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

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BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES

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 26/06/2026
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 2024).	YES 26/06/2026
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

Executive Summary [Mandatory]

Between October 7 and December 19, 2017, the Philippines operated a single active vessel in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Convention Area (10°S to 5°N, 75°E to 90°E). The FV *Marilou 888*, a purse seiner with a gross tonnage (GT) of 349, conducted fishing operations during this period.

The vessel's total catch included:

- **25,551 kg** of bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*),
- **72,680 kg** of yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), and
- **144,566 kg** of skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*).

All catches were landed at the General Santos City Fish Port in the Philippines.

Bycatch records included 34 silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), of which 12 were released alive and 22 were released dead. Additionally, an olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) was released alive, while one smooth mobula ray (*Mobula thurstoni*) was released dead. No sharks or other bycatch species were retained on board.

The FV *Marilou 888* had 100% observer coverage for the duration of its trip and was equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). As with previous Philippine fishing operations, all conservation and management measures mandated for sharks and other species were strictly observed during the vessel's activities.

While the Philippines has been inactive in the IOTC Convention Area since 2018, the country remains a committed Contracting Member of the IOTC. It upholds its dedication to the effective management, conservation, and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks within the IOTC Area of Competence.

1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION

Municipal Fishing Operations

Mostly consist of small-scale fishermen that use longline and handline gear to capture tuna in municipal seas, which are usually 15 kilometers offshore. These activities are limited to boats weighing less than three gross tons, and fishing requires registration and a license. While commercial vessels like purse seiners are typically forbidden from these seas, important fishing techniques that capture adult tuna include handline and bottom-set longline.

Commercial Fishing Operations

Purse seines, ring nets, and handlines are among the gear types used by small and medium-sized commercial fishing vessels, which range in size from 3.1 to 150 GT. Usually, these ships operate outside of the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and municipal seas.

A restricted quota of Philippine-flagged purse seine and ring net vessels, specifically 36 collector vessels not exceeding 250 GT, are permitted to operate within High Seas Pocket 1 (HSP1) in the Western Pacific. The Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2017-01 of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) is complied with by these operations. Larger commercial vessels, including purse seiners exceeding 500 GT, conduct fishing operations in the waters of other Pacific Island countries under bilateral and regional agreements.

Tuna Longline Operations

Historically, a small number of Philippine-flagged tuna longline vessels operated in both the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the Indian Ocean, targeting high-value species such as yellowfin and bigeye tuna. These vessels contributed to the country's tuna exports and were part of the Philippines'

distant-water fishing operations. However, due to factors such as high operational costs, stricter international regulations, and limited competitiveness with larger foreign fleets, the number of active

2. FLEET STRUCTURE

Tuna fishing in the Philippines involves both municipal (< 3GT) and commercial (>3GT) fishing vessels.

Municipal handline (or hook and line), troll line, and gillnet among others are used to catch the oceanic tunas. Small-scale and medium-scale commercial vessels (3.1-150 GT) like the purse seine, ringnet, and handline are the primary fishing boats which fish beyond municipal waters and the EEZ. Philippine-flagged purse seine/ring vessels (not more than 250 GT), currently limited to 36 tuna catchers, operate in the high seas pocket 1 (HSP1) pursuant to WCPFC policy. Relatively larger vessel/large purse seine vessels (>500GT) operate in other Pacific Island countries. A small number of Philippine-flagged tuna longline vessels used to fish in the WCPO and Indian Ocean (IO); these vessels have reportedly been incave since 2015.

The distant water fleet is currently composed of 55 Philippine-flagged vessels fishing in other coastal countries (Papua New Guinea) and 36 registered group-seine tuna catchers in the high seas pocket 1 (HSP1). The number of registered municipal fishing boat is 244,398 as of April 4, 2017 (BoatR) although the number of boats engaged by fishing category is unclear. Handline (or hook and line), drift gill net and troll line are the municipal tuna fishing boats that operate in both municipal waters (within 15 km) and beyond. It is carried out nationwide, with important fishing grounds in Sulu Sea, Moro Gulf/Celebes Sea, Pacific seaboard including archipelagic waters of Lagonoy Gulf, Albay Gulf, Davao Gulf, Davao Oriental, West Philippine Sea, Antique, Mindoro, Zambales, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

At present, the Philippines has no active fishing vessels operating in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Area of Competence. Historically, the country's main target species in this region was bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*). In recent years, only one Philippine-flagged vessel operated in the IOTC Convention Area (10°S to 5°N, 75°E to 90°E). This vessel, the FV *Marilou 888*, a purse seiner with a gross tonnage of 349, conducted fishing operations from October 7 to December 19, 2017. Since then, there have been no active Philippine vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence.

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

	Number of Vessels	Gear type	Size
2006	16	Tuna Longline	284 GT - 930 GT
2007	17	Tuna Longline	284 GT - 930 GT
2008	17	Tuna Longline	284 GT - 930 GT
2009	7	Tuna Longline	382 GT - 930 GT
2010	8	Tuna Longline	382 GT - 930 GT
2011	3	Tuna Longline	382 GT - 930 GT
2012	14	Tuna Longline	382 GT - 930 GT
2013	9	Tuna Longline	382 GT - 930 GT
2014	4	Tuna Longline	382 GT - 930 GT
2015-2016	0	N/A	N/A
2017	1	Purse Seine	349 GT
2018-2025	0	N/A	N/A

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND FISHERY)

Table 2. Annual catch and effort by gear and primary species in the IOTC area of competence (Year: 2013-2017-no active fleet in 2015&2016):

Year: 2013

Species	Gear	Quantity	Effort (hooks)	Latitude/Longitude
				5x5
Bigeye	LL	911,595	2,445,146	00N - 50E
				05N - 60 E
				5 N - 55E 5 N - 65E 0 S - 55E 0 S - 65 E

Year : 2014

Species	Gear	Quantity	Effort (hooks)	Latitude/Longitude
				5x5
Bigeye	LL	319,001	677,875	00 N - 50 E
				15 N - 55 E
				00 S – 50 E 00 S – 55 E

Year: 2017

Species	Gear	Quantity(kg)	Effort (days)	Latitude/Longitude
				5x5
Bigeye	PS	25,551		
Yellowfin	PS	72,680		10^0 S to 5^0 N – 075^0 E to 090^0 E
Skipjack	PS	144,566	54	

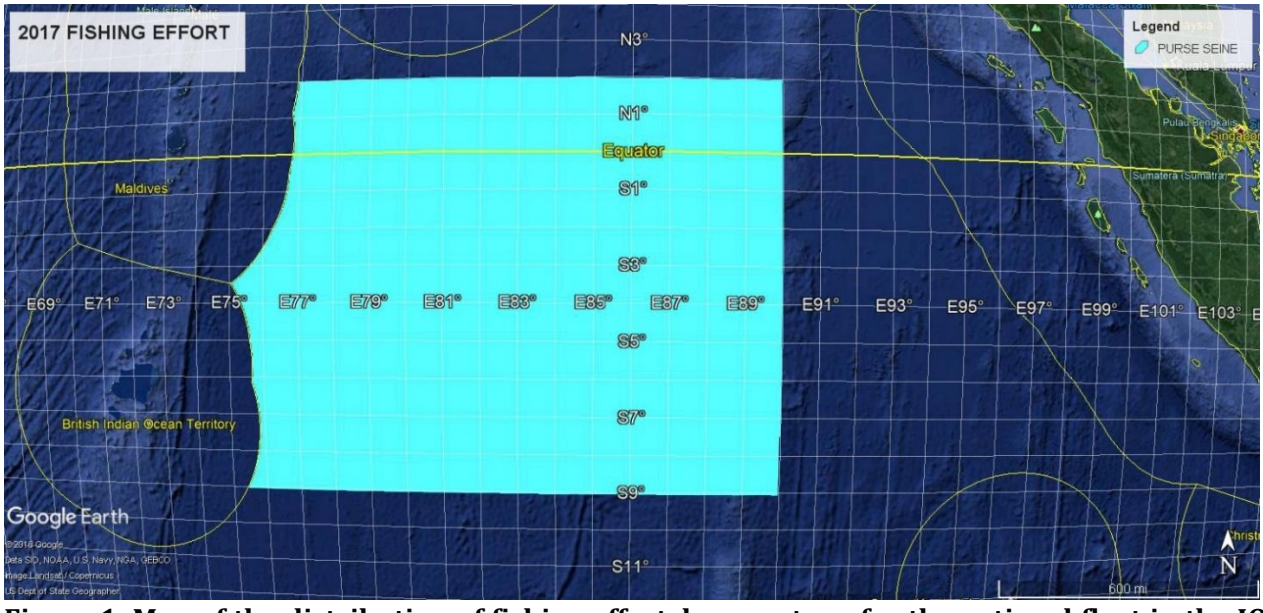

Figure 1. Map of the distribution of fishing effort, by gear type for the national fleet in the IOTC area of competence

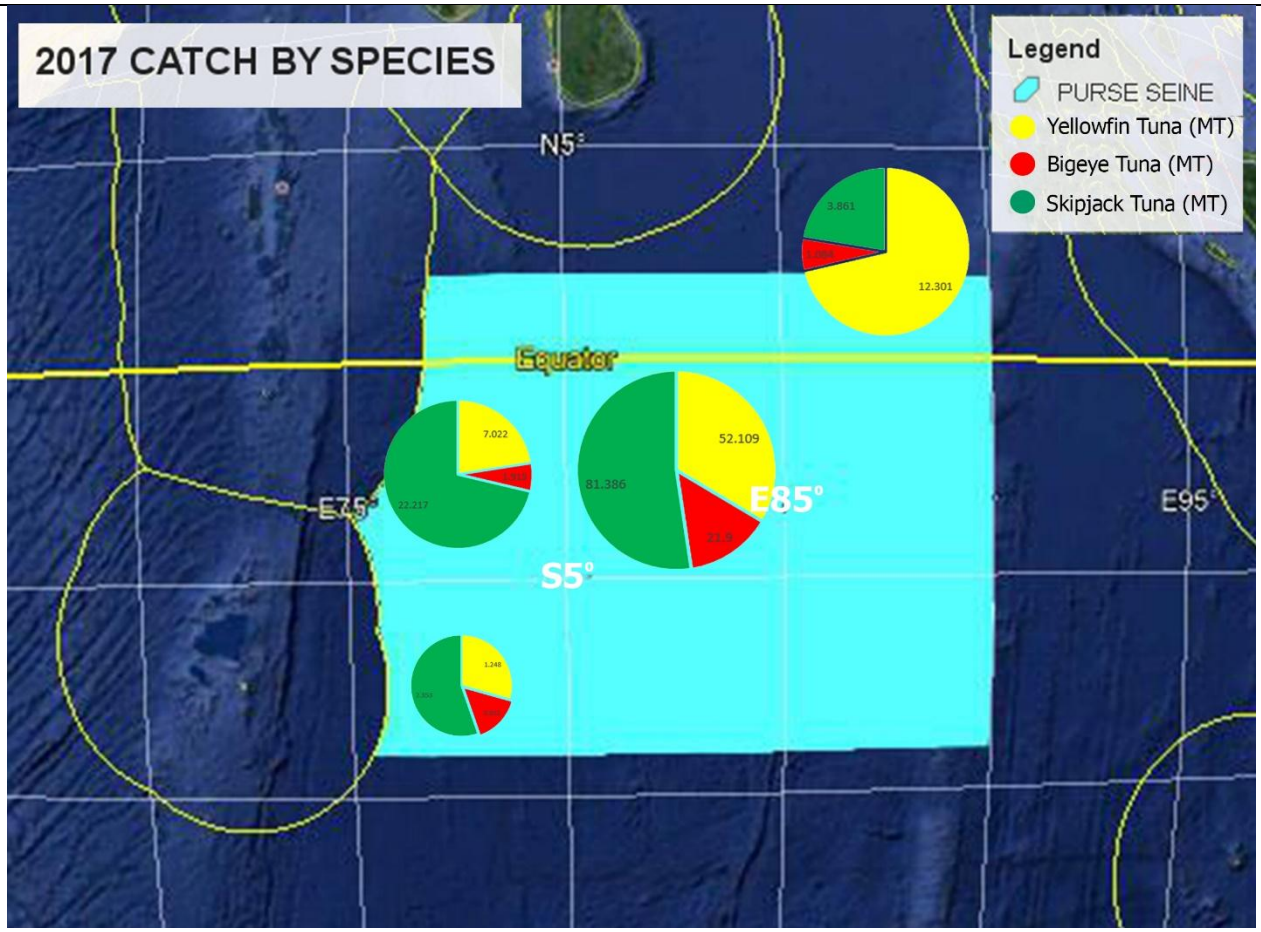

Figure 2. Map of distribution of fishing catch, by species for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence

Table 3. List of fishing catch by species for the national fleet, in the IOTC area of competence

Grid (Lat, Long)	YFT (MT)	BET (MT)	SKJ (MT)	TOTAL (MT)
00-05N, 085-090E	12.301	1.084	3.861	51.995
00-05S, 080-085E	52.109	21.9	81.386	155.395
00-05S, 075-080E	7.022	1.915	22.217	31.154
05-10S,075-080E	1.248	0.652	2.353	4.253

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY

The Philippines is not participating in this activity within the IOTC Convention area as it is not a coastal state in that region.

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES

5.1 Sharks

The Philippines has an existing Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 272: Rules and Regulations for the Conservation of Sharks for Philippine Fishing Vessels. This FAO was issued on 11 August 2023.

In addition, the Philippines has recently passed on 17 December 2024, the FAO 208-1: Amendment to Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208, Series of 2001 on the Conservation of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Fishery Species.

5.1.1. NPOA sharks

The Philippines in 2009 prepared the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA Sharks) which was harmonized in 2017.

5.1.2. Blue shark

The Philippines has an existing Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 272: Rules and Regulations for the Conservation of Sharks for Philippine Fishing Vessels. This FAO was issued on 11 August 2023.

In addition, the Philippines recently issued FAO 208-1, Amendment to Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208, Series of 2001, on the Conservation of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Fishery Species, on 17 December 2024.

5.2 Seabirds

Legislation on the mandatory application of conservation and management measures that are adopted by the various Regional Fisheries Management Organizations [RFMOs] is now part of the law of the land as included in Republic Act 10654 effective 2015.

5.3 Marine Turtles

The Philippines advertises the use of circle hooks for long-line fishing operations to reduce sea turtle bycatch as part of its activities in the Coral Triangle [CTI] initiatives. As early as November 15, 1979, the Philippine government through "MNR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 12, Series of 1979", declared the 7 islands located in Tawi-tawi as a protected area. For five islands the government decided on special protection zones. Within these zones, only scientific and conservation activities are allowed. In other zones, there are certain rules to prevent too much impact by people on the environment and the turtles. Visiting these zones is only possible with strict guidance and under the supervision of the staff of the officials of the government.

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

Whale sharks are protected by legislation in the Philippines. All Philippine-flagged purse seine vessels are prohibited from setting on whale sharks if the animal is sighted before the commencement of the set. This species is also protected under Fisheries Administrative Order 193.

Also, legislation on the mandatory application of conservation and management measures that are adopted by the various Regional Fisheries Management Organizations [RFMOs] is now part of the law of the land as included in Republic Act 10654 effective 2015.

Recently, the Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 271: Rules and Regulations for the Protection of Cetaceans and Whale Sharks from Purse Seine and Ring Net Operations was finalized and issued on 23 May 2023.

In addition, the Philippines recently issued FAO 208-1, Amendment to Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208, Series of 2001, on the Conservation of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Fishery Species, on 17 December 2024

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification

BFAR Administrative Circular Number 252 Series of 2014 mandates the submission of catch logsheets. Under section 8 thereof, these are to be submitted monthly. Later these are verified through comparison of other sources of data.

6.2. Observer scheme

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) formally accredited the Philippines' regional observer program in May 2010, marking the official start of the program. Fisheries Administrative Order Number 240 Series of 2012 made this mandatory. But the preparation started a year earlier, with training support from the WCPFC. In the years before 2015, the Observer Program was designed to ensure compliance with WCPFC rules; there were no observers available for IOTC operations. There is the issue of ongoing training for additional observers, some of whom will be deployed to the IOTC area in the coming years.

For the year 2017, the Philippine-flagged FV Marilou 888, which operated from October 7 to December 19, 2017, had a fisheries observer on board the entire time it navigated to the Indian Ocean convention area, where it conducted fishing activities until it returned to the Philippines. As a result of the passage of RA 10654, observer coverage shall be under the rules of the Regional Fisheries Management Organization. (For FV Marilou 888, observer coverage was 100%)

Table 4. Annual observer coverage by operation, e.g. longline hooks, purse seine sets

Year	Gear Type	Observer Deployed	Coverage Period
2017	PS	1	7 Oct 2017 to 19 Dec 2017
2017	LL	0	

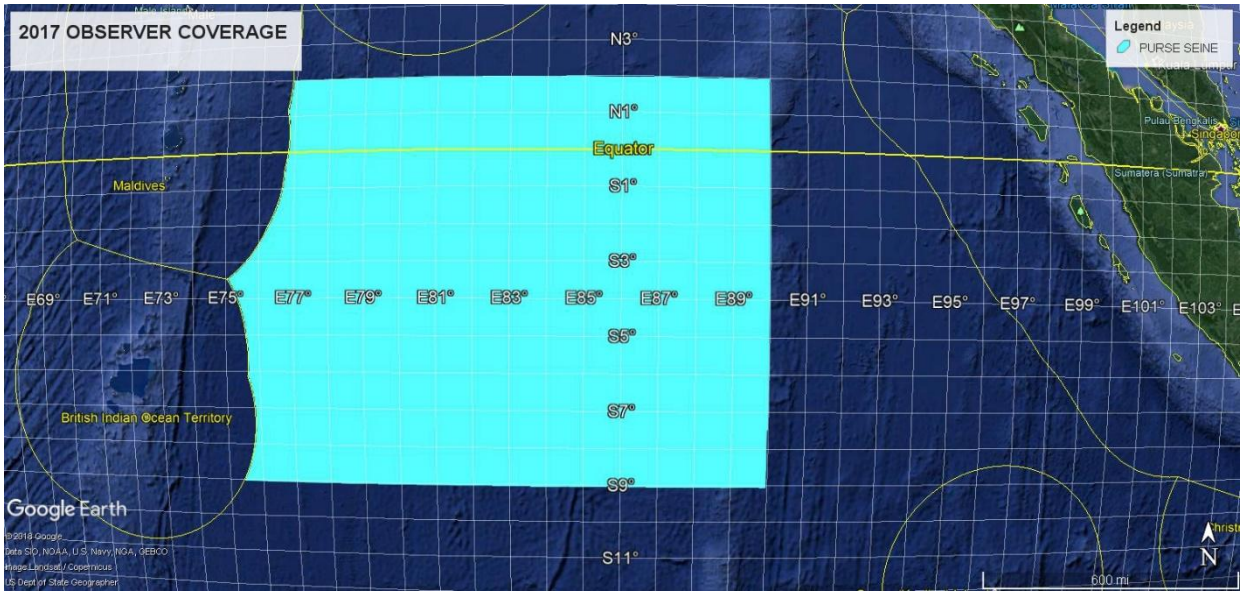

Figure 3. Map showing the spatial distribution of observer coverage. The FV Marilou 888 conducted fishing activities in the IOTC Convention area with 100% observer coverage and VMS.

6.3. Port sampling programme

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) currently compiles official fishery statistics for the Philippines using probability (stratified random sampling by data collectors) and non-probability surveys (interviews by regular PSA staff), supplemented by secondary data from administrative sources such as landings sites and ports (Vallesteros, 2002). Annual Fisheries Statistics for the commercial, municipal, inland, and aquaculture sectors are published every three years and contain production volume and value by province and region, fish pricing data, and international trade statistics. All catches have arrived at General Santos City.

Table 5. Number of individuals measured, by species and gear

Year: 2017

Gear	Species	Total No. of Individual Measured
PS	Yellow fin Tuna (YFT	626
PS	Big eye Tuna (BET)	316
PS	Skipjack Tuna (SKJ)	2691
PS	Mackerel Scads (MSD)	41
PS	Rainbow Runner (RRU)	14
PS	Bullet Tuna (BLT)	8
PS	Frigate Tuna (FRI)	7
PS	Spotted Oceanic Triggerfish (CNT)	13

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

The reporting for marlin fish, sailfish, etc. is covered in the Electronic Reporting System (ERS) and Integrated Marine Environment Monitoring System (IMEMS) of the Philippines, but for now, it only covers Philippine-flagged vessels including the high seas.

6.5. Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring

There have been no active Philippine-flagged fishing vessels operating in the IOTC Area of Competence since 2018. Thus, no at-sea observer coverage for gillnet fishing operations was required during the reporting period.

6.6 Sampling plans for mobulid rays

Through the amended Philippine Fisheries Code (Republic Act Number 8550), the Philippines continues to implement relevant IOTC conservation and management measures as well as Philippine fisheries laws and regulations. The amendments of the Philippine Fisheries Code (Republic Act Number 8550) are to elevate the level of penalties to reflect more current international levels of sanctions and new developments that are consistent with our international commitments. With regards to the mobulid rays, however, the Philippines have yet to formulate a concrete sampling plan.

6.7 Electronic Monitoring Standards

The Philippines has no active fishing fleets operating within the IOTC Area of Competence and is currently not implementing an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS). However, the Philippines has been implementing the Electronic Reporting System under Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO)

No. 266, Series of 2020, and the Philippine Observer Program. Additionally, Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) No. 240, Series of 2012, mandates the deployment of fisheries observers on all fishing vessels operating in the high seas.

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Table 6. Summary table of national research programs

Project title	Period	Funding source	Objectives
Philippine Fisheries Observer Program	2009-present	BFAR	Complement the existing Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance program of the country to combat IUUF (through responsible collection and reporting of fishing data from different RFMOs convention areas/high seas/PH EEZ)

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

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	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states. Previously, FAO was promulgated.
12/09	On the conservation of thresher sharks (family alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 4–8	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states. Previously, FAO was promulgated. The Philippines has an existing Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 272: Rules and Regulations for the Conservation of Sharks for Philippine Fishing Vessels. This FAO was issued on 11 August 2023. In addition, the Philippines recently issued FAO 208-1, Amendment to Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208, Series of 2001, on the Conservation of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Fishery Species, on 17 December 2024.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
13/04	On the conservation of cetaceans	Paragraphs 7– 9	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states. Previously, FAO was promulgated. Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 271 Series of 2023: Rules and Regulations for the Protection of Cetaceans and Whale Sharks from Purse Seine and Ring Net Operations (was finalized and issued on 23 May 2023) In addition, the Philippines recently issued FAO 208-1, Amendment to Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208, Series of 2001, on the Conservation of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Fishery Species, on 17 December 2024.
13/05	On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)	Paragraphs 7– 9	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states. Previously, FAO was promulgated. Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 271 Series of 2023: Rules and Regulations for the Protection of Cetaceans and Whale Sharks from Purse Seine and Ring Net Operations (was finalized and issued on 23 May 2023) In addition, the Philippines recently issued FAO 208-1, Amendment to Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208, Series of 2001, on the Conservation of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Fishery Species, on 17 December 2024.
13/06	On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries	Paragraph 5–6	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
			Some BFAR activities on shark measures: -Shark Conservation IEC Events in Dinagat Island (February 20-21,2018) -Philippine Aquatic Wildlife Rescue and Response Manual Series: Shark and Rays (NFRDI, BFAR, MWWP) -BFAR urging the local government to regulate, if not ban, the catching and sale of juvenile sharks (Bacolod City, 2016) The Philippines has an existing Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 272: Rules and Regulations for the Conservation of Sharks for Philippine Fishing Vessels. This FAO was issued on 11 August 2023. In addition, the Philippines recently issued FAO 208-1, Amendment to Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208, Series of 2001, on the Conservation of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Fishery Species, on 17 December 2024.
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	Section 38 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires all fishing vessels to keep a record of fish catch and spoilage, landing points, and quantity and value of fish caught and off-loaded for transhipment, sale, and/ or other disposal.
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	Section 38 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires all fishing vessels to keep a record of fish catch and spoilage, landing points, and quantity and value of fish caught and off-loaded for transshipment, sale, and/ or other disposal. Fishing vessel operators are instructed to submit data to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources [BFAR] on a monthly basis. These were then seasonably sent to the IOTC. This is a requirement under RA 8550 as amended by RA 10654 as well as BFAR Circular Number 252 Series of 2014 requires the fishing vessel will comply with the rules and regulations of the RFMO which has jurisdiction over the high seas pocket or the Coastal State which has jurisdiction over the waters where they operate and Fisheries Administrative Order Number

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
17/05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Paragraphs 6, 9, 11	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states. The Philippines has an existing Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 272: Rules and Regulations for the Conservation of Sharks for Philippine Fishing Vessels. This FAO was issued on 11 August 2023. In addition, the Philippines recently issued FAO 208-1, Amendment to Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208, Series of 2001, on the Conservation of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Fishery Species, on 17 December 2024.
18/02	On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 2-5	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states. The Philippines has an existing Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 272: Rules and Regulations for the Conservation of Sharks for Philippine Fishing Vessels. This FAO was issued on 11 August 2023. In addition, the Philippines recently issued FAO 208-1, Amendment to Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208, Series of 2001, on the Conservation of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Fishery Species, on 17 December 2024.
18/05	On management measures for the conservation of the Billfishes: Striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish	Paragraphs 7 – 11	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
18/07	On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC	Paragraphs 1, 4	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states.
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	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states.
19/03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence	Paragraph 11	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states. In addition, the Philippines recently issued FAO 208-1, Amendment to Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208, Series of 2001, on the Conservation of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Fishery Species, on 17 December 2024.
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	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states.
23/07	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	Paragraphs 3–7	Section 32 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires Distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements, conservation and management measures, and fishing access conditions of the Department, the RFMO, or other coastal states.

Res. No.	Resolution	Scientific requirement	CPC progress
23/08	On electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries	Paragraphs 3c	The Philippines has no active fishing fleets operating within the IOTC Area of Competence and is currently not implementing an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS). However, the Philippines has been implementing the Electronic Reporting System under Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) No. 266, Series of 2020, and the Philippine Observer Program. Additionally, Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) No. 240, Series of 2012, mandates the deployment of fisheries observers on all fishing vessels operating in the high seas.
25/06	On a regional observer scheme	Paragraph 12	Section 38 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act Number 10654 requires all fishing vessels to keep a record of fish catch and spoilage, landing points, and quantity and value of fish caught, and off-loaded for transhipment, sale and/ or other disposal. The Philippines has been implementing the Electronic Reporting System under Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) No. 266, Series of 2020, and the Philippine Observer Program. Additionally, Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) No. 240, Series of 2012, mandates the deployment of fisheries observers on all fishing vessels operating in the high seas.

9. LITERATURE CITED

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FAO 272 (2023) Rules and Regulations for the Conservation of Sharks for Philippine Fishing Vessels

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