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

Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP), Panama.

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)	**NO** DD/MM/YYYY : **N/A**
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).	**NO** DD/MM/YYYY: **N/A**
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: ***Panama does not have fishing vessels authorized to operate under the IOTC framework, including longline vessels. Therefore, no final catch data were available for submission. Panama will continue to report its authorized transshipment activities in accordance with IOTC requirements.***	

Executive Summary [Mandatory]
During 2025, the activities of Panamanian-flagged vessels in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Area of Competence were limited to transshipment operations conducted by refrigerated cargo vessels (reefers). Panama had no fishing vessels authorized to operate in the area; therefore, no national fishing or associated fishing effort was recorded.

Panama continued reporting its transshipment activities to the IOTC Secretariat through the submission of reports and final transshipment declarations, in accordance with the applicable requirements.

Contents [Desirable]

1. BACKGROUND/GENERAL FISHERY INFORMATION [MANDATORY]
During 2025, Panama had no fishing vessels authorized to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence. The activities of Panamanian-flagged vessels in the area were exclusively related to transshipment operations conducted by refrigerated cargo vessels (reefers).

These operations were reported to the IOTC Secretariat through the notification and declaration procedures established by the Commission. Accordingly, no national fishing activities or associated fishing methods were recorded during the reporting period.

2. FLEET STRUCTURE [MANDATORY]
During 2025, Panama had no fishing vessels authorized to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence. The Panamanian fleet registered with the Commission consisted of refrigerated cargo vessels (reefers) authorized to conduct transshipment operations. These vessels were listed in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV).

Table 1: Number of vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence, by gear type and size class:
N/A (Not applicable)

3. CATCH AND EFFORT (BY SPECIES AND FISHERY) [Mandatory]
N/A (Not applicable).
During 2025, Panama recorded no fishing activities by Panamanian-flagged vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence. Activities were exclusively related to transshipment operations conducted by refrigerated cargo vessels (reefers). Consequently, no national catch or fishing effort data are reported.

Table 2. ***N/A (Not applicable)***

Figure 1. ***N/A (Not applicable)***

Figure 2a. ***N/A (Not applicable)***

Figure 2b. ***N/A (Not applicable)***

Figure 3a. ***N/A (Not applicable)***

Figure 3b. ***N/A (Not applicable)***

4. RECREATIONAL FISHERY [Mandatory]
N/A (Not applicable)

5. ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH ISSUES [Mandatory]

During 2025, Panama had no fishing vessels operating in the IOTC Area of Competence. Therefore, no fishing-related interactions or bycatch involving sharks, seabirds, marine turtles or other ecologically related species were recorded by the Panamanian fleet in the area.

Nevertheless, Panama has national conservation instruments, including the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Shark and Ray Fisheries (2017) and the National Plan to Reduce the Incidental Catch of Seabirds (2022), adopted through the corresponding ARAP administrative resolutions.

5.1 Sharks [Mandatory]

N/A (Not applicable)

5.1.1. NPOA sharks [Desirable]

N/A (Not applicable). Referred to in the general text.

5.1.2. Blue shark [Mandatory]

N/A (Not applicable)

5.2 Seabirds [Mandatory]

N/A (Not applicable). Referred to in the general text.

5.3 Marine Turtles [Mandatory]

N/A (Not applicable)

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

N/A (Not applicable). Referred to in the general text.

6. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS [Mandatory]

N/A – Not applicable. During the reporting period, Panama did not have fishing vessels engaged in extractive fishing activities in the IOTC Area of Competence. Consequently, no corresponding fishing logsheet data, observer coverage for fishing operations, port sampling data or catches of the species concerned were reported by Panama for this period.

6.1. Logsheet data collection and verification *N/A (Not applicable).*

6.2. Observer scheme *N/A (Not applicable).*

Table 3. *N/A (Not applicable).*

Figure 4. *N/A (Not applicable).*

6.3. Port sampling programme *N/A (Not applicable).*

Table 4. *N/A (Not applicable).*

Table 5. *N/A (Not applicable).*

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

N/A (Not applicable).

6.5. Gillnet observer coverage and monitoring [Desirable]

N/A (Not applicable).

6.6 Sampling plans for mobulid rays [Mandatory]

N/A (Not applicable).

6.7 Electronic Monitoring Standards [Mandatory for CPC implementing EMS]

N/A (Not applicable).

7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS [Desirable]

N/A – Not applicable. *During the reporting period, Panama did not conduct extractive fishing activities in the IOTC Area of Competence. Consequently, no specific national research activities related to the species and subjects listed below were undertaken in connection with fishing operations in the IOTC Area of Competence.*

7.1. National research programs on blue shark

N/A (Not applicable).

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

N/A (Not applicable).

7.3. National research programs on sharks

N/A (Not applicable).

7.4. National research programs on oceanic whitetip sharks

N/A (Not applicable).

7.5. National research programs on marine turtles

N/A (Not applicable).

7.6. National research programs on thresher sharks

N/A (Not applicable).

Table 6. Summary table of national research programs, including dates.
N/A *– Panama did not conduct specific national research programmes related to the species and fisheries under the competence of the IOTC during the reporting period.*

Project title	Period	Countries involved	Budget total	Funding source	Objectives	Short description

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

*During the reporting period, Panama did not conduct extractive fishing activities in the IOTC Area of Competence. Consequently, no specific progress related to the implementation of Scientific Committee recommendations concerning extractive fishing activities was reported. Panama will continue to monitor and implement the applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures and relevant scientific recommendations, in accordance with its obligations as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (*CNCP).

Table 9. Scientific requirements contained in Resolutions of the Commission, adopted between 2012 and 2024. *N/A (Not applicable).*

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	
15/01	On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence	Paragraphs 1–10	
15/02	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)	Paragraphs 1–7	
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]

N/A (Not applicable).

Annex A:

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

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].