ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH 6 OF RESOLUTION 01/06, CONCERNING THE IOTC BIGEYE TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMME

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PURPOSE

To request the WPICMM10 to provide guidance on the implementation of paragraph 6 of Resolution 01/06 concerning the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme and make recommendation(s) to the Compliance Committee.

BACKGROUND

At its 9th meeting, the WPICMM09 made the following recommendation:

> Para 159: The WPICMM09 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC23) to discuss the implementation of paragraph 6 of Resolution 01/06.

At its 23rd meeting, the Compliance Committee made the following recommendation:

> IOTC-2026-COC23-R Report of the 23rd Session of the IOTC Compliance Committee:
>
> Para 25: On the Resolution 01/06, paragraph 6, the CoC23 **REFERRED** the discussion to the WPICMM10 and **RECOMMENDED** the Commission task the Secretariat to prepare a meeting document on compliance with Resolution 01/06, paragraph 6, for the next WPICMM meeting.

Statistics relating to the Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme is published on the IOTC web site.

Resolution 01/06 recognises that the Statistical Document Programme is an effective tool to assist the Commission's efforts to prevent the laundering fish caught in IUU fishing operations. It aims to impose controls and reduce uncertainty about the legality of bigeye tuna catches through requirements for certifying the origin of imported bigeye tuna.

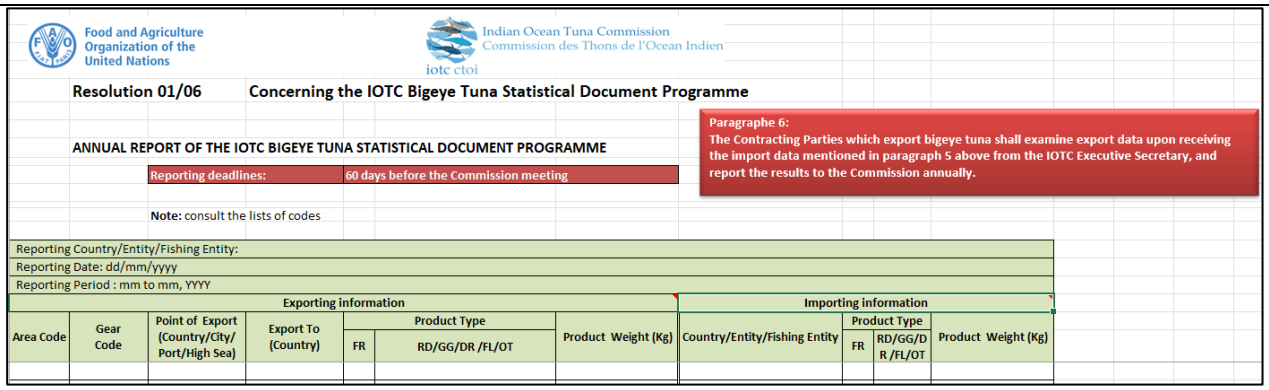
The authority to validate Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document belongs to the government-authorised individual(s) and institution(s) of the flag State of the vessel that harvested the tuna, whereas the authority to validate Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate belongs to the government-authorised individual(s) and institution(s) of the State that re-export the tuna.

The Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme require market State to submit bi-annual reports of imports of bigeye tuna products to the IOTC Executive Secretary; April 1, for import data for the period 1 July – 31 December of the previous year, and October 1, for import data for the period of 1 January – 30 June of the current year.

Flag States that export bigeye tuna are required to examine the import data and report the results to the Commission annually. This cross-checking mechanism is essentially a reconciliation exercise between the export records of Bigeye Tuna exporting countries and the import records submitted by importing countries. It enables the trading partners to identify, investigate and explain discrepancies in international trade data, thereby improving transparency, traceability and the control of IUU fishing-related trade. The results of the cross-checking exercise must be reported annually to the Commission.

A reporting template (Figure 1) has been developed by the Secretariat, to facilitate the submission of the results from the cross-checking exercise.

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Commission des Thons de l'Ocean Indien
iotc ctoi

Resolution 01/06 **Concerning the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme**

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IOTC BIGEYE TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMME

Reporting deadlines: 60 days before the Commission meeting

Paragraphe 6:
The Contracting Parties which export bigeye tuna shall examine export data upon receiving the import data mentioned in paragraph 5 above from the IOTC Executive Secretary, and report the results to the Commission annually.

Note: consult the lists of codes

Reporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity:
Reporting Date: dd/mm/yyyy
Reporting Period : mm to mm, YYYY

Exporting information							Importing information			
Area Code	Gear Code	Point of Export (Country/City/ Port/High Sea)	Export To (Country)	Product Type		Product Weight (Kg)	Country/Entity/Fishing Entity	Product Type		Product Weight (Kg)
				FR	RD/GG/DR /FL/OT			FR	RD/GG/DR /FL/OT	

Figure 1 – Reporting template supporting implementation of paragraph 6, Resolution 01/06.

The template is divided in two sections that documents relevant export and import data, for the reporting parties. Similar provisions exist in the e-MARIS application (requirement 10.3) for fulfilling this reporting obligation.

DISCUSSION

Under Resolution 01/06, CPCs exporting frozen bigeye tuna are required to report the results of their examination of frozen bigeye tuna data against relevant import data. The reporting template developed by the Secretariat, has been in use by CPCs since many years and CPCs that have benefited from Compliance Support Missions have been trained on this reporting requirement and the use of the reporting template. For capacity building purpose, the requirement 10.3 is explained in the IOTC CMMs Manual B - Implementation of IOTC CMMs - Entailing reporting obligations (Download) and in an Implementation sheet (Download).

As indicated above, the cross-checking exercise is meant to monitor the effectiveness of the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme by highlighting major differences between the two sets of records (export against import data) and prompt the concerning parties to investigate discrepancies, which may include any of the following possibilities:

- Differences in reporting periods.
- Differences in product weight or conversion factors.
- Delays in customs declarations.
- Differences in product descriptions or species identification.
- Re-exportation through third countries.
- Incorrect or incomplete declarations.
- Potential illegal, unreported or misreported trade.

When discrepancies are identified, a frozen bigeye tuna exporting CPC should:

- Examine the relevant export and import declarations.
- Identify the reason for the difference.
- Verify the supporting statistical documents and re-export certificates.
- Liaise with the relevant importing country where clarification is necessary.
- Report the results of the investigation to the IOTC Commission

CPCs are also encouraged to exchange copies of statistical documents and re-export certificates to facilitate the examination of discrepancies, subject to their domestic laws and regulations.

Compliance with the requirement 10.3 have fluctuated over the years. There are on average 15 CPCs exporting frozen bigeye tuna, which are subject to the reporting requirement of, the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme, paragraph 6, Resolution 01/06. Table 1, below, provides a summary of compliance history with the reporting requirement of paragraph 6:

	Compliance rate	**Year assessed**	**CPCs assessed**	**CPCs Assessed N/A Not exporting BET**
CoC20 – 2023 assessment	78.6 %	2021	CHN, EU, IDN, JPN, KEN, KOR, MDG, MYS, MUS, MOZ, OMN, PHL, SYC, LKA, ZAF	AUS, BDG, COM. ERI, FRA(OT), IND, IRN, LBR, MDV, PAK, SOM, SDN, THA, GBR, YEM
CoC21 – 2024 assessment	50 %	2022	CHN, EU, IDN, JPN, KEN, KOR, MDG, MYS, MUS, MOZ, OMN, SYC, LKA, TZA	AUS, BDG, COM. FRA(OT), IND, IRN, LBR, MDV, PAK, PHL, SOM, ZAF, SDN, THA, GBR, YEM
CoC22 – 2025 assessment	92.9 %	2023	CHN, EU, IDN, JPN, KEN, KOR, MDG, MYS, MUS, OMN, SYC, LKA, TZA	AUS, BDG, COM. FRA(OT), IND, IRN, LBR, MDV, MOZ, PAK, PHL, SOM, ZAF, SDN, THA, GBR, YEM
CoC23 – 2026 assessment	86.7 %	2024	AUS, COM, EU, IDN, JPN, KEN, KOR, MDG, MYS, MUS, OMN, SYC, LKA, TZA	BDG, COM. FRA(OT), IND, IRN, LBR, MDV, MOZ, PAK, PAN, PHL, SOM, ZAF, SDN, THA, GBR, YEM

Table 1 – History of compliance with requirement 10.3.

CONCLUSION

The cross-checking mechanism under Resolution 01/06 is essentially a reconciliation exercise between the export records of Bigeye Tuna exporting countries and the import records submitted by importing countries. It enables CPCs to identify, investigate and explain discrepancies in international trade data, thereby improving transparency, traceability and the control of IUU fishing-related trade.

An important distinction is that the statistical document programme provides the documentation and traceability framework, while cross-checking provides the verification mechanism that tests the consistency of reported trade data.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPICMM10:

- **NOTE** meeting document IOTC-2027-WPICMM10-12, which describe the implementation of paragraph 6 of Resolution 01/06, concerning the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme.

- Consider formulating **RECOMMENDATIONS** for the consideration of the Compliance Committee, and ultimately for a decision by the Commission, to improve the implementation of paragraph 6 of Resolution 01/06.