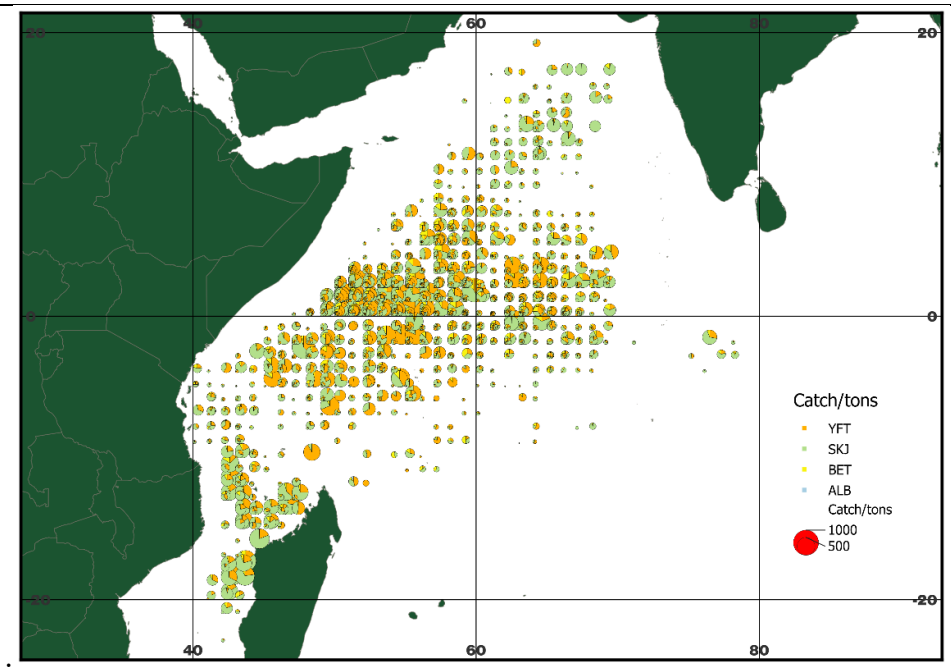

Figure 3b(i) Distribution of catch by species for the Mauritian flagged purse seiners in the EEZ (2021–2025)

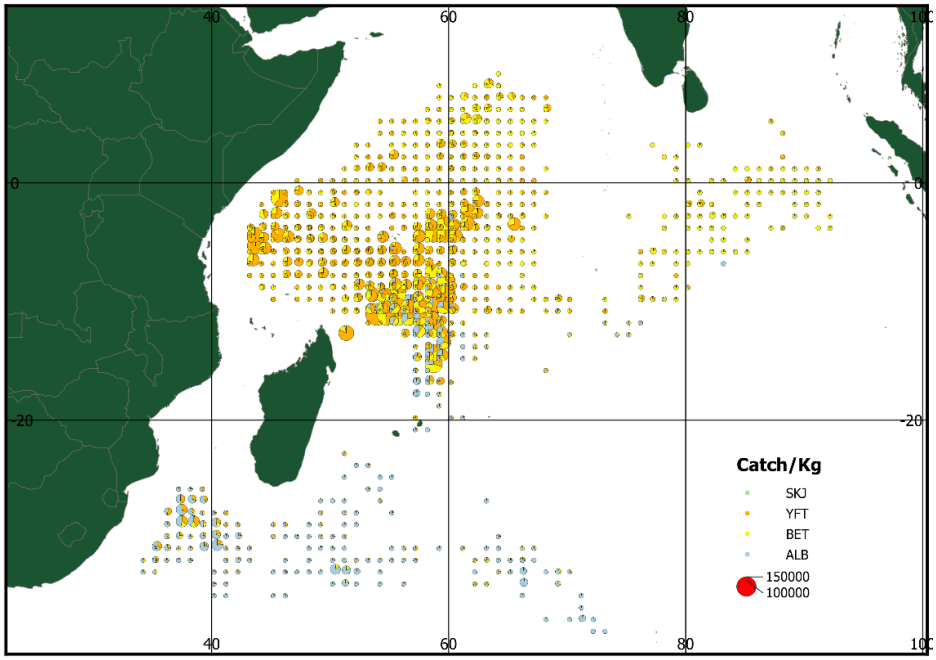

Figure 3b(ii) Distribution of catch (in kgs) by species for the Mauritian flagged longliners in the EEZ (2021–2025)

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY

The sports/recreational fishing is an important activity for the tourism industry as well as for the local recreational fishermen. Licences to sport fishery operators are delivered by the Ministry of Tourism. The main fishing gear is trolling and the fishery was estimated around 350 tons. The main species comprises marlins, sailfish, tuna, common dolphinfish and wahoo.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES

Skippers, masters and agents of vessels have been sensitised on the conservation and management measures on sharks contained in Resolution 25/08. The skippers/masters have also been informed of their obligation to comply with Resolution 19/03 with regard to mobulid rays. All the measures are included in the fishing licence conditions. Furthermore, identification guides on pelagic sharks have been distributed to the masters of the national-flagged vessels. Mauritius has already implemented its NPOA-sharks.

5.1 Sharks

5.1.1. NPOA sharks

Mauritius has a National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA- Sharks, Mauritius) which has been developed and submitted to the IOTC in 2015. In the NPOA, a series of actions have been described to ensure the conservation and management of sharks. These include:

(i) decreasing of fishing effort in any fishery where shark catch is unsustainable;
(ii) improving data collection and monitoring of shark fisheries;
(iii) training of all concerned in identification of shark species;
(iv) facilitating and encouraging research on sharks;
(iv) improving the utilization of sharks caught; and
(v) ascertaining control over access of fishing vessels exploiting shark stocks.

5.1.2. Blue shark

Skippers/Masters are bound to report any catch of blue sharks. The skippers/masters have to abide by Resolution 25/08 as per licence conditions. The catch of blue sharks is normally monitored through the collection of fishing logbooks and submission of observer reports. All reported catches of blue sharks are usually transmitted to the IOTC. For the year 2025, no sharks were retained in the catch of the national fleet. Table 3 shows the total number and weight of sharks, by species, retained by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence from 2020 to 2025 while the total number of sharks, by species, released/discarded by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence from 2020 to 2025 are shown in table 4.

Table 3: Total number and weight of sharks, by species, retained by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (2020-2025)

Year	No. of sharks	Species	Weight (Kg)
2020	42	*Carcharinus limbatus*	1050
2021	1	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	11
2022	67	*Prionace glauca*	1477
	313	*Isurus oxyrhinchus*	4349
2023	157	*Carcharinus limbatus*	5498
	5	*Isurus oxyrhinchus*	151
	425	*Prionace glauca*	12864
2024	95	*Prionace glauca*	3957

Table 4: Total number of sharks, by species, released/discarded by the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence (2018–2025)

Year	No. of sharks released	Species
2020	1	*Prionace glauca*
	982	*Carcharhinus falciformis*
	3	*Carcharhinus longimanus*
	1(released alive)	*Rhincodon typhus*
2021	462 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus falciformis*
	267	*Carcharhinus falciformis*
	1 (released alive)	*Rhincodon typhus*
	3 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus longimanus*
	2	*Carcharhinus longimanus*
2022	1 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus longimanus*
	2	*Carcharhinus longimanus*
	117 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus falciformis*
2024	1 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus leucas*
	5 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus plumbeus*
	1 (released dead)	
	1 (released alive)	*Isurus paucus*
	4 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus longimanus*
	1 (released dead)	
	1 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus melanopterus*
	1 (released dead)	
	1 (released alive)	*Sphyrna zygaena*
	2 (released alive)	*Rhincodon typus*
2025	177 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus falciformis*
	122 (released dead)	
	1 (released alive)	*Isurus oxyrinchus*
	1 (released alive)	*Prionace glauca*
	6 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus brevipinna*

	2 (released dead)	
	10 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus longimanus*
	12 (released alive)	*Carcharhinus melanopterus*
	1	*Carcharhinus macloti*
	1 (released alive)	*Rhincodon typus*
	1 (released alive)	*Alopias superciliosus*
	1 (released alive)	*Alopias pelagicus*

5.2 Seabirds

As reported in the Implementation Report for Mauritius, there was no incidental bycatch of seabirds by the Mauritian longliners in 2025. The Mauritius-flagged longliners operated mostly in the EEZ and did not go beyond the zone of 25 degrees in the South Latitude explaining the nil encounters with seabirds. It is to be noted that masters and agents of the licensed vessels have been provided with "Seabirds Identification cards for fishing vessels operating in the Indian Ocean" whereby identification techniques and mitigation measures are described.

5.3 Marine Turtles

The protection of marine turtles and eggs of marine turtles is ensured under Sections 33 (1) (d) and 83 (1) (b) of The Fisheries Act 2023. The vessels' agents and masters have been provided with the 'Marine Turtle Identification Cards – for Indian Ocean Fisheries' depicting different species of turtles, techniques of releasing hooked turtles as well as some literature related to the ecology of marine turtles, threats to marine turtles; amongst others. Also, the licence conditions of Mauritius make provision for compliance with Resolution 12/04. Other measures taken by Mauritius related to the conservation of marine turtles have been included in the 'Reporting of progress of implementation of the FAO Guideline to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operation and on the implementation of resolution 12/04 on marine turtles' which was submitted to the Secretariat on the 09 March 2026. Interactions with Marine turtles by the Mauritian purse seiners in 2025 have also been reported to the IOTC in the Form 1DI.

5.4 Other ecologically related species (e.g., cetaceans, mobulid rays, whale sharks)

The Fisheries Act 2023 makes provision for the protection of marine mammals under Section 27 "Prohibition on commercial whaling and conservation of marine mammal". No catch of cetaceans, mobulid rays and marine mammals have been recorded for the national fleet in the IOTC Area of Competence in the last five years. However, interactions with these species have been submitted to the IOTC in the appropriate IOTC Form.

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification

Catch data is being collected from the fishing logbooks since 2001. The fishing licence conditions make it mandatory for all the fishing vessels to submit duly filled in logbooks to the Ministry upon arrival in port. In 2025, a total of 10 logbooks from the industrial longliners and 42 logbooks from the purse seiners were processed. All the fishing positions are verified for accuracy against the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and landing data from the Port State Control Unit (PSCU), Mauritius Ports Authority and fishing agents. So as to improve the accuracy, timeliness and reliability of fisheries data, the Electronic Reporting System (ERS) has been introduced and is operational since mid-2025.

6.2. Observer scheme

The deployment of observers on board of the National fleet started in February 2015. The technical staff of the Fisheries Department were trained as observers by the SWIOFP, the COI and the OCUP programme. The observers followed the SWIOFP protocol where the observer has a clear set of objectives regarding data which they have to record. Training and qualification are prerequisite prior to deployment on board. There is a code of conduct which has to be respected on board such as respect of hierarchy, confidentiality and most importantly the authority of the captain on vessel operation and safety at sea. Observers must be aware of cultural awareness including eating customs and religious practices. Observers must also be acquainted with nautical terms related to the parts of a ship. All observers must have undergone formal STCW95 approved courses in personal survival training (PST) and CPR & first aid before being deployed at sea to know how to behave in emergency situations. Data collection includes vessel characteristics, biological and ecological information. All information is recorded on data capture forms where FAO and IOTC data codes are used whenever possible. Otherwise, full information must be provided. For species, IOTC and FAO 3-alpha codes are used to identify species. The observers are provided with a manual to be able to identify any species including fish, marine mammals and turtles, seabirds and sharks.

Catch composition are determined through stratified or proportional sampling where length frequency data are recorded to a precision of 0.5% of the overall length. Weight measurement is taken on an accurate scale such as hand or mechanical scales depending on the situation and availability. Different reports have to be submitted to the coordinator such as the deployment, five-day report status and the final trip report.

Observers were deployed mostly on purse seiners and at a lesser extent on longliners from 2015 to 2019. During that period, Mauritius had been able to maintain an observer coverage of at least 15%; for the 2019 Observer's Program, a 25.6% coverage was achieved through the deployment of three observers covering a total of 181 sets and 169 days at sea. Table 5 shows the annual observer coverage on the Mauritius flagged longliners and purse seiners from 2015 to 2019. Since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Observer Programme has been put on hold. The process to re-launch the National Observer Programme has been reinitiated in 2025.

Table 5. Annual observer coverage (2015-2024)

Year	Gear	Period	Number of Days
2015	Purse seine	26/02/15 – 03/05/15	69
		06/04/15 – 17/06/15	71
		06/05/15 – 15/07/15	70
2016		23/03/16 – 01/06/16	78
		01/06/16 – 10/08/16	71
		08/09/16 – 17/11/16	71
2017		04/10/17 – 13/12/17	71
2018	Purse seine	02/05/18 – 11/07/18	71
		30/05/18 – 05/08/18	68
	Longline	03/11/18 – 14/11/18	16
		17/11/18 – 28/11/18	12
		03/11/18 – 14/11/18	16
		17/11/18 – 29/11/18	13
2019	Purse Seiner	17/05/19 -07/06/19	20
		11/06/19 -22/06/19	11
		23/06/19 -01/07/19	8
		11/07/19 -21/07/19	11
		01/07/19 -18/07/19	16
		24/07/19 -25/08/19	31
		25/08/19 -02/09/19	6
		29/08/19 -02/10/19	35
		10/10/19 -01/11/19	23
2020-2025	Longliner + Purse seiner	N/A	NIL

6.3. Port sampling programme

Port sampling programs started since the coming into operation of the first Mauritian purse seiners in the 1980's. The sampling programme consists of sampling exercises that are carried out on the catch of tuna and tuna-like species unloaded by Mauritian flagged as well as on foreign licensed vessels. Data collection sheets have been designed to enable the recording of length and species composition. Different length measurements are recorded depending on the type of fish processing. Fork length measurements are recorded for whole fish. Other measurements such as the operculum to keel or base of pectoral to the base of the anal fin are

recorded for fish specimen that have been processed. In 2025, the local longline vessel did not unload their catch at Port Louis during their two months of operation in January and February 2025 respectively. Table 6 shows the number of active vessels which were monitored.

Table 6. Number of vessel trips or vessels active monitored, by species and fishery

Species	No. of vessels	
	Purse seine	Longline
Yellowfin	3	NIL
Skipjack	3	NIL
Bigeye	3	NIL
Albacore	3	NIL
Black marlin	NIL	NIL
Blue Shark	NIL	NIL
Blue Marlin	NIL	NIL
Oceanic white Shark	NIL	NIL
Striped marlin	NIL	NIL
Silky Shark	NIL	NIL
Swordfish	NIL	NIL
Frigate Tuna	3	NIL

Table 7. Number of fish measured, by species and fishery

Species	No. of individuals measured	
	Purse seine	Longline
Yellowfin	7103	NIL
Skipjack	7625	NIL
Bigeye	2056	NIL
Albacore	3	NIL
Black marlin	NIL	NIL
Blue Shark	NIL	NIL
Blue Marlin	NIL	NIL
Oceanic white Shark	NIL	NIL
Striped marlin	NIL	NIL
Silky Shark	NIL	NIL
Swordfish	NIL	NIL
Frigate Tuna	528	NIL

6.4. Actions taken to monitor catches & manage fisheries for Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish

All fishing vessels have to report data and information on Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish in their logbooks including their catches and whether they have been released alive and/or discarded. All data about billfishes are submitted to the IOTC in accordance with the Resolution 15/02. Compliance with Resolution 18/05 for the conservation of billfishes is mandatory as per the fishing licence conditions.

6.5. Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring

No gillnet vessel is registered under the Mauritian flag

6.6 Sampling plans for mobulid rays

Up to now, no mobulid rays have been reported in the national fleet and since 2019, Resolution 19/03 for the conservation of Mobulid rays is mandatory as per the fishing licence conditions.

6.7 Electronic Monitoring Standards [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS]

Mauritius is not implementing the Electronic Monitoring Standard

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOTC RELEVANT TO THE SC.

Table 8. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2012 and 2025

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	Licensed fishing vessels have been notified about the mitigation measures proposed under this resolution. Furthermore, marine turtles and their eggs are protected by the Mauritian law as specified in Sections 33 and 83 of The Fisheries Act 2023.
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	Skippers of national flagged vessels have been trained in the identification of thresher sharks and have been informed to release live specimens of thresher sharks which are caught. They have also been provided with identification guides. No vessel has reported any encounter with thresher sharks
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	As per the logbooks of the fishing vessels, there has been no encirclement of cetaceans by the Mauritius-flagged purse seiners. Skippers have to report any interaction with cetaceans. Also, the Fisheries Act 2023 has prohibited the fishing of marine mammals, under Section 27. Compliance with Resolution 13/04 for the conservation of cetaceans is mandatory as per the fishing licence conditions
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)	Paragraphs 7– 9	The masters and agents of the Mauritius-flagged vessels have already been sensitised on the importance to comply with Res 13/05. Also, the Fisheries Act 2023 has prohibited the fishing of marine mammals including whale sharks under Section 27.
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	Mauritius is not a shark-fishing nation and does not issue licenses to foreign vessels targeting sharks. However, guides related to the shark identification have been distributed among the agents of the Mauritius-flagged vessels to avoid the retention of endangered shark species which caught as bycatch.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	As per the license conditions, it is mandatory for the vessels to keep on board a copy of the logbook which makes provision for daily recording of catch and effort. As per the ERS regulation 2024, operator shall ensure that the ERS Unit transmits all information of the fishing trip including daily fishing report. Electronic logbooks verified after each trip by inspectors and declarations collected at the landing port. Data are also verified against VMS record, input, processed and submitted to the IOTC by 30 June each year.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	Data on mandatory statistical reporting is regularly submitted to the IOTC in June every year. All the data pertaining to Resolution 15/02 for the year 2025 was submitted to the IOTC Secretariat before the deadline in accordance with the reporting requirements.
17/05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	Mauritius is not a shark-fishing nation and does not issue licenses to foreign vessels targeting sharks. However, guides related to the shark identification have been distributed among the agents of the Mauritius-flagged vessels to avoid the retention of endangered shark species under the IOTC mandate on board. Moreover, the NPOA sharks of Mauritius highlights to conservation of sharks caught as bycatch. Data on sharks was submitted to the IOTC before the deadline of 30/06/26.
18/02	On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2-5	Mauritian vessels catching blue shark are required to record their catch in the fishing logbooks. This data is reported as per Resolution 15/02. As per the fishing licence conditions, it is mandatory for the skippers to record catch data on blue sharks.
18/05	On management measures for the conservation of the Billfishes: Striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7 – 11	All fishing vessels have top report data and information on Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish in their logbook including their catches and whether they have been released alive and/or discarded. All data about billfishes are submitted to the IOTC in accordance with the Resolution 15/02. Compliance with Resolution 18/05 for the conservation of billfishes is mandatory as per the fishing licence conditions.
18/07	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraphs 1, 4	The Implementation Report was submitted to the Secretariat on 19/03/26 and includes all measures taken for the reporting obligations regarding the mentioned resolutions in the different sections of the report. All columns in the form 1RC are filled as required and reporting of zero catches is done as per Resolution 18/07 in the appropriate format.
19/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (*If not provided under Res 21/01 below*)	Paragraph 22	Provided under Resolution 21/01 below
19/03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 11	Compliance with Resolution 19/03 for the conservation of Mobulid rays is mandatory as per fishing licence conditions since 2019.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
21/01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (*If not provided under Res 19/01 above*)	Paragraph 23	In 2022, Mauritius made an over-catch of 701 tons which were deducted from its quota in 2023 and 2024 respectively. In 2025, Mauritius did not make any over-catch,
23/07	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	No encounter with seabirds has been reported in the fishing logbooks. All vessels have been advised on the application of the seabird mitigation measures. Furthermore, 'Seabird Identification Cards' provided by the IOTC, have been distributed to the agents of the Mauritius-flagged vessels.
23/08	On electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 3c	Mauritius is not implementing electronic monitoring programs and electronic monitoring systems on Mauritius-flagged vessels.
25/06	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 12	Since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Observer Programme has been put on hold. The process to re-launch the National Observer Programme has been reinitiated in 2025. Necessary is being done to train observers for deployment on board fishing vessels.

8. LITERATURE CITED

1. The Fisheries Act 2023
2. Implementation Report 2025 for Mauritius (IOTC-2026-CoC23-IR16)
3. National Report 2025 (IOTC-2025-SC28-NR17)
4. Compendium of active Conservation and Management measures for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission