

RESOLUTION 02/05
CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IOTC RECORD OF VESSELS OVER 24 METRES
AUTHORISED TO OPERATE IN THE IOTC AREA

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

Recalling that IOTC has been taking various measures to prevent, deter and eliminate the IUU fisheries conducted by large-scale tuna fishing vessels,

Further recalling that IOTC adopted the Recommendation Concerning the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme (Resolution 01/06) at its 2001 meeting,

Further recalling that IOTC adopted the Resolution 01/02 Relating to Control of Fishing Activities at its 2001 meeting,

Noting that large-scale fishing vessels are highly mobile and easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, and have high potential of operating in the IOTC area without timely registration with the Commission,

Recalling that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action aiming to prevent, to deter and to eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IPOA), that this plan stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and in particular to establish records of vessels authorized and records of vessels engaged in IUU fishing,

Recognizing the need to take further measures to effectively eliminate the IUU large scale tuna fishing vessels;

Adopts, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, that:

1. The Commission shall establish and maintain an IOTC Record of fishing vessels larger than 24 metres in length overall (hereinafter referred to as “large scale fishing vessels” or “LSFVs”) authorised to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC Area. For the purpose of this recommendation, LSFVs not entered into the Record are deemed not to be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land tuna and tuna-like species.

2. Each Contracting Party, and Non-Contracting Party co-operating with IOTC (hereinafter referred to as "CPCs") shall submit electronically, where possible, to the IOTC Secretary by 1 July 2003, the list of its LSFVs that are authorised to operate in the IOTC Area. This list shall include the following information:

- Name of vessel(s), register number(s);
- Previous name(s) (if any);
- Previous flag(s) (if any);
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any);
- International radio call sign(s) (if any);
- Type of vessel(s), length and gross registered tonnage (GRT);
- Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s);
- Gear(s) used;
- Time period(s) authorised for fishing and/or transhipping;

CPCs shall indicate, when initially submitting their list of vessels according to this paragraph, which vessels are newly added or meant to replace vessels currently on their list submitted to IOTC pursuant to the *Resolution 01/02 Relating to Control of Fishing Activities*.

The initial IOTC record shall consist of all the lists submitted under this paragraph.

3. Each CPC shall promptly notify, after the establishment of the initial IOTC Record, the IOTC Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the IOTC Record at any time such changes occur.

4. The IOTC Secretary shall maintain the IOTC Record, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the Record and through electronic means, including placing it on the IOTC website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.

5. The flag CPCs of the vessels on the record shall:

- a) authorise their LSFVs to operate in the IOTC Area only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the IOTC Agreement and its conservation and management measures;
- b) take necessary measures to ensure that their LSFVs comply with all the relevant IOTC conservation and management measures;
- c) take necessary measures to ensure that their LSFVs on the IOTC Record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or tranship;
- d) ensure that their LSFVs on the IOTC Record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their LSFVs are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;
- e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their LSFVs on the IOTC Record are not engaged in or associated with tuna fishing activities conducted by LSFVs not entered into the IOTC Record in the IOTC Area;
- f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the LSFVs on the IOTC Record are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.

6. CPCs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 5, including punitive and sanction actions and in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report the results of the review to the Commission at its 2003 meeting and annually thereafter. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag CPCs of LSFVS on the IOTC record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels to IOTC conservation and management measures.

7. a) CPCs shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing for, the retaining on board, the transshipment and landing of tuna and tuna-like species by the LSFVs which are not entered into the IOTC Record.

b) To ensure the effectiveness of the IOTC conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:

- i) Flag CPCs shall validate statistical documents only for the LSFVs on the IOTC Record,
- ii) CPCs shall require that the species covered by Statistical Document Programs caught by LSFVs in the IOTC Area, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party be accompanied by statistical documents validated for the vessels on the IOTC Record and,

iii) CPCs importing species covered by Statistical Document Programs and the flag States of vessels shall co-operate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.

8. Each CPC shall notify the IOTC Secretary of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting LSFVs not on the IOTC record to be engaged in fishing for and/or transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC Area.

9. a) If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 is flying the flag of a CPC, the Secretary shall request that Party to take measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC Area.

b) If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 cannot be determined or is of a non-Contracting Party without cooperating status, the Secretary shall compile such information for future consideration by the Commission.

10. The Commission and the CPCs concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature in a timely manner so as to avoid adverse effects upon tuna resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU LSFVs from the Indian Ocean to other oceans.

11. Paragraph 1 of the Resolution 01/02 Relating to Control of Fishing Activities adopted at the 2001 Commission meeting is no more effective when this resolution is entered into force, while paragraph 2,3,4 and 5 of the said Resolution shall stand as they are.