
RESOLUTION 26/04
CONCERNING THE IOTC RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO OPERATE IN
THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

Keywords: Authorised vessels; active vessels; auxiliary, supply and support vessels; IMO number; IUU fishing vessels.

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 Resolution 01/06 *Concerning the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme* at its 2001 meeting;

FURTHER RECALLING that IOTC adopted the Resolution 01/02 (superseded by Resolution 13/02, then Resolution 14/04, then Resolution 15/04, then Resolution 19/04) *Relating to control of fishing activities* at its 2001 meeting;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 to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence without timely registration with the Commission;

NOTING that supply or support vessels can increase the fishing capacity of purse seine vessels by setting fish aggregating devices;

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 organisations 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 authorised and records of vessels engaged in IUU fishing;

RECALLING that the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV) was established by the Commission on 1 July 2003, via Resolution 02/05 *Concerning the establishment of an IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence* which was later superseded by Resolution 05/02, then Resolution 07/02, then Resolution 13/02, then Resolution 14/04, then Resolution 15/04 and lastly Resolution 19/04;

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

RECOGNISING that expanding the scope of the RAV would provide valuable information on fleets operating solely within EEZs of coastal States and thus represent an important condition for progressing on the work of the TCAC;

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

1. The Commission shall maintain an IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV) that are:
 - a) 24 metres in length overall or above; or

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- b) in case of vessels less than 24 meters, those operating in waters outside the Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) of the flag State; and that are authorised to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC Area of Competence (hereinafter referred to as 'authorised fishing vessels', or AFVs).
2. For the purpose of this Resolution, fishing vessels including auxiliary, supply and support vessels that are not entered in the IOTC RAV are deemed not to be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land tuna and tuna-like species or supporting any fishing activity or set drifting fish aggregation devices (DFADs) in the IOTC Area of Competence. This provision shall not apply to vessels less than 24 m in length overall operating inside the EEZ of the flag State.
3. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (hereinafter referred to as "CPC") shall submit electronically, to the IOTC Executive Secretary, for those vessels referred to in paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b), the list of its AFVs that are authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence. This list shall include the following information:
- a) Name of vessel(s), and national register number(s) or EU registration (CFR) number;
 - b) IMO number (if eligible under IMO requirements);
CPCs shall ensure that all their fishing vessels that are registered on the IOTC RAV have IMO numbers issued to them in line with the IMO Assembly Resolution A.1117(30). Paragraph 3(b) on IMO number does not apply to vessels that are not eligible to receive IMO numbers.
 - c) Previous name(s) (if any) or indicate non-availability;
 - d) Previous flag(s) (if any) or indicate non-availability;
 - e) Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any) or indicate non-availability;
 - f) International radio call sign(s) (if any) or indicate non-availability;
 - g) Port of Registration;
 - h) Type of vessel(s), length overall (m) and gross tonnage (GT);
 - i) Total volume of fish hold(s) (in m³);
 - j) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s);
 - k) Name and address of beneficial owner(s), if known and different from vessel owner/operator or indicate non-availability;
 - l) Name and address of company operating the vessel and company registration number (if any);
 - m) Gear(s) used;
 - n) Time period(s) authorised for fishing and/or transshipping;
 - o) Colour photographs of the vessel showing:
 - i. the starboard side and portside of the vessel, each showing the whole structure;
 - ii. the bow of the vessel;
 - iii. at least one of the photographs clearly showing at least one of the external markings specified in 3(a).
4. If any of the information in paragraph 3 is not submitted, the vessel shall not be included in the IOTC RAV. The Commission shall take into account exceptional circumstances in which a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO number despite following the appropriate procedures. Flag CPCs shall report any such exceptional situations to the IOTC Secretariat.
5. All CPCs which issue authorisations to their flag vessels to fish for species managed by the IOTC shall submit, to the IOTC Executive Secretary, an updated template of the official authorisation to fish outside National jurisdictions, and update this information whenever this information changes. This information includes:
- a) Name of the Competent Authority;
 - b) Name and contact of personnel of the Competent Authority;

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- c) Signature of the personnel of the Competent Authority;
 - d) Official stamp of the Competent Authority.
6. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall publish the above information in a secure part on the IOTC website for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) purpose.
 7. The template in paragraph 5 shall be used exclusively for MCS purposes and a difference between the template and the authorisation carried onboard the vessel does not constitute an infraction, but will prompt the controlling State to clarify the issue with the identified Competent Authority of the flag State of the vessel in question.
 8. Each CPC shall promptly notify, after the establishment of their initial IOTC RAV, the IOTC Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from, and/or any modification of the IOTC RAV at any time such changes occur.
 9. CPCs shall report annually, before the 1 January for the coming year of operations, which purse seiners are served by each supply vessel. This information will be published on IOTC website so as to be accessible to all CPCs.
 10. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall attribute to each vessel a unique IOTC Vessel Register number and shall maintain the IOTC RAV, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the IOTC RAV through electronic means, including placing it on the IOTC website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
 11. The flag CPCs of the vessels on the IOTC RAV shall:
 - a) Authorise their vessels to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence 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 AFVs comply with all the relevant IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;
 - c) Take necessary measures to ensure that their AFVs on the IOTC RAV keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or tranship;
 - d) Ensure that their AFVs on the IOTC RAV have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such a 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; the parties of the IUU incident have officially resolved the matter and sanctions have been completed; or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their AFVs 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 AFVs on the IOTC RAV are not engaged in or associated with tuna fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the IOTC RAV in the IOTC Area of Competence;
 - f) Take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the AFVs on the IOTC RAV are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.
 12. CPCs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 11, including punitive actions and sanctions and, in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report the results of the review to the Commission annually. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag CPCs of AFVs on the IOTC RAV to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.
 13. 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 vessels which are not entered into the IOTC RAV.
 - b) To ensure the effectiveness of the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures pertaining to species
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covered by Statistical Document Programs:

- (i) Flag CPCs shall validate statistical documents only for the vessels on the IOTC RAV;
 - (ii) CPCs shall require that the species covered by Statistical Document Programs caught by AFVs in the IOTC Area of Competence, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party, be accompanied by statistical documents validated for the vessels on the IOTC RAV; and
 - (iii) CPCs importing species covered by Statistical Document Programs and the flag States of vessels shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.
14. Each CPC shall notify the IOTC Executive Secretary of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not on the IOTC RAV to be engaged in fishing for and/or transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC Area of Competence.
15. a) If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 14 is flying the flag of a CPC, the IOTC Executive 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 of Competence;
- b) If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 14 cannot be determined or is of a non-Contracting Party without cooperating status, the IOTC Executive Secretary shall compile and circulate such information to all CPCs, without delay.
16. The Secretariat shall automatically remove from the IOTC RAV, any vessel that is placed on IOTC's IUU vessels list pursuant to IOTC Resolution 24/03.
17. 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 fishing vessels from the Indian Ocean to other oceans.
18. Each CPCs shall:
- a) Ensure that each of its fishing vessels carry on board documents issued and certified by the competent authority of that CPC, including, at a minimum, the following:
 - (i) License, permit or authorisation to fish and terms and conditions attached to the licence, permit or authorisation;
 - (ii) Vessel name;
 - (iii) Port in which registered and the number(s) under which registered;
 - (iv) International call sign;
 - (v) Names and addresses of owner(s) and where relevant, the charterer;
 - (vi) Overall length;
 - (vii) Engine power, in KW/horsepower, where appropriate.
 - b) Verify above documents on a regular basis and at least every year;
 - c) Ensure that any modification to the documents and to the information referred to in 18.a) is certified by the competent authority of that CPC.
19. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence are marked in such a way that they can be readily identified with generally accepted standards, such as the FAO Standard Specification for the Marking and Identification of Fishing vessels.

20. Each CPC shall ensure that:

- a) Each gear used by its fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence is marked appropriately, e.g., the ends of nets, lines and gear in the sea, shall be fitted with flag or radar reflector buoys by day and light buoys by night sufficient to indicate their position and extent;
- b) Marker buoys and similar objects floating and on the surface, and intended to indicate the location of fixed fishing gear, shall be clearly marked at all time with the letter(s) and/or number(s) of the vessel to which they belong;
- c) Fish aggregating devices shall be clearly marked at all time with the letter(s) and / or number(s) of the vessel to which they belong.

21. Each CPC shall ensure that all their respective fishing vessels of 24 meters or above and vessels less than 24 meters, if fishing outside their EEZ, are registered on the IOTC RAV and authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence, and keep a bound fishing national logbook with consecutively numbered pages. The original recordings contained in the fishing logbooks shall be kept on board the fishing vessel for a period of at least 12 months.

22. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 19/04 *Concerning the establishment of an IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area.*