REVIEW OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES RELATED TO DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

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Purpose

The objective of this paper is to provide participants at the 22nd Session of the IOTC Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS22) with an update on Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) relevant to fisheries data collection and reporting, including recent changes to reporting requirements and initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat to improve access to the applicable Resolutions.

The WPDCS is invited to:

1) **NOTE** the updated overview of data-related CMMs and the associated reporting requirements made available by the Secretariat.

2) **REVIEW** the proposed revisions to Forms 1RC and 1DI (v1.1.0) to support the implementation of Resolution 26/06, and **PROVIDE GUIDANCE** on their eventual adoption.

Abstract

This paper provides an update on IOTC Conservation and Management Measures relevant to fisheries data collection and reporting, following the review conducted by WPDCS21 and the adoption of new Resolutions at the 30th Session of the Commission in May 2026. It introduces a dedicated webpage developed by the Secretariat to facilitate access to data-related CMMs and their reporting requirements, together with the publication of these Resolutions in Zenodo with persistent Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). The paper also presents proposed revisions to Forms 1RC and 1DI to accommodate the new geographical reporting requirements introduced by Resolution 26/06, for consideration by WPDCS22.

Background

The IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) establish a range of requirements for the collection and reporting of fisheries and biological data by Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs). These requirements are distributed across several Resolutions covering statistical reporting, fishing operations, scientific observer programmes and the monitoring of particular species and fisheries.

At its 21st Session, the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS21) reviewed the active CMMs relevant to data collection and reporting, including their associated reporting forms, and identified several areas requiring clarification or improvement (IOTC–2025–WPDCS21–05).

Following the adoption of new CMMs at the 30th Session of the Commission in May 2026, the present paper provides an update on the relevant reporting requirements, highlights their implications for IOTC statistical reporting forms and introduces new resources developed by the Secretariat to facilitate access to the applicable Resolutions.

Access to data-related Conservation and Management Measures

To facilitate access to CMMs relevant to data collection and reporting, the Secretariat has developed a dedicated webpage providing an overview of the relevant Resolutions, their principal reporting requirements, associated guidelines and reporting forms. The webpage also identifies Resolutions that remain applicable to individual CPCs following objections to subsequent measures.

This webpage is intended as a temporary resource pending the launch of the new IOTC website, which is expected to provide improved access to CMMs through thematic tags and search functions. In particular, CMMs containing data reporting requirements will be identified to facilitate the retrieval of relevant Resolutions by CPCs.

In parallel, the Secretariat has published the data-related CMMs in Zenodo, assigning each Resolution a persistent Digital Object Identifier (DOI). These Resolutions are available through the IOTC Zenodo Community. This initiative aims to improve the accessibility, discoverability and long-term preservation of these documents, while complementing the official records maintained on the IOTC website.

Implications for IOTC statistical reporting forms

The adoption and revision of CMMs may require corresponding updates to IOTC statistical reporting forms and associated guidelines to ensure consistency with the applicable reporting requirements.

In particular, Resolution 26/06 on mandatory statistical reporting requirements, adopted at the 30th Session of the Commission, introduces additional requirements concerning the geographical breakdown of annual catches from surface and longline fisheries, distinguishing between areas under national jurisdiction and the high seas. The Resolution entered into force on 18 November 2026, and its reporting requirements will first apply to data for the 2026 statistical year, to be submitted by 30 June 2027 in accordance with the IOTC data reporting cycle. However, India, Oman and Somalia remain bound by Resolution 15/02 following their objections to Resolution 26/06.

In anticipation of the new reporting requirements, the Secretariat has prepared revised versions (v1.1.0) of Forms 1RC and 1DI, used to report annual estimates of retained catches and discards, respectively, for consideration by WPDCS22. The proposed revisions, available from the public IOTC GitHub repository iotc-data-forms, include a new *Fishing area* field (column K) to accommodate the geographical reporting requirements established in paragraph 4(d) of Resolution 26/06.

The *Fishing area* field uses codes from the IOTC code list of national jurisdictional areas. The proposed changes to Forms 1RC and 1DI have not yet been implemented. Their adoption will be considered in light of the entry into

force and applicability of Resolution 26/06, taking into account the objections received, and the recommendations of the WPDCS.

The Secretariat will continue reviewing the statistical reporting forms against the applicable CMMs to ensure consistency in reporting requirements, terminology and data standards, while minimising additional reporting burdens on CPCs.