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

Isra Al Hadi - MAFWR

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 2026, final data for the 2025 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 June 2026)	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 2026, preliminary data for the 2025 calendar year were provided to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June 2026). **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 2026, final data for the 2025 calendar year must be provided to the Secretariat by 30 December 2026).	YES 30/06/2026
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: Following exchanges with IOTC data officers and the verification mission conducted from 28 September to 1 October 2026, Forms 3CE and 1RC were resubmitted via E-Maris on 29 October 2026.	

Executive Summary [Mandatory]

The total production of Oman's fisheries sector reached approximately 991 thousand tons in 2025, representing a 10% increase compared with 2024, with a total value of approximately OMR 673 million. Artisanal fisheries accounted for the largest share of total production, contributing 89.9%, equivalent to approximately 891 thousand tons, with a total value of OMR 537 million. Commercial fisheries produced 81,104 tons, representing 8.18% of total fisheries production, while coastal fisheries contributed 0.97%, with an estimated production of approximately 9,678 tons.

Tuna species are considered high-value fishery resources in Oman and are of considerable importance to the domestic market (catches from artisanal and coastal) and international markets (industrial).

**** The regulatory measures and decisions presented below are derived from the Ministerial Decree on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).**

1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION [MANDATORY]

Oman has a coastline extending approximately 3,165 km along three major bodies of water: the Arabian Sea, the Sea of Oman, and the Arabian Gulf. These coastal and marine environments are characterized by high marine biodiversity and productive ecosystems that support valuable fishery resources. In 2025, total fisheries production reached approximately 991,089 tons, with an estimated value of OMR 673 million. Compared with 2024, total fish landings increased by 10%, while their value increased by 15.9%.

Tuna and tuna-like species showed an overall increase in landings during the period 2021–2025. In 2025, yellowfin tuna and longtail tuna recorded the highest landings among these species.

However, **these increases, mainly coming from artisanal and coastal fleets are under review**.

Oman's fisheries statistical programme was initiated in 1984 and has since undergone various phases of statistical and IT alterations. Its original statistical profile has however remained much the same: that of an all-purpose large-scale data collection programme with no priority given to strategically important species, such as tuna and small pelagic. The reason behind this operational compromise was the large number of artisanal fishing crafts (14,000+) that had to be statistically monitored by about 40 field agents. These boats, mostly fiberglass skiffs, are scattered over 150+ homeports along a coastline of 3 000+ km. From the operational viewpoint it would have been impossible to collect data from all ports or even from all wilayats. Logistics constraints led to a system configuration whereby the region (or governorate), combined with boat/gear types, became the statistical entity of catch/effort estimates.

Because of these inherent shortages the sampling programme and the associated database had been periodically revised with the view of improving the data collection protocols and accelerating the preparation of catch/effort estimates from extrapolated samples. However, no parallel attempt was made to make the statistical structure of the Oracle database (set-up in 2014) less rigid and more adaptable to structural changes in the fisheries. And there has been no effective reporting system for alerting users in cases of sharp changes in production patterns. For instance, the intensification of fishing effort and increased catch rates for yellowfin tuna during 2020-2021 (Covid period) were correctly captured in the primary (i.e. sampled) data, while MAFWR and external user groups had not received early warnings about what was unfolding.

When these facts became recognized there was a concerted expression of concern by major data user groups in MAFWR, IOTC, FAO and the Oman National Statistical Office. MAFWR reacted swiftly by instructing the Statistics Group to conduct a thorough investigation on the catch/effort data (with the technical assistance of an External Expert), and if necessary proceed to a retrospective revision of catch/effort time series with emphasis on the period 2017-2025.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE [MANDATORY]

The Omani national fishing fleet is composed of three main segments: artisanal, coastal, and industrial fleets:

• **Artisanal fleet:** The artisanal fleet comprises two main types of fishing units: dhows, which are wooden or fiberglass vessels, and fiberglass boats.

• **Coastal fleet:** In 2025, the coastal fleet consisted of 640 vessels. Most of these vessels operate in the Arabian Sea, particularly along the coastline extending from Ras Al Hadd in Al Sharqiyah to Dhofar.

• **Industrial fleet:** The industrial fleet consists of vessels engaged in fishing activities targeting small pelagic species, large pelagic species, and squid.

i)- <u>Artisanal fishery</u>

Table 1a: Number of units in artisanal fleet operation in On- shore from 2021-2025.

Years		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Units	Dhows	688	688	688	679	679
	Fiberglass	26103	26011	26533	27320	27338
Gear Type		LL, HL. N, BSN, GL and T				

ii)- <u>Coastal fishery</u>

Table 1b: Number of costal vessels from 2021-2025.

Years	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Vessels	237	264	285	528	640
Gear Type	LL, HL. N, GL				

iii)- <u>Industrial fishery</u>

Table 1c: Number of vessels operating in IOTC area of competence from 2021-2025.

Years		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Vessels	**Longliners**	4	3	3	3	3
	Purse seiners	0	1	2	6	6
	Supply vessel	-	-	-	-	1 (was added in August 2025
Gear Type		LL, TR , PS				
Size of Vessels		OAL: Above 30 m				

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND FISHERY) [Mandatory]

3.1 Fishing catches:

Table 2a. Artisanal Annual catches (mt) by species from 2021-2025 (*) (Please note that as informed by Oman in recent IOTC Annual Meetings, CoC and WPDCS, the Department of Statistics and the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR) are undertaken, with expert support of international fisheries data experts, an overall review of the Oman data and statistics system, and also is working in the retrospective analysis of reported catches, in particular of yellowfin, for the period 2014-2024).

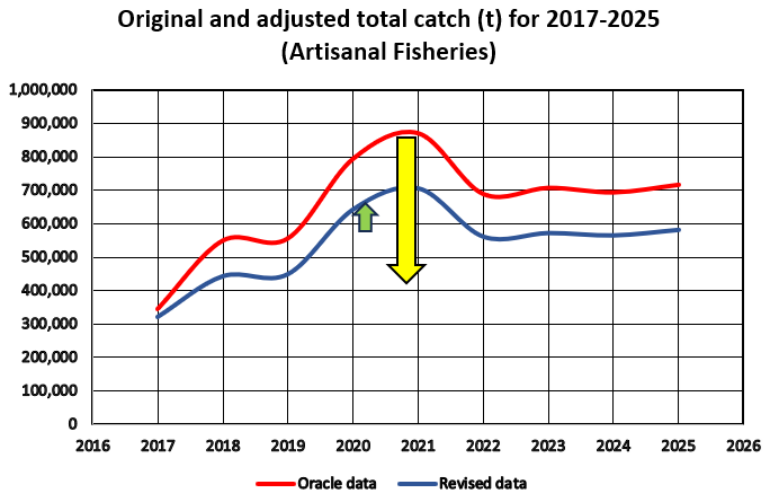
Already the figures of 2025 submitted with the mandatory Forms to the IOTC on 30 June 2026, include lower amounts that the software was providing. First review has reduced an amount close to 20,000 mt of yellowfin**.**

Retrospective revision of 2017-2025 data

The effort estimation drawback described earlier had resulted in a significant positive bias of effort and catch, given that in Oman catch rates are high and effort variations have significant impact on estimated species production. Debiasing the estimates retrospectively has proved to be a tedious (though rewarding) task that produced more realistic effort and catch estimates. Moreover the consultant had to be assured that no other similar flaws existed in the estimation methodology used by the Oracle system. For this purpose a verification process was conducted in order to confirm the compliance of the Oracle estimator with recognized generic approaches for estimating fishing effort and catch. Use was made of the standard FAO utility ArtFish and of programmed Excel workbooks prepared specifically for the verification exercise. Both tools were parametrized to operate under the same conditions and assumptions (even if at times questionable) built into the Oracle estimator.

Three parallel applications (Oracle, ArtFish, and Excel) were applied to the same datasets for 2017-2022. This fact confirmed the validity of the Oracle function for effort and catch estimation, noting nevertheless the need to revise the temporal extrapolation of fishing effort in order to lessen the positive bias in effort and production.

In order to lessen the positive effort bias in most boats/gears (those using the boat-based approach), the retrospective revision made use of a more conservative effort estimation method in which the days of inactivity were set to 8 instead of 2 (Oracle). Conversely, for boats/gears using the monthly effort approach the inactive days became zero, thus removing the negative effort bias for these (fewer) boat/gear cases. Figure 1 illustrates this two-way adjustment.



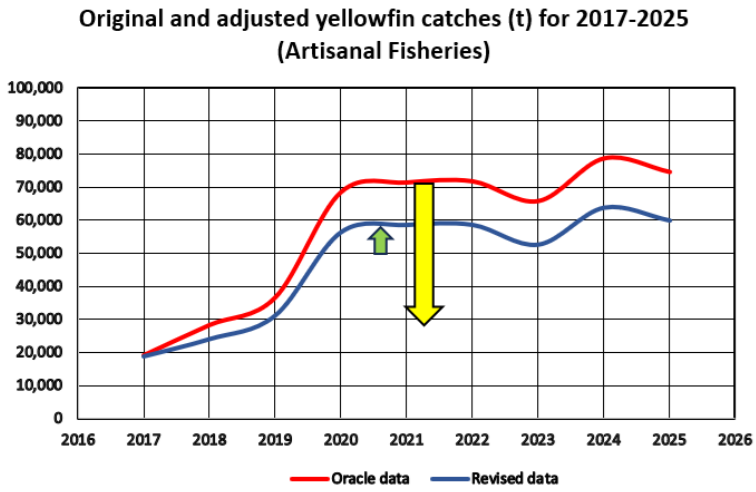


Figure 1. Retrospective revision of effort and catch using two adjustment approaches for 2017-2025. The yellow arrow illustrates catch reduction due to the use of 8 inactive days instead of 2. The green one indicates increase due to the elimination of inactive days for fishing units reporting monthly effort.

(*) Please note that as informed by Oman in recent IOTC Annual Meetings, CoC and WPDCS, the Department of Statistics and the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR) are undertaken, with expert support of international fisheries data experts, an overall review of the Oman data and statistics system, and also is working in the retrospective analysis of reported catches, in particular of yellowfin, for the period 2014-2024.

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025(*)
Yellowfin* Tuna	71473	71843	65866	78775	
Long tail Tuna	28136	31844	24865	24688	
Kawakawa	7335	6676	5784	4302	
Striped Bonito	2141	1820	1384	230	
Frigate Tuna	6359	5301	4522	5471	
Skipjack	229	279	166	102	
Other Tunas	10438	17845	15040	29409	
Sailfish	2868	3565	2997	2347	
King fish	7659	5514	12370	8851	
Sharks	5290	4774	5268	7602	
Total	141928	149461	138262	161777	

Table 2b. Coastal Fleet Catches (mt) by species from 2021- 2025

(*) Please note that as informed by Oman in recent IOTC Annual Meetings, CoC and WPDCS, the Department of Statistics and the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR) are undertaken, with expert support of international fisheries data experts, an overall review of the Oman data and statistics system, and also is working in the retrospective analysis of reported catches, in particular of yellowfin, for the period 2014-2024.

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 **(*)**
Yellowfin Tuna	35	41	47	460	
Longtail Tuna	28	32	37	2179	
Kawakawa	16	18	22	0	
Striped Bonito	8	9	10	261	
Frigate Tuna	8	12	12	0	
Skipjack	0	0	0	0	
Other Tunas	790	930	1131	8520	
Sailfish	9	11	13	0	
Kingfish	7	8	9	0	
Sharks	275	305	342	14	
Total	1176	1366	1623	18355	

Table 2c. Industrial Fleet Annual Catches (mt) By Species from 2021-2025

(*) (Please note that as informed by Oman in recent IOTC Annual Meetings, CoC and WPDCS, the Department of Statistics and the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR) are undertaken, with expert support of international fisheries data experts, an overall review of the Oman data and statistics system, and also is working in the retrospective analysis of reported catches, in particular of yellowfin, for the period 2014-2024).

(**) Please see mandatory **Forms 1RC-2025** and **3C-2025, with figures of yellowfin, skipjack and big eye.**

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 **(*)**
Yellowfin Tuna					**(**)**
Longtail Tuna	0	0	0	0	0
Kawakawa	0	0	196	1	0

Striped Bonito	0	0	3	39	24
Frigate Tuna	0	0	61	21	253
Skipjack	0				
Other Tunas					
Sailfish	5	14	0	0	40
Kingfish	0	0	0	0	0
Sharks	0	0	3	0	0
Total	326	282	4189	4605	35410

3.2 Estimated Fishing Effort:

Table 3a: Estimated Fishing Effort for Artisanal Fleet During 2025

Boat – Fishing Gear	Parameters	Total
FG (HL + TL)	Number of Boats	50945
	Estimated Effort	690856
	CPUE (Kg)	14112
	Estimated Catch (Ton)	149124
FG (NET)	Number of Boats	52292
	Estimated Effort	734431
	CPUE (Kg)	28197
	Estimated Catch (Ton)	225643
BEACH SEINE NET	Number of Boats	2088
	Estimated Effort	18941
	CPUE (Kg)	364589
	Estimated Catch (Ton)	60067
LAUNCH – FT	Number of Boats	688
	Estimated Effort	7140

	CPUE (Kg)	7434
	Estimated Catch (Ton)	1351
LAUNCH – LINE + TL	Number of Boats	891
	Estimated Effort	9214
	CPUE (Kg)	27415
	Estimated Catch (Ton)	6225

Table 3b: Estimated Effort of Coastal Vessels from 2021-2025

Years	Landing (mt)	No. of Vessels	Vessel – day number	Season Duration (month)	Catch/ Vessel - Year (mt)	Catch/ Vessel - Day (mt)
2021	4668	190	-	12	25	2.2
2022	5062	264	-	12	27	5.8
2023	5600	285	-	12	33	5.0
2024	133680	574	-	12	48	30.0
2025	135016	690	-	12	196	13.3

Table 3c: Estimated Effort of Industrial Fishing Activity from 2021-2025

(Please note that this include **small pelagics**)

Years	Landing (mt)	No. of Vessels	Vessel – day number	Season Duration (month)	Catch/ Vessel - Year (mt)	Catch/ Vessel - Day (mt)
2021	45744	9	365	12	5083	13.93
2022	51803	7	365	12	7400	20.27
2023	76480	18	365	12	4249	11.64
2024	68470	25	365	12	1098	3
2025	131087	42	365	12	2756	7.5

3.3. Tuna Effort Distribution maps:

Figure 2a and 2b maps of distribution of fishing effort by national fisheries in the IOTC area of competence are NOT AVAILABLE.

3.4. Tuna Catch Distribution maps:

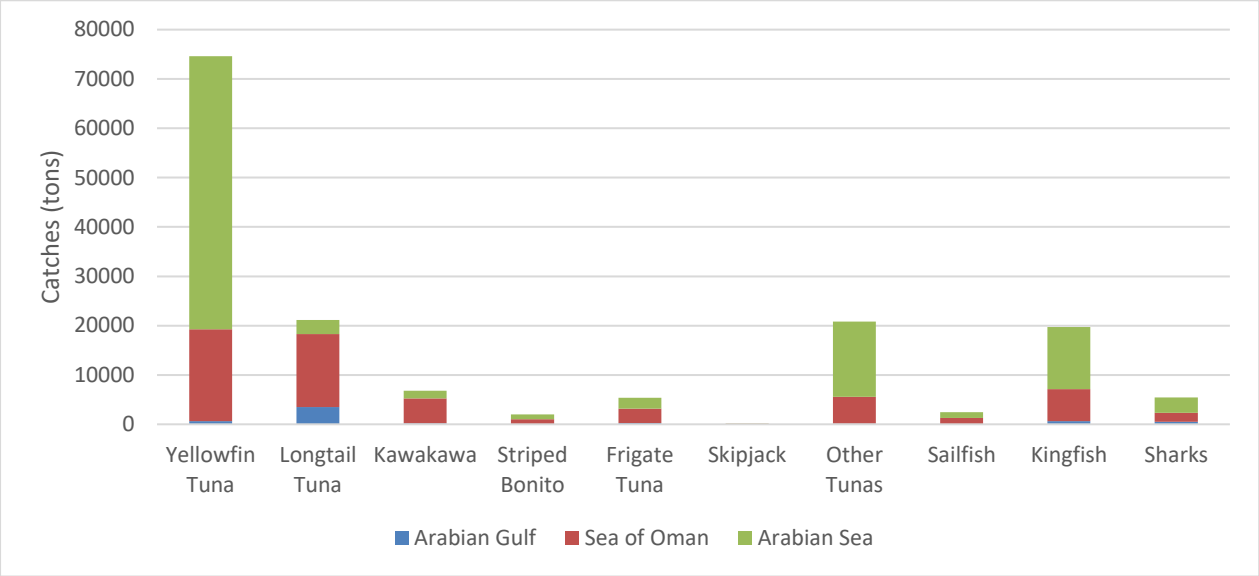


Figure 2a. Map of distribution of fishing catch by species for the artisanal fisheries in the IOTC area of competence in 2025

Figure 2a presents the species composition of artisanal fishery catches across the Arabian Gulf, Sea of Oman, and Arabian Sea in 2025. Yellowfin tuna accounted for the largest share of total catches, with the highest catches recorded in the Arabian Sea, followed by longtail tuna, other tunas, and kingfish. The Sea of Oman also recorded considerable catches of longtail tuna and yellowfin tuna, whereas catches in the Arabian Gulf were comparatively low across most species. These regional differences may be associated with variations in species distribution, fishing effort, and fishing practices.

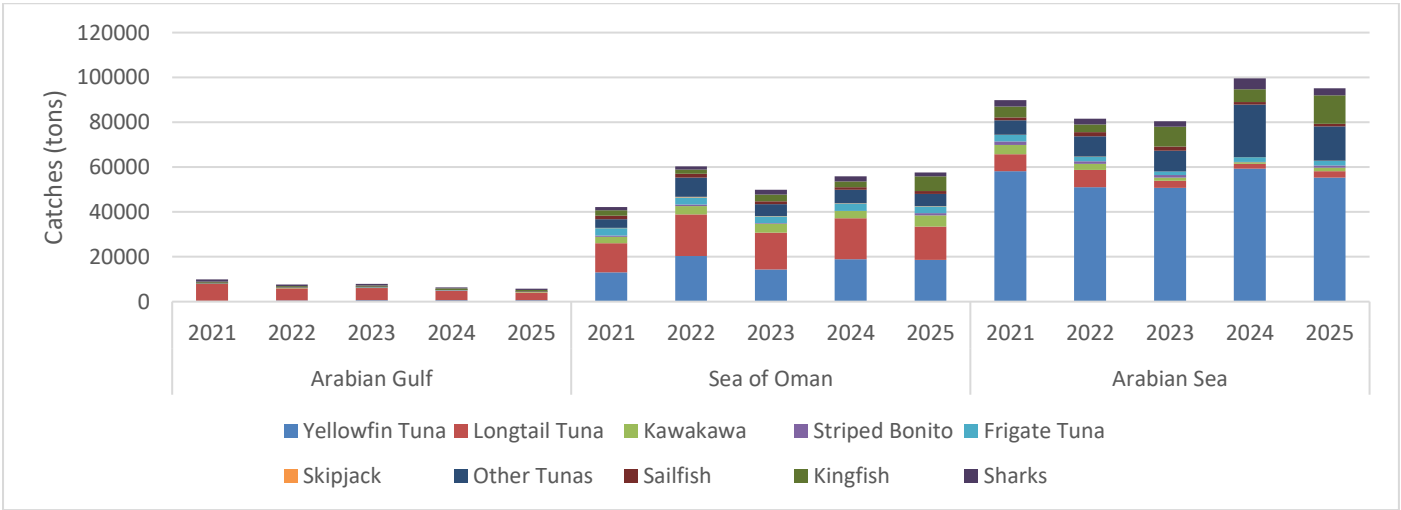


Figure 2b. Map of distribution of fishing catch by species for the artisanal fisheries in the IOTC area of competence in 2021-2024

Figure 3b illustrates the temporal and spatial variations in artisanal fishery catches by species across the Arabian Gulf, Sea of Oman, and Arabian Sea from 2021 to 2025. Total catches were consistently highest in the Arabian Sea, followed by the Sea of Oman, while the Arabian Gulf recorded substantially lower catches throughout the study period. Yellowfin tuna was the dominant species in the Arabian Sea and Sea of Oman, accounting for the largest proportion of total catches, followed by longtail tuna and other tuna species. In contrast, catches in the Arabian Gulf were relatively low and were primarily composed of longtail tuna, with smaller contributions from other species. In the Arabian Sea, total catches fluctuated over the study period, reaching their highest level in 2024 before declining slightly in 2025. The Sea of Oman exhibited similar interannual fluctuations, with a peak in 2022, followed by comparatively lower catches during 2023–2025. Overall, the observed patterns highlight marked regional differences in catch magnitude and species composition, as well as interannual variability in artisanal fishery landings.

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY [Mandatory]

There are no records of recreational fishery for tuna and tuna like species in Oman.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES [Mandatory]

5.1 Sharks [Mandatory]

5.1.1 NPOA sharks [Desirable]

The Sultanate of Oman is currently in the process of developing NPOA-sharks, which aims to set a management scheme for these resources, with the perspective to ensure their conservation and sustainable exploitation. Plus, some endangered species were monitored under CITES agreement. Shark fining is banned by the Omani fisheries legislation.

5.1.2 Blue shark [Mandatory]

Article 43: Prohibition on Practices Affecting the Conservation of Blue Sharks

1. To ensure the conservation of the blue shark (Prionace glauca) stock in the Indian Ocean, it is prohibited to increase the current levels of blue shark catches beyond the average of recent years, pending further scientific assessments.

2. All unreported catches of blue shark are prohibited. Vessels are required to record and report their blue shark catch, effort, size, and discard data accurately, as per established international resolutions.

3. Until further stock assessments are completed, measures such as improving gear selectivity, implementing spatial or temporal closures, and adopting minimum conservation sizes shall be encouraged.

5.2 Seabirds [Mandatory]

Article 45 – Reduction of incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries

1. The operator of any fishing vessel in Omani waters, or of any Omani registered vessel in areas beyond national jurisdiction shall make such reports of incidental bycatch of seabirds as may be required by the relevant Ministry.

2. Where such fishing vessel is in the IOTC Area of Competence and is south of 25 degrees South latitude, the operator shall use and comply mitigation measures.

There are 3 vessels using bird scaring lines and line weighting.

5.3 Marine Turtles [Mandatory]

Environment Society of Oman (ESO) is working in a project in this field. This study will help the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and water Resources incorporate in its legislation sound conservation measures for the protection of these creatures.

Article 44- Conservation and protection of marine turtles

1. The operator of any fishing vessel in Omani waters, or of any Omani registered vessel within areas beyond national jurisdiction shall:

a. ensures that any captured marine turtle that is comatose or inactive is brought aboard, if practicable, as soon as possible and foster its recovery, including aiding in its resuscitation, before safely returning it to the water;

b. where such fishing vessel is equipped with gillnet gear, record or caused to be recorded all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks and report such incidents to the [relevant Official/Authority];

c. where such fishing vessel is equipped with longline gear:

(i) carry line cutters and de-hookers on board the fishing vessel in order to facilitate the appropriate handling and prompt release of marine turtles caught or entangled, which shall be done in accordance with any Guidelines that may be provided by the Ministry

(ii) where appropriate, encourage the use of whole finfish bait;

(iii) record all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks, including the species of the marine turtle(s), and report such incidents to the Ministry;

d. where such fishing vessel is equipped with purse seine gear:

(i) to the extent practicable, avoid encirclement of marine turtles, and if a marine turtle is encircled or entangled, take practicable measures to safely release the turtle in accordance with such guidelines as may be provided by the Ministry;

(ii) to the extent practicable, release all marine turtles observed entangled in fish aggregating devices or other fishing gear;

(iii) if a marine turtle is entangled in the net, stop net roll as soon as the turtle comes out of the water, disentangle the turtle without injuring it before resuming the net roll and, to the extent practicable, assist the recovery of the turtle before returning it to the water;

(iv) carry and employ dip nets, when appropriate, to handle marine turtles;

(v) record all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks and report such incidents to the Ministry.

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

Article 36 - Prohibit of intentionally setting purse seine net around a cetacean

1) The operator of an Omani fishing vessel shall not intentionally cause or allow a purse seine net to be set around any cetacean if it is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.

2) Where any cetacean is unintentionally encircled in a purse seine net, the operator referred to in subsection (1) shall:

a. take all reasonable steps to ensure the safe release of any cetacean, while taking into consideration the safety of the crew, in accordance with best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of cetaceans developed by the IOTC Scientific Committee;

b. report the incident to the Ministry with the following information:

i. in respect of a cetacean, the species (if known);

ii. the number of individuals;

iii. a short description of the interaction, including details of how and why the interaction occurred, if possible;

iv. the location of the encirclement;

v. the steps taken to ensure safe release;

vi. an assessment of the life status of the animal on release, including whether the cetacean was released alive but subsequently died.

3) The operator of an Omani fishing vessels using gear types other than purse seiners for fishing tuna and tuna-like species associated with cetaceans shall report all interactions with cetaceans to the Ministry and include all the information required pursuant to subsection 2(b)(i-vi).

Article 37 - prohibit of intentionally setting purse seine net around a whale shark

1) The operator of an Omani fishing vessel, shall not intentionally cause or allow a purse seine net to be set around any whale shark if it is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.

2) Where any whale shark is unintentionally encircled in a purse seine net, the operator referred to in subsection (1) shall:

a. take all reasonable steps to ensure the safe release of any whale shark, while taking into consideration the safety of the crew, in accordance with best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of cetaceans developed by the IOTC Scientific Committee;

b. report the incident to the Ministry with the following information:

i. the number of individuals;

ii. a short description of the interaction, including details of how and why the interaction occurred, if possible; iii. the location of the encirclement;

iv. the steps taken to ensure safe release;

v. an assessment of the life status of the animal on release, including whether the whale shark was released alive but subsequently died.

3) The operator of an Omani fishing vessels using gear types other than purse seiners for fishing tuna and tuna-like species associated with whale sharks shall report all interactions with whale sharks to the Ministry and include all the information required pursuant to subsection 2(b)(i-vi).

Article 38 - prohibit from intentionally setting gear for targeted fishing of mobulid rays or retain carcasses onboard

1) The operator of an Omani fishing vessel that is operating in the IOTC area of competence and the operator of any foreign fishing vessel in areas under Omani jurisdiction, except those that are engaged in subsistence fisheries and do not sell or offer for sale any part or whole carcass of mobulid rays, shall not: a. cause, enable or allow any gear type to be intentionally set for targeted fishing of mobulid rays if the mobulid ray is sighted prior to the commencement of the set; b. retain onboard, tranship, land, store any part or whole carcass of any mobulid ray caught in the IOTC area of competence; 2) The operator of an Omani fishing vessel that is operating in the IOTC area of competence and the operator of any foreign fishing vessel in areas under Omani jurisdiction shall direct and ensure that: a. all mobulid rays are promptly released alive and unharmed, to the extent practicable, as soon as they are seen in the net, on the hook or on the deck in a manner that will result in the least possible harm to the individuals captured; and b. handling procedures adopted by IOTC from time to time are followed.

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS [Mandatory]

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification (including date commenced and status of implementation)

A primary logsheet has been established and is ready for use. This logbook system records daily information for each trip delivering three documents (copies): One goes for the vessel, the second goes for the port authority and the last for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Water Resources.

6.2. Observer scheme (including date commenced and status; number of observer, include percentage of coverage by fishery. Also, a description of the protocols supporting the observer programs and sampling schemes mentioned in paragraphs 3, 4, 6 and 9 of Res [25-06])

The Ministry has initiated an observer scheme to monitor the landings through this program for industrial fishing vessels. It is, however, the objective of this Ministry to make a special focus on the industrial fleet and especially onboard the vessels targeting tuna species within the IOTC convention area.

In 2024, one Omani purse seiner operated under full observer coverage, with 368 fishing operations/sets observed (100%). Based on an estimated total of 2,208 sets across Oman's six purse seiners (368 × 6), the estimated observer coverage at sea was approximately **16.67%**, exceeding the minimum 5% requirement.

Furthermore, Omani fishing companies have signed an agreement with the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) for the provision of observers on board Omani fishing vessels. Additional observers are scheduled to be deployed on Omani purse seiners during Q4 2026, to further increase fleet coverage.

6.3. Port sampling programme [Mandatory]

This program was launched since 1985 through a joint Omani – American committee via a specialized company named Shemonix. This company trained several officers from the statistical fishery section in order to improve the efficiency of the data collectors and sampling programme. The data collected in PSP included artisanal fishery, industrial fishery, fish export & import and companies The data collection system has been reviewed and improved since then, and it is considered that the Ministry has an adequate system for the small-scale fishery while further improvement of the data collection system is still needed for coastal and artisanal (dhows) fleets.

All Omani purse seiners calling at Omani ports are subject to inspection. Industrial fishing vessels landing their catches at foreign ports, such as in Seychelles, are monitored through the relevant port inspection and sampling procedures carried out by the competent authorities of the country concerned, in accordance with their applicable requirements.

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

Article 42 - to prohibit retention on board, transhipment, landing any undersize striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin, indo-pacific sailfish

The operator of an Omani fishing vessel that is operating in the IOTC area of competence and the operator of any foreign fishing vessel in areas under Omani jurisdiction shall:

a. not retain on board, tranship or land, any striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin or Indo-pacific sailfish smaller than 60 cm Lower Jaw Fork Length;

b. where such species smaller than the minimum length described in subsection (a) are brought on board, immediately return them to the sea in a manner that maximizes post-release survival potential without compromising the safety of crew.

6.5. Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring [Desirable]

No project in place.

6.6 Sampling plans for mobulid rays [Mandatory]

No project in place.

6.7 Electronic Monitoring Standards [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS]

The information of the fleet level summary of the Vessel Monitoring Plans (not mandatory) shall be presented in ANNEX A.

No project in place.

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS [Desirable]

7.1 National research programs on blue shark

No program.

7.2 National research programs on Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish

No program.

7.3 National research programs on sharks

No program.

7.4 National research programs on oceanic whitetip sharks

No program.

7.5 National research programs on marine turtles

1. **Evaluating Hatching Success and Emergence Success in Loggerhead Nests on Masirah Island by Environment Authority:** Quantify hatching success along different sections of the beach, identify and evaluate factors impacting hatchling emergence, and implement appropriate management measures to maximize hatchling production in this declining population.

2. **Sea Turtle Satellite Tracking Project by Environment Authority:** Strengthening the system of protecting and rehabilitating species and restoring habitats, as well as contributing information to studying the nesting conditions and natural habitats of sea turtles, as satellite tracking devices work to know the movement of turtles, their behaviour, nesting and feeding sites, and to track more numbers of green turtles, in addition to building local capacities and unifying local and international efforts to implement best practices for protecting sea turtles.

7.6 National research programs on thresher sharks

No program.

Table 6. Summary table of national research programs, including dates.

Project title	Period	Countries involved	Budget total	Funding source	Objectives	Short description
1 . Long term monitoring program of crustacean fisheries	•Shrimp fisheries 1997 -to present	Oman	-	Fisheries research Directorate	review the general status of the lobster and shrimp fishery in Oman	Assessment of biological characteristics (Lc, Lm, mean size) during fishing seasons. The stock size and catch by CMSY analysis

2. Long term monitoring program of important commercial pelagic and demersal fisheries	•Lobster fisheries 1987-to present 2005 - to present	Oman and GCC countries	-	Fisheries research Directorate	review the general status of the stock in Oman	The stock status in the Omani waters was evaluated using the total length to assess biological reference points (growth, recruitment and mortality) and biological characteristics (Lc and Lm). The kingfish fisheries in GCC waters were assessed using length based analysis to estimate the per recruit analysis.
3. Monitoring of oceanography parameters	2001- to present	Oman	-	Fisheries research Directorate	Study marine environmental variability	1. Monthly collection of physics and chemical oceanography parameters 2.Monthly sampling of biological samples such as phytoplankton and zooplankton 3. Monthly sampling for ocean acidification program 4. HABs monitoring
4. Ocean acidification program	2024-Continuous	GCC-Countries	-	Fisheries research Directorate	To study CO2 system of ocean and the acidification	Monthly sampling for ocean acidification program, analyzing the pH and Total Alkalinity of Omani coastal waters

Study of the sustainable economic aspects of Seaweed stocks in Dhofar and Al-Wusta Governorates	2025-2027	Oman	-	The Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund	Studying the possibility of cultivating some commercial species and understanding their environmental conditions at the laboratory level.	1- Assessing seaweed stocks in the Arabian sea, identifying commercial species, and studying their biomass and geographical distribution. 2- Producing commercial products from seaweed extracts such as agar, feed, fertilizers and bioplastics. 3- Preparing an economic feasibility study for seaweed industries

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE IOTC RELEVANT TO THE SC. [Mandatory]

Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2012 and 2024.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
12/04	On the conservation of marine turtles	Paragraphs 3, 4, 6–10	
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)	Paragraphs 7– 9	
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	

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	We are currently working on it.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	We are currently working on it.
17/05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	
18/02	On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2-5	
18/05	On management measures for the conservation of the Billfishes: Striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7 – 11	
18/07	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraphs 1, 4	
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	
19/03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 11	
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	
23/07	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	
23/08	On electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 3c	
25/06	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 12	

9. LITERATURE CITED [Mandatory]

- Ministerial Decree on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
- Fishery Statistical Book (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024). Fisheries Statistic & Information Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and water resources.
- Marine and Fisheries Science Center - Oman
- Project of Vessel Monitoring System in Oman
- Environment Authority - Oman

Annex A

A fleet level summary of the Vessel Monitoring Plans [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS]

As previously reported during the meetings in Seychelles, all six Omani purse seiners are equipped with an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS), although its use is not yet mandatory. One vessel is currently undergoing a testing phase, with the system already installed on board. Further progress in the implementation and operational use of EMS is expected throughout 2027.

A.1 The number of CPC flagged vessels implementing EM by gear/fishery type [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS].

A.2 The range of EMS configurations implemented within the fleet (including the numbers and placements of cameras for each configuration) [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS].

A.3 A general description of EMS requirements placed upon vessel skippers/crews by the CPC government [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS].