



Report of the Sixth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Victoria, Seychelles, 10-14 December 2001

**REPORT
of the
SIXTH SESSION OF THE
INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION
Victoria, Seychelles, 10-14 December 2001**

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AS AT 10 DECEMBER 2001**

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Executive Summary

The Sixth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held in Victoria, Seychelles, 10-14 December 2001. Mr. M. Komatsu (Japan) as the sole vice-Chairperson present at the meeting, chaired the Session.

Representatives of 13 Members of the Commission, three States eligible to attend Sessions of the Commission, from four intergovernmental organizations and one non-governmental organization attended the Session. The request from the Republic of the Philippines to renew their status as Cooperating Non-Contracting Party was endorsed by the Commission.

The Commission agreed to establish a Control and Inspection Committee and adopted seven resolutions. These concern observer programmes, control of fishing activities, a scheme to promote compliance by non-contracting party vessels, limitation of fishing effort by Non-Members of IOTC, a modification of mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC and a recommendation concerning a Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme. The Commission adopted by consensus a resolution concerning support to the IPOA-IUU.

The Commission decided to defer consideration of three other resolutions concerning limitation of fishing capacity of bigeye fishing vessels, an Action Plan to ensure the effectiveness of the conservation programme for bigeye tuna and the establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System.

The Commission also strongly supported the conduct of a tagging programme and pledges of financial or in-kind support were given by a number of parties. Finally, the Secretariat was instructed to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (Japan) for a programme to improve statistical systems in developing Indian Ocean coastal countries. A multilateral programme of statistical support activities in Indonesia was also approved.

The Commission requested that countries involved in studies of predation of longline fish report their findings to the appropriate Working Party and noted the importance of the IOTC Executive Summaries on the status of the species. The Commission also encouraged contracting and collaborating parties to present national reports covering data and scientific issues to the Scientific Committee.

The Commission approved the programme of work of the Secretariat and adopted a budget for 2002. The budget provides for increased staffing in order to permit the Secretariat to undertake a range of new activities. The Commission agreed to consider at its next Session the establishment of Finance Sub-Committee to discuss in more detail issues relevant to the budget and financial situation. The Commission agreed that the election of the new Secretary should be held during the Eighth Session in 2003.

The Commission agreed that the Seventh Session of the Commission will take place in Seychelles, from the 2nd to the 6th December, 2002, preceded by the Fifth Session of the Scientific Committee from the 26th to the 29th November, 2002. The European Commission proposed that an intersessional meeting be held in Réunion in July 2002. A decision on this will be taken by correspondence.

The Commission unanimously elected Ms. Neerja Rajkumar, from India, as Chairperson of the Commission and Mr John Spencer, from the European Community, as Co-Vice-Chairperson of the European Commission to replace Ms Nita Chowdhury and Mr Emilio Mastracchio. It was also decided that new elections will be held next year as planned. Mr Masayuki Komatsu, from Japan, will continue in his functions as Co-Vice-Chairperson until the end of the next Session.

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Sixth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held in Victoria, Seychelles, 10-14 December 2001. Representatives of 13 Members of the Commission, three States eligible to attend Sessions of the Commission, from four intergovernmental organizations and one non-governmental organization attended the Session. The list of participants is attached as Appendix I.
2. The Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Nita Chowdhury (India), informed the Secretariat that she was unable to continue in her functions. In consequence, the Session was chaired by the Vice-Chairperson attending the meeting, Mr. M. Komatsu (Japan).
3. Following an opening address by the Executive Secretary (Appendix II), Mr. Komatsu welcomed the delegates and observers to the Session. His speech is reproduced in Appendix III.
4. The Session was opened by Mr. W. Herminie, Minister for Agriculture and Marine Resources of the Seychelles. His speech is reproduced in Appendix IV.
5. The delegations of the European Commission, China, Japan, Korea, Eritrea, India and Malaysia made opening statements. The texts of these statements are reproduced in Appendix V.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION (IOTC/S/01/01)

6. The Commission adopted the Agenda as presented in Appendix VI to this report. The documents before the Commission are listed in Appendix VII.

CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS TO ACCEDE AS COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. The request from the Republic of the Philippines to renew their status as Cooperating Non-Contracting Party was endorsed by the Commission, this country having conformed to all the Commission resolutions.

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

8. Pursuant to Article VII of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, the Commission noted the presence of observers from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Vanuatu, both entitled to attend as Members of FAO and admitted the Russian Federation (State non-Member of FAO), four intergovernmental organizations, the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the South-East Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and one non-governmental organization, the Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT). The opening statements of Vanuatu, the Russian Federation, CCSBT, SEAFDEC and FFA are reproduced in Appendix VIII.
9. Japan expressed concern regarding FFA, which is a state-sponsored organization with closed membership but indicated that they do not object to the participation of the IGOs admitted.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTH SESSION

Contracting and Cooperating party reports on implementation status of IOTC resolutions

10. Australia provided a written report on the actions that it took to implement the existing IOTC Resolutions.
11. Japan informed the Commission on the progress in the implementation of IOTC Resolutions 98/01, 98/04, 99/01, 99/02 and 00/01. All mandatory statistical data have been submitted to IOTC. This information is essential for the stock assessment performed by the Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT). Japan also stated that lists of Japanese vessels fishing for tunas in the Indian Ocean from 1998 to 2000, as well as lists of vessels flying "flags of convenience" and operating in the Indian Ocean that have exported tunas to the Japanese market since 1999 have been provided to IOTC and FAO. Japan informed the Commission that it would introduce a proposal in relation to Resolution 99/01 to reduce fishing capacity of large-scale fleets.

Japan has dedicated significant effort and resources to reduce or eliminate IUU vessels in relation to Resolution 99/02. Japan has worked in cooperation with OPRT and Taiwan province of China for this purpose, and has encouraged the Japanese fishing and marine industries and consumers not to trade in fish, goods or equipment with IUU vessels.

12. China reported that all available information has been submitted to the Secretariat. China may soon place observers on some vessels to collect size-frequency data.

13. The European Community has implemented the IOTC resolutions and recommendations and has provided both the lists of Community fishing vessels and their catches. The European Community has this year adopted two regulations to respond to obligations imposed by ICCAT, IOTC and IATTC: one relates to control and the other to technical measures applicable to highly migratory species.

14. France reported that all the available data for fisheries operations conducted in the overseas territories of France in the Indian Ocean were provided to the Secretariat in conformity with the IOTC resolutions.

15. Philippines reported that it has provided the Secretariat most of the mandatory data including catch, effort and operating vessels. No information was available regarding missing size-frequency information or implementation of other resolutions.

16. Korea reported that , in August 2000, additional data were submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Resolution 98/01. Information submitted includes catches, fishing effort, number of hooks and size-frequency data for 1999 and 2000. In compliance with Resolution 98/04, a list of Korean vessels in the Convention Area was submitted by May 2000.

17. The Chairman encouraged any other countries desiring to provide reports on the status of the implementation of resolutions and regulation to do so through written statements.

18. The Secretariat presented information regarding the compliance by member and non-member parties to Resolution 98/04. In this respect, the European Community requested the Secretariat that all information referring to countries belonging to the European Community, other than the information from French and British overseas territories that are not under the scope of the European Community, be presented under European Community. France requested the Secretariat to refer to all statistics originating from its Indian Ocean Territories as "France overseas Territories".

Report from FAO/LEG on changes proposed to the Rules of Procedures determining the conditions for the presentation of resolutions

19. During the Fifth Session of the Commission, several Delegations expressed concern about proposed resolutions being made available to the Commission during the sessions, stating that they have to consult their national agencies prior to taking decisions on certain proposals. The Commission requested the Secretariat to provide a draft amendment of the Rules of Procedure, determining the conditions for submission of documents for consideration.

20. The FAO Legal Adviser briefed the Commission about possible modifications of the rules for submitting documents (document IOTC-01-09). Rule IV.3 requires that proposals by members be submitted to the Commission no less than thirty days before the Session in question. Since the practice of submitting resolutions has become a significant feature of IOTC meetings, it was suggested that they should be specifically subjected to the thirty day rule through an amendment of the Rules of Procedure, with the proviso that resolutions arising from the Scientific Committee debates could be submitted on the first day of the Session and that the Commission could, by a voting process, accept for consideration a proposal that had not been submitted in time.

21. The Commission concluded that all countries intending to present resolutions to the Commission should make every possible effort to submit the texts to the Secretariat as early as possible, to allow consideration by each Member, to facilitate translation and diffusion for internal consultations.

Report of FAO/LEG on the implications of the Secretariat assuming financial control under independent audit (IOTC-01-08)

22. The FAO Legal Adviser briefed the Commission on the legal issues involved in the current financial linkage between FAO and IOTC. A higher degree of financial independence from FAO could be achieved by several paths if not disallowed by the Finance Committee. These are summarized in document IOTC-01-08.

23. Three main issues on the current financial control that FAO has on the funds available to IOTC were discussed:

- a) The service charge taken by FAO on Commission funds,
- b) The lack of access by the Secretariat to the new FAO financial system, needed for reporting and control of expenses and contributions, and
- c) Restrictions placed by the Finance Committee on external audits which have limited the availability of funds to the Commission.

24. The Commission requested the Secretariat to send a letter to FAO on behalf of the Chairperson, requesting a reduction of the service charge. The Commission was informed that a similar action had been taken in the past and had resulted in a reduction of service charges from 13% to 4.5%.

25. It was also agreed that the Secretariat may, in cooperation with the FAO Legal Adviser, produce a fact sheet describing the problems involving financial regulations of FAO and proposed solutions at the next Session, if appropriate.

Review of proposals for a revised formula for the calculation of the contributions

26. At the Fifth Session of the Commission, Eritrea expressed disagreement with the application of the formula for the assessment of contributions which represent a heavy burden on countries with negligible catches. Eritrea proposed that a catch ceiling be decided, below which the catches of a country should be considered negligible.

27. The Commission agreed that the second clause of the scheme of contributions should not apply to Eritrea and Sudan which currently have a negligible catch of the species covered by the Commission. This decision would however be subject to review.

Review of the fisheries legislation of selected Indian Ocean coastal States (IOTC-01-12)

28. As instructed in Paragraph. 33 of the Report of the Fifth Session of the Commission, the Secretariat engaged a consultant to determine the extent to which the legislation of certain coastal States of IOTC permitted them to respond to the obligations created by IOTC and by international Instruments related to the management of tuna stocks. The draft report, which deals with the legislation of India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malaysia, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Thailand was circulated to the countries concerned for comments and is presented to the Commission for information.

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

29. The Secretary presented the report on its activities in document IOTC-01-03, describing the activities carried out during 2001 and relevant administrative issues.

30. The Commission noted the progress achieved, congratulating the Secretariat for the amount and quality of work carried out since the last meeting.

REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ON ELABORATION OF A CONTROL AND INSPECTION SCHEME

31. Mr. M. Komatsu, Chairman of the Intersessional Meeting on the Elaboration of a Control and Inspection Scheme, held in Yaizu during March 2001, summarized the conclusions of the meeting, during which agreement was reached on the basic foundation for the implementation of such a Scheme.

32. The Commission adopted the report, expressing appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the meeting and to the Chair for the work carried out.

33. The European Community indicated that, as IOTC is in the initial stages of implementation of control measures, there is ample opportunity to learn from the experiences of other regional fisheries bodies. The European Community further highlighted some of the conclusions of the Intersessional Meeting, noting that it identified priorities and interim measures based on the principle of flag-state control. It also indicated that inspection at sea was not a practical, as opposed to port control, stressing the need to encourage the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) as an additional tool. The European Community also stressed the opportunity of reinforcing existing resolutions, following the elements agreed during the Intersessional Meeting.

34. Australia recognised that the intention of IOTC was to implement control and inspection measures in a phased approach, and considered that it would be necessary to ensure that the measures adopted were consistent with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, particularly as the Commission is a regional body under FAO and several IOTC Members are Parties or signatories to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

35. Australia considered that the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, in respect of its Parties, provides several key elements of importance to IOTC, particularly use of the precautionary approach, strengthening of the role of IOTC as a regional fisheries body, increasing flag State obligations and strengthening port State rights. States that are Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and fishing entities that fish for tunas in the IOTC Area of Competence (e.g. Maldives and Russian Federation) will only be able to continue to do so by abiding with the measures developed by IOTC.

36. Japan endorsed the general provisions of the proposed Scheme and stressed that it should have a phased-in approach. Japan further supported the establishment of a Control and Inspection Committee that should focus on controlling and monitoring compliance of non-Contracting Parties.

37. Japan noted that the provisions under 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement go beyond those of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea, and are inconsistent with it in respect of the rights and obligations on the high seas. Japan considers that at-sea inspection should be strictly under flag-state control and that any State party should comply with regulation of the pertinent relevant international laws and regulations.

38. France, on behalf of its overseas territories in the Indian Ocean, expressed its commitment to the Inspection and Control Scheme, and indicated that it is already implementing several elements of this scheme, notably a Vessel Monitoring System, an observer monitoring programme, as well as pertinent port inspections. France also considers that the development of a mechanism associating VMS, observers and port inspection is considered a priority and essential to combat IUU fishing.

39. The Commission agreed to establish a Control and Inspection Committee. The European Community agreed to take the initiative to develop Terms of Reference intersessionally in consultation with other Parties.

40. The Commission adopted the following resolutions, reproduced in Appendix IX, by consensus:

- a) Resolution concerning the national observer programmes for tuna fishing in the Indian Ocean (Resolution 01/01);
- b) Resolution relating to control of fishing activities (Resolution 01/02); and
- c) Resolution establishing a scheme to promote compliance by non-contracting party vessels with resolutions established by IOTC (Resolution 01/03).
- d) Resolution by IOTC on limitation of fishing effort by Non-Members of IOTC whose vessels fish bigeye tuna (Resolution 01/04)

41. China made a reservation on paragraph 2 of the Resolution Relating to the Control of Fishing Activities (Resolution 01/02) and asked for the implementation of this Resolution to be delayed for at least half a year as their new system of fishing permits is still in the process of development.

42. The Commission decided to defer the adoption of the following draft resolutions (Appendix X), requesting that they be attached to the Report:

- a) Draft Resolution on an Action Plan to ensure the effectiveness of the conservation programme for bigeye tuna in the IOTC Area of competence, and
- b) Draft Recommendation relating to the establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System.

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (IOTC-01-04)

43. Mr. Renaud Pianet, Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, presented the report of the Fourth Session (Document IOTC/00/04, Appendix XI).

Issues arising from the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics

44. Japan has been collecting and reorganizing trade-related data for ICCAT, but these data also cover the Indian Ocean. The Secretariat was provided by Japan with a list of IUU vessels operating in the ICCAT area of competence and other areas.

45. The Republic of Korea indicated that two of the vessels that appear in the list of IUU vessels provided by Japan are not IUU vessels since 1999. ICCAT has been informed of this error, but obviously this has not been corrected.

46. Mauritius stated that there were many inconsistencies in the list provided by Japan. The Commission therefore decided not to endorse this list.

47. China indicated that the trade-related initiative of Japan could be useful and encouraged them to submit this information to the Secretariat. China is considering an on-board observer programme on their fleet that could also collect information about shark bycatch.

48. Australia noted that Article 5(g) of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the IPOA on the management of sharks incorporate the principle that regional fishery bodies should collect and submit data related to target and non-target species including sharks and encouraged the consideration of observer programs to collect relevant data.

49. Korea reported that all mandatory data, including the available size-frequency data, have been provided to the Secretariat and that Korea will continue to provide these data in future.

50. The Russian Federation reported that formerly Russian IUU vessels now flying “flags of convenience” and their owners have been identified. Contact has been established with them to make them comply.

51. The European Community reported that all the mandatory data for its purse seine and longline fleet have been provided to the Secretariat.

52. The Commission adopted by consensus a Resolution on Mandatory Statistical Requirements for IOTC Members (Resolution 01/05), which replaces Resolution 98/01 (Appendix IX).

Issues arising from the Report of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas

53. China expressed concern regarding the best estimate of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas of 90,000 t for the MSY level of bigeye. Previous research by Japanese scientists had put this value at much higher levels. China considers that the Scientific Committee conclusion regarding status of the stock of yellowfin (paragraph 37 of the Scientific Committee report) is also unfounded, given the lack of stock assessment.

54. The Chairman of the Scientific Committee indicated that the Committee, after reviewing basic status indicators, considered it appropriate to call attention on the situation of yellowfin tuna. The values of MSY for bigeye depend on the factors taken into account during the stock assessment and disagreements are to be expected. The Scientific Committee considers that unless new data would be available, the main results from the stock assessment on bigeye will not change in the short term.

55. The European Community expressed agreement with the conclusions presented by the Scientific Committee. However, bigeye is a bycatch of the purse seine tuna fishery and the bigeye catches for its fleet have remained stable for the past years. The European Community expressed its opinion that the increase catches of large longliners are notably the result of non-members, and mechanisms to limit the levels of exploitation and fishing capacity should be proposed and enforced.

56. Australia considers that bigeye catches of surface fisheries have increased dramatically over the years. The potential effect on the stock of purse seine catches should therefore not be underestimated. The emerging FAD fishery has changed the catches of bigeye fundamentally and that it is extremely important that we

obtain a good understanding on how FADs affect fishing. Australia expressed agreement with the measures suggested by the Scientific Committee in this respect.

57. Japan indicated that both longline and purse seine catches of bigeye have increased. Support was expressed for the recommendations proposed by the Scientific Committee.

58. The Commission adopted unanimously a recommendation concerning a Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme (Resolution 01/06) (Appendix IX).

Issues arising from the Report of the Working Party on Tagging

59. The Commission examined the report of the Scientific Committee concerning the large-scale tagging programme which it had recommended to the Commission in 2000.

60. The Commission endorsed the conclusion of the Scientific Committee that rigorous stock status evaluations are necessary in order to permit sustainable and responsible exploitation of the tuna resources in the Indian Ocean and expressed strong support that the proposed tagging programme be executed.

61. The Commission however confirmed its position, stated during its 5th Session, that the direct costs of this tagging programme should not be drawn from the regular budget of the Commission.

62. Due to the constraint in funds, it was agreed that the programme should be prioritised. In this sense, the tagging of each species should have the following priorities: (1) Bigeye, (2) yellowfin, (3) skipjack and (4) swordfish. However, it is recognized that these three tuna species are most often found in mixed schools with relative abundances that are in the opposite order. Tagging operations will need to be carried out as efficiently as possible, taking into account priorities and actual mixture of species in schools.

63. The Commission took note of the tagging programme planned in 2002 by SEAFDEC and the tagging programme planned for the next 5 years by various partners (CCSBT, Japan, Australia) using both pole and line and longline vessels. The CCSBT tagging could possibly offer some potential to train tagging technicians from IOTC member countries. The Commission also suggested that coordination between the different programmes could be beneficial to all, particularly as relate to publicity and tag recuperation.

64. The Commission is pleased that several parties (China, the European Community, France, Japan, Seychelles) and some industry associations have already expressed their intention to support the tagging programme with direct funding and/or in kind contributions, although it notes that the funding amount so far identified is still substantially below that needed for the entire proposed programme.

65. The Commission recommended that a search for the additional funding necessary for the proposed tagging programme should be actively pursued by the Secretariat and by all the countries and organisations concerned and interested in the exploitation and conservation of the tuna resources in the Indian Ocean. In particular, a priority objective should be to secure in-kind contributions from IOTC member countries, for example providing vessels and/or technical staff necessary to conduct tagging operations.

66. The need to train tagging technicians and scientists was recognized as a key element in the success of the tagging programme. Training of tagging technicians should be well planned and incorporated in the tagging programme as soon as sufficient funds become available. The Commission recommended that contacts should be taken with various member countries to identify the needs for training.

67. France, on behalf of its overseas territories, recalled its commitment to fully support the Indian Ocean tagging programme, noting the need to implement such a programme in the shortest time.

68. It is in this spirit of cooperation that France, on behalf of its overseas territories, is engaged to support the programme financially, although the modalities for this support are still being studied. France informed the Commission that a pilot tagging programme and several studies to assess the availability and endurance of live bait will also be conducted in the French waters of the Mozambique Channel. France envisages that all these programmes will be implemented under the umbrella of the IOTC and start by the second quarter 2002.

Issues arising from the Report of the Working Party on Billfish

69. The Commission noted that:

- a) Member and non-Member countries should submit the necessary information, i.e. catch, effort and size-frequency data, as soon as possible, so adequate stock assessments of swordfish can be achieved.
- b) There are reasons for concern because of the rapid increase in the catches of swordfish and the analysis of stock indicators, therefore at least no increase in catch or effort should be allowed.
- c) The lack of data should not be considered as an impediment for implementing management measures for swordfish.

Issues arising from the Proposed Schedule of Working Party Meetings

70. The Commission commended China for the offer to host the next sessions of the Working Party on Methods and Working Party on Tropical Tunas and Working Party on Tagging.

71. It was agreed that the meeting of the Working Party on Neritic Tunas would be postponed until September or early October of 2002. The Commission commended the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to host the meeting.

72. SEAFDEC expressed that, if invited, they will be glad to send scientists to the meetings of the Working Parties to present results of the surveys they have been carrying out since 1994. The Commission indicated their appreciation for this offer.

Issues on proposed activities for improvement of data collection and statistics

73. The discussions on proposed activities for improvement of data collection and statistics were further considered under Agenda item 9 and are reported there.

Issues arising from the progress on a survey of predation of longline-caught fish

74. Japan expressed concern that consumption of fish by top predators such as marine mammals could diminish catches of commercial species. This predation could undermine the implementation of measures leading to a reduction of catches of a species under the responsibility of the Commission. Japan stressed the need for pursuing studies on interaction between marine mammals and fisheries, requesting that IOTC should forward all relevant information to other international organizations interested in this subject.

75. China commended Japan for the proposal put forward during the last IWC meeting concerning the implementation of joint studies between Japan and the United States on interactions between marine mammals and fisheries. China agreed that the IOTC Secretariat should forward all relevant information on this subject to other international organizations.

76. Australia noted that the possible competition for food between tunas and some marine mammals and sharks was a different issue from that of predation on tuna caught on longlines. Australia informed the Commission that further studies on the effects of scavenging of tuna caught on longlines will proceed with its domestic observer programmes.

77. The Commission requested that countries involved in studies of predation of longline fish report their findings to the appropriate Working Party, and in particular to the WPTT.

Issues arising for the discussion on other business

78. The Commission noted that marine protected areas addressed important problems, mainly overexploitation and ecosystem degradation and further noted that these problems are more important in coastal areas than on the high seas as the selection and management of such areas usually lies within the EEZ of the States. IOTC was informed that Australia will host the Meeting on Aquatic Protected Areas in Cairns in August 2002.

79. The Commission noted the importance of the IOTC Executive Summaries on the status of the species, highlighting that they provided information useful not only to scientists but also to managers and administrators.

80. The Commission allowed, in principle, the Scientific Committee to authorise the presentation of scientific papers to the Scientific Committee in one of the two languages of the Commission, recognising that translating this type of document would involve an enormous amount of effort. The Secretariat was however requested, whenever it is pertinent and time allows, to present copies of these scientific documents in both languages.

81. The Commission encouraged contracting and collaborating parties to present National Reports covering data and scientific issues to the Scientific Committee. The Commission agreed that progress regarding the implementation of recommendations of the Commission should not be discussed in such reports but should be communicated directly to the Commission.

82. The Commission fully supported the Fishing Capacity Research Programme initiated by FAO noting that it will address one of the Commission's main areas of concern and instructed the Secretariat to be actively involved in this programme.

83. The Commission commended with appreciation the Committee for its valuable work.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DATA COLLECTION AND STATISTICS (IOTC-01-05)

84. The Secretariat introduced document IOTC-SC-01-05 with a proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding between IOTC and the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) on the execution of a joint project to provide assistance in the improvement the data collection and processing systems in developing countries from the region with important fisheries on species under the mandate of the Commission. The Secretariat noted that the technical aspects of the implementation of the project have been endorsed by the Scientific Committee.

85. The Commission commended the Government of Japan and the OFCF for supporting this initiative and instructed the Executive Secretary to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Commission.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR 2002 (IOTC-01-06)

86. The Programme of Work and Budget for the year 2002 was presented by the Secretariat, noting that substantial new activities will be initiated in 2002.

87. The Commission agreed with the outline of the technical activities proposed by the Secretariat, but proposed a number of areas where savings could be achieved. In particular, it agreed that most of the publications should be distributed in electronic format. It did not consider participation in meetings of the CCSBT¹ or WCPO² necessary.

88. The Commission agreed to consider at its next Session the establishment of Finance Sub-Committee to discuss in more detail issues relevant to the budget and financial situation.

89. The Commission endorsed the Programme of Work and the Budget and scale of contributions for 2002 as attached in Appendix XII.

90. The Commission also endorsed the promotion of the present Secretary and deputy Secretary from P-5 to D-1 and from P-4 to P-5 respectively. The Commission requested the Director General, pursuant to Article VIII of the IOTC Agreement, to approve these promotions, and to undertake the necessary administrative actions to bring this about.

PROCESS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY (IOTC-01-07)

91. The Commission agreed that the election of the new Secretary should be held during the Eighth Session in 2003 and agreed to request FAO that the current Secretary, due to retire in September 2003, be allowed to remain in office as specified in Rule V.4. of the Rules of Procedure if the 8th Session takes place after that

¹ Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

² Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

date. If this option proves unfeasible, the Deputy Secretary will be acting until the newly elected Secretary takes office. It was also agreed that the current election procedure should remain in place.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

(a) Relationship with other Bodies.

Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO)

92. Japan expressed its grave concern that this Convention is inconsistent with international standards and norms such as the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea and FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, noting the following issues 1) a non-democratic decision-making procedures that ensures no protection of minority opinion; 2) an illegal inspection and control scheme where any vessel can be prosecuted beyond the rights of the flag state; 3) excessive data collection obligations; 4) establishment of a basis for unilateral legal actions and 5) unsatisfactory definition of the Convention Area that overlaps that of IOTC.. Japan stressed the need for an improvement of the WCPO Convention.

93. The European Community expressed disappointment with the negotiation process of WCPO and regrets that they were not allowed to participate fully in the negotiation. Secondly the European Community observed that, despite their preoccupations, the texts of this Convention have been finalised.

94. The European Community wishes to point out that it has a long history of cooperation with island States of the area, notably through financial support provided for the development of those countries in the field of fisheries. The European Community thus has a real interest in this region. Furthermore, vessels from the Community operate in this region.

95. The Convention is at present in a preparatory phase during which orientation and regulations will be defined. The Second Preparatory Conference is scheduled for the end of February 2002. The European Community trusts that it will be given a status in the forthcoming meeting that will permit full participation in the proceedings of the Preparatory Conference. It is important for the conservation of resources of the central Pacific that all the players should participate actively in the Preparatory Conference.

96. Australia advised that it had valuable fisheries for highly migratory species on its eastern seaboard and was pleased to see the negotiation of a regime for the conservation and management of these stocks in the western and central Pacific, noting that several ratifications of the new Convention had already occurred. Negotiation of the Convention commenced in 1994 between parties, with several negotiating sessions undertaken over its form and content in the intervening period. Australia was sensitive to the issues of concern to some parties in respect of the new regime and advised that it would wish to revisit the issue of the overlapping boundaries between the IOTC and WCPO in due course. Australia requested that the relevant parties take into consideration the concerns, issues and sensitivities that have been raised in the lead-up to the next Preparatory Conference of the WCPO, and encouraged all relevant parties to work together to resolve these matters in a peaceful manner.

97. China expressed its concern over the negotiation process and the contexts of the Convention. It also noted that the South China Sea was excluded from the Convention Area. China further stressed the importance of the full participation of all Distant Water Fishing Nations with activities in the area of interest of the WCPO.

98. Thailand stated its displeasure that it was excluded from this process and stressed that Thailand is within the migratory range of tuna species covered by the WCPO. Malaysia concurred with this position.

99. Korea expressed its agreement with the statements from Japan and the European Community and further noted that the WCPO Convention has not yet entered into force and that it should not be treated as a regional fishery body.

100. The observer from the Russian Federation expressed support for the Japanese position and stressed the need for improvement of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean Convention, especially as relates to the Convention Area.

Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem

101. Australia commended to IOTC the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem that was developed in Iceland in October 2001, noting that it (a) supports the development of responsible fisheries that take ecosystem considerations into account, (b) reaffirms a commitment to the Code of Conduct and International Plans of Action of FAO, and (c) stresses the need for approaches that address the special needs of developing States. Australia advised that it would prepare information for the next Session of IOTC on approaches under Australia's Oceans Policy to take ecosystem considerations into account in fisheries management.

102. The European Community expressed full support for Australia's position, and thanked Australia for briefing the Commission on this Declaration.

103. Japan also expressed support for the Reykjavik Declaration because it promotes ecosystem management. It indicated, however, that there are many uncertainties in how to implement ecosystem management measures. Japan indicated that its scientific research on predation of fish by whales indicates that whales consume a huge amount of the commercial fish stock which would be otherwise available to fisheries. Japan further noted that fisheries suffer major losses by predation, mainly from marine mammals.

104. Australia did not accept the views expressed by Japan in respect of the impact of marine mammals on fishery yields. It noted that these species have been an integral part of marine ecosystems for millennia and globally marine mammal populations have collapsed to only a small proportion of their pre-exploitation levels. Recognising the competence of the IWC and its involvement in the issues raised by Japan, Australia considers that the IOTC was not the appropriate forum for further consideration of such matters.

Resolution of IOTC concerning support to the IPOA-IUU

105. The Commission adopted by consensus the Resolution of IOTC concerning support to the IPOA-IUU (Resolution 01/06) (Appendix IX).

(b) Discussion of issues related to IOTC autonomy (other than financial).

106. The FAO Legal Advisor introduced paper IOTC-01-08 and outlined those aspects which had not already been covered in the earlier discussion on financial autonomy under item 5(c) of the Agenda. He drew attention to the fact that agreements made under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution were international in character, thereby giving a body such as IOTC a status in international law equivalent to any other commission established by international agreement. He drew attention to the various means by which greater autonomy could be achieved, while remaining within FAO framework. He also outlined the process by which the IOTC could be placed outside the FAO framework.

107. The Commission did not wish to discuss these issues at the present meeting.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

108. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Seychelles for hosting the 4th Session of Scientific Committee and the 6th Session of the Commission, for the excellent meeting facilities and hospitality extended to the delegations.

109. The Commission agreed that the Seventh Session of the Commission will take place in Seychelles, from the 2nd to the 6th December, 2002, preceded by the Fifth Session of the Scientific Committee from the 26th to the 29th November, 2002.

110. The Commission welcomed the offer from Thailand to host the Sixth Session of the Scientific Committee and Eighth Session of the Commission in Phuket, Thailand in 2003.

111. The European Commission proposed that an intersessional meeting be held in Réunion in July 2002. To this effect, and if this meeting is agreed to by the Parties, the European Commission will provide to the Secretariat the Terms of Reference for this meeting for circulation among the Parties, with a decision to be taken by correspondence.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON

112. The Commission unanimously elected Ms. Neerja Rajkumar, from India, as Chairperson of the Commission and Mr John Spencer, from the European Community, as Co-Vice-Chairperson of the European Commission to replace Ms. Nita Chowdhury and Mr. Emilio Mastracchio (who could no longer perform their functions), respectively, until the next Session of the Commission. It was also decided that new elections will be held next year as planned. Mr Masayuki Komatsu, from Japan, will continue in his functions as Co-Vice-Chairperson until the end of the next Session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

113. The report of the Sixth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission was adopted on December 14th, 2001.

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APPENDIX II – OPENING ADDRESS OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION

Honourable Minister,
Leader of the Opposition
Excellencies, members of the Diplomatic Corps
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the opening ceremony for the Sixth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

I would also like to extend a special welcome to the delegation from the Comoros and from Iran, which are the latest countries to join the Commission. We now have twenty Contracting Parties and one Cooperating Non-contracting Party. We also have delegations from a number of non-member States which support our actions and will, I am confident, shortly join the Commission. Finally, several Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations will be attending the Session.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the representatives of the tuna fishing industry who, by their presence in the Scientific Committee last week and now in the Commission, illustrate their high level of interest in the proceedings of this Commission. In fact, I can safely say that the wind has changed: some years ago there was considerable mistrust between the industry and the scientists and administrators who are generally involved in management. Now, everyone is working in an increasingly transparent manner to maximise the benefits that can be obtained from tuna fisheries and the fishermen have become essential partners in the assessment of resources.

The 1995 Agreement on Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and Straddling Fish Stocks will enter into force on the 11th of December 2001, one day after the opening of the 6th Session of the Commission. This agreement will create an obligation on States fishing for these resources which have ratified this Agreement to form part of regional fishery management bodies such as IOTC and represents a vital step in the management of high seas resources, as our management actions can only be applied by the flag States of the fishing fleets.

Tuna landings from the Indian Ocean have continued to increase rapidly and attained 1.4 million tonnes in 2000, the last year for which we have complete statistics. Because of the high proportion of valuable fish in the catches of this ocean, from longline fisheries and also from coastal fisheries supplying both local and export markets, the value of these landings far outstrip those for the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific, and possibly even those from the Western Pacific which has much larger landings, but primarily of low priced cannery fish.

While the increased landings and value of the tuna landings in this ocean clearly indicate that fishing and coastal States are deriving additional benefits from the tuna resources, they are also becoming a subject of concern. The Secretariat of the Commission, following on the activities of the precursor organization, the Indo-Pacific Tuna Programme which was active from 1982 to 1997, puts a tremendous effort into acquiring better statistics for the fisheries and stocks falling within its mandate. Despite this, three of the Working Parties organised by the Commission in 2001 concluded that the statistics available were in most cases inadequate for accurate assessment of stocks. Such a finding has serious consequences as, under the precautionary approach, which is becoming an essential feature of environmentally friendly management practices, management has to be more restrictive when uncertainty increases.

In this context, the scientists working with IOTC are looking at new methods of assessing stocks. These include stock status indicators and also an exciting new approach using sophisticated simulation models which, when developed, should give managers a valuable tool to assess the probable results of their decisions.

Two IOTC Working Parties, dealing respectively with tropical tunas and billfish, have concluded, in their meetings this year, that at least two of the stocks falling within the mandate of the Commission may be subjected to fishing pressures that are not sustainable. The Working Party on Tropical Tunas has concluded that the bigeye tuna catch may be as much as one-and-a-half the maximum sustainable yield. The same meeting concluded that there may also be cause for concern on the status of yellowfin stocks.

More recently, the Working Party on Billfish looked at the status of swordfish stocks. This species, which was some years ago considered a bycatch species and often discarded, is now targeted directly by an increasing number of fisheries from both coastal countries and distant water fishing nations. While, yet again, very limited data are available for stock assessment, indicators such as declining catch rates and sizes suggest the resource might, at least locally, be overexploited.

It is in this context that the Commission will be requested to consider a number of actions aimed both at resource conservation, and at providing the Commission and its Members with the means of addressing critical areas where our knowledge is insufficient for rational management of the stocks under the mandate of the Commission.

One of these actions will be a joint project undertaken by the IOTC Secretariat and the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan, aimed at improving the data collection and processing capabilities of Indian Ocean coastal

developing States. It is expected that this project, which could be extended for as long as five years, will substantially improve the quality and timeliness of statistical data for nearly half the tuna and tuna-like species caught in the Indian Ocean.

The second action is one which has been discussed for many years and, in the opinion of the scientists involved is essential to provide knowledge of vital parameters such as growth of tunas, delimitation of stocks and interactions between fisheries: I am of course referring to tagging of tropical tunas. I am pleased to inform the Commission that funds will shortly be available for implementing the pilot studies. More important, although we still don't have funding for the whole project, the European Union, following a request from Seychelles and Mauritius, will provide 4.5 million Euros over the next three years to address some of the critical issues in the western Indian Ocean. Finally, contacts with the fishing industry have proved very fruitful and we have promises of close cooperation and possibly even of contributions in kind. These commitments will certainly make the search for funding easier and we can be sure the work will be done.

These are challenging developments for the Secretariat, and, together with activities which will arise from the Intersessional meeting on a Control and Inspection scheme for the Commission, will substantially lay the groundwork for the management of Indian Ocean tunas. I am sure the Commission will give us the directions and the means to implement these activities.

I will now request Mr. Masayuki KOMATSU who will chair the meeting, to speak to you. Mr. Komatsu is Counsellor in the Fisheries Agency of Japan, is the current Chairperson of the FAO Committee on Fisheries and has chaired two annual Sessions of the Commission, as well as the Second Special intersessional meeting which was held in Yaizu earlier this year. Mr. Komatsu was also involved with IOTC since its beginnings as he was previously the Alternate Representative of Japan to FAO.

APPENDIX III – OPENING ADDRESS OF MR. M. KOMATSU, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SIXTH SESSION

Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

First of all, I want to extend to all of you a most cordial welcome and wish you a pleasant stay in Victoria.

In the name of IOTC, I would like to thank sincerely the Government of Seychelles for hosting this meeting of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

I would also like to extend special thanks to the IOTC Secretariat, which, with few resources, has made a great effort to prepare this meeting.

Distinguished Delegates,

The global production of the tuna and tuna-like species has tended to continuously increase, from below 0.5 million tons in the early 1950s to more than 3.5 million tons in the late 1990s. Historically, the largest proportion of tuna species has been taken from the Pacific Ocean. Then, Atlantic Ocean became the second largest provider of catch until the mid 1980s, when it was overtaken by the Indian Ocean, which now yields approximately more than 1,400,000 tons, 30% of the global production. With an estimated value of over US \$ 2 billion (value at landing), the Indian Ocean tuna fishing is one of the world's biggest.

Distinguished Delegates,

Should we hope to pursue a long-term conservation and sustainable utilization of tuna and tuna-like resources in the Indian Ocean, with due regard to the special interests and needs of developing countries, it is fundamental that our work will culminate in the adoption of measures accepted by all.

Of the many items included on our agenda, I would like to point out a few that I believe will be given special attention during this week.

-Despite the value and importance of the tuna resources, the stock assessments essential for management for key species remain inadequate and unreliable. It is essential that efforts should be continued to improve data collection and statistics.

-The impact of the different forms of increased fishing on the mortality of juvenile and adult bigeye tunas was noted at the Fifth Session of IOTC. On the basis of the Recommendations of Scientific Committee of the IOTC last week, appropriate actions, if necessary, should be undertaken to ensure the long-term sustainability of tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean.

-Control of IUU/FOC fishing vessels remains the major constraint to management of tuna fisheries. I believe that concerted action by regional tuna bodies will be the most efficient way to address and effectively curtail IUU/FOC fishing in the Indian Ocean.

Distinguished Delegates,

As a Chairman of the 24 Session of COFI, last March 2001, I would like you to note that the COFI has made a number of recommendations and suggestions related to the IOTC.

-The most important product is the adoption of the IPOA for combating IUU fishing. I strongly hope that regional action/step by the IOTC to combat IUU fishing would be elaborated during this week.

-It is also important to ensure coordinating mechanism of Secretariat of tuna agencies and programmes. FAO, at the last COFI, was requested to review and analyze the global status regarding tuna stocks and tuna fisheries, in particular, large-scale purse seine and long-line fisheries. The success of this work depends largely on active collaboration of regional fisheries bodies. I hope that IOTC can do that.

-24 Session of COFI also agreed the study relating to ecosystem-based fisheries management as indicated in the para.39 of the COFI Report. Furthermore, Reykjavik Conference for Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Environment, early October 2001, declared that study on the structure of marine ecosystem, diet composition and food web, species interactions and prey-predator relationships should be undertaken, in order to advance scientific basis for incorporating ecosystem consideration into fisheries management. I would also recall that the Resolution on survey of predation of longline caught fish was adopted at the last Session of IOTC. I believe that further development would be made in this area.

Finally, I would like to conclude by wishing you all a pleasant stay and success of your work, and also by expressing again our appreciation to Seychelles authorities for their invitation and support.

APPENDIX IV – OPENING ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE WILLIAM HERMINIE, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MARINE RESOURCES OF SEYCHELLES

Ministers
Excellencies
Distinguished guests and delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Seychelles for this 6th Meeting of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. I am particularly honoured to address you today for the first time, as it is only four months since I have assumed the portfolio responsibility for fisheries in Seychelles.

The IOTC has achieved much even though it has been in existence for only three years. This can be attributed to the competence of its Executive Secretary, Mr. David Ardill and through the hard work of the IOTC team. In this brief period of time the team has produced a number of scientific reports of excellent quality. Meetings and workshops for members of the IOTC group have also been organised.

Much is already known about the tuna resources of the Indian Ocean but there are significant gaps that remain to be filled before serious management measures are taken. This underlines the need for more research, focusing especially on a more comprehensive coverage of catches in the Indian Ocean.

We need to increase our knowledge base on fish biology, spawning, growth and movement patterns as well as environmental considerations. It has been argued on previous occasions, by yourselves and by the tuna scientists, that a tuna tagging programme will go a long way in finding answers to the many questions that have been asked. Our Government support this idea and hope that all of us and in particular countries whose fleets have fished these stocks the most, will contribute towards this programme.

In order to make more informed decisions on the management of our fisheries resources, the Government is proposing to adopt a comprehensive data approach which will cover the increase in fishing activity, for example: the increased artisanal fishing; with the specific aim of maintaining sustainable fishing.

It should be noted that catch data is necessary for reliable stock assessment. The data must be of good quality and readily available. Such scientific research will allow us, and I quote “the conscious exploration and cultivation of harmonious methods with that enormous, wonderful... system of God-given nature, of which we are a part and which we certainly have not made ourselves.”³

We are fortunate that many coastal states and fishing nations joined IOTC right from the start. At this point, I wish to warmly welcome the newest member of the IOTC, the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros.

We must however not forget that there are important players such as Indonesia, Taiwan and Maldives, who for some reason or other are not members or are not full partners of the IOTC. We need to reach out to these countries in order to invite them to work with us and to co-operate with the Commission. We must be bold and imaginative if we are serious about the proper management of tuna resources in this ocean that we all share. As an American scientist once wrote: “We have the responsibility to manage the human use of planet earth... it is only as a global species – pooling our knowledge, coordinating our actions and sharing what the planet (and may I expand to add, the ocean) has to offer.”⁴

Good data which all members are required to provide comes not only from the fishermen but also from the various national institutions. For many developing countries collecting and processing this information incurs a high cost in terms of both monetary and human resources. It is generally seen that the administration of Fisheries have some difficulty in preparing and processing the vast quantities of data that are required. I therefore request international organisations and developed countries to assist wherever needs of this nature exist. I would like to mention here, that the ‘Overseas Fisheries Foundation of Japan’ has proposed a project to establish a statistical system in the Indian Ocean developing states. I wish to commend Japan for the assistance it is intending to provide to the countries of the Indian Ocean. - An Ocean which is composed of approximately 40 million square nautical miles, of which the Seychelles occupies approximately 1.3 million square nautical miles. The trend on tuna and tuna-like catches, in this area, has generally taken an upward curve from 0.5m tonnes in 1970 to over 1.5m tonnes in 1992⁵. The SPPF Government has taken note of the important role that fisheries play in our development since it constitutes one of the most important sources of economic benefit to the Republic of Seychelles.

Last week, the Technical committee met to evaluate the IOTC activities, look at the purpose of the Commission, and other more technical areas such as the status of stocks. The committee looked at the different national reports giving both present and past data and the progress made. It also considered the existing data collection systems of the various

³ Schumacher, Small is Beautiful

⁴ Managing Planet Earth, Introduction by William C. Clark

⁵ Source: Alain Fonteneau ‘Atlas of tropical tuna fisheries’.

countries which were involved in the exercise of compiling and processing information relevant to the fishing of tuna and tuna-related species in the Indian Ocean. As from today, the Sixth Commission of the IOTC will hold further substantive deliberations on the future of this organisation.

And so, Mr. Chairperson and distinguished participants, without further ado, it remains for me to wish you every success in your meeting.

Thank you.

APPENDIX V - OPENING STATEMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, CHINA, JAPAN, KOREA, INDIA AND MALAYSIA

Opening statement of The European Community

President, delegates...

The Community is very pleased to participate at this 6th Meeting of the Commission of the tuna of the Indian Ocean and thanks the Government of the Republic of the Seychelles and the Secretariat of the IOTC for hosting and organising this meeting.

2001 was an important year for this Organisation. The YAIZU meeting on a control scheme constituted a very important step towards a future effective management and conservation policy. The Commission should be now in a position to adopt a provisional arrangement, which would include a number of minimum provisions, which could be supplemented overtime. The implementation of appropriate control measures constitutes an essential tool for the establishment of conservation and management measures permitting them to be respected by all the Parties.

We are all aware that the increase in the fishing effort in this region has a negative impact on the sustainability of stocks. In order to guarantee a sustainable exploitation of the stocks and the future of migratory species of Indian Ocean, the Community considers that, in addition to the previously mentioned control measures, the Commission has to be fixed as priorities for this year:

- the adoption of measures targeting the fixing of capacity limits;
- the strengthening of scientific research, which constitutes the essential basis for the evaluation of the state of the stocks and the adoption of appropriate management measures.

The Indian Ocean has witnessed in recent years a rapid expansion of fishing, which has been carried out in the absence of any scientific research on the status of the stocks. A reliable statistical database is an essential element so that the Working Parties and the Scientific Committee can evaluate the resources.

For this reasons the Community supports the implementation of the Tagging programme which will contribute effectively, at the appropriate time, to the gathering of essential biological data, such as growth, mortality and the structure of stocks. Tagging had already given excellent results in other Oceans and the data obtained has played a crucial role in the evaluations on the state of the stocks. The Community expects a financial engagement from other Contracting parties to the development of this project.

Lastly, the Community hopes that this week will allow us to work successfully on all these elements and to adopt operational management measures for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of tuna resources in the Indian Ocean.

Opening statement of China

Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the delegation of China, I would like to extend our gratitude to the staff of IOTC and FAO for their efforts in making preparation for the meeting.

It is the view of the Chinese delegation that the following issues are important ones in the meeting, namely IUU, bigeye tuna conservation and the suggested possible independence of IOTC. Chinese delegation would like to give brief comments on those issues:

With respect to the IUU issue, we all know that FAO adopted an *International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA)* last March. My delegation welcomes the adoption of the IPOA and suggests the decision be made in the meeting for the IOTC to apply the IPOA from next year. In accordance with IPOA, if anyone takes the data for his own purpose and does not report the data to the relevant regional fisheries management organizations, his fleet should be regarded as IUU fleet and all countermeasures should be taken against such irresponsible activities.

Regarding the issue of IUU, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) adopted IUU name list last month. We still remember that last year the suggestion of one delegation for ICCAT IUU name list to be attached to the IOTC report was rejected by IOTC. Since some vessels in the ICCAT IUU name list of this year are known to be vessels flying the flags of IOTC members that are Indian Ocean coastal states and engaging in transshipment activities and fishing in the IOTC area. It is suggested that if the issue is raised again this year, the list should be circulated and the Commission should make arrangement in the meeting for discussion.

The second issue is on the bigeye tuna conservation measures. Before giving a details presentation agenda required, my delegation would like to point out in the opening statement the following positions:

Firstly: It is important to identify whose fleet makes the big part of bigeye tuna catch. As we know, only few big players in the bigeye tuna fishery are members of IOTC. Most of big players in the fishery are outside the IOTC regime. That is to say non-members of IOTC take a huge amount of bigeye tuna in the area.

Secondly: As a first step, the measures should be taken to limit the irresponsible non-members fishing activities on bigeye tuna fishery at first step. We can not agree that while non-members of IOTC enjoy the free fishing ground access, free market access, free port call access and assume no obligation, members of IOTC will be subject to the limitation of fishing activities. It seems to us that being IOTC membership is a kind of punishment. That is very unfair to those IOTC members who taken a few thousand metric tons of bigeye tuna are still at their developing stage. If some delegations insist on limiting the members' fishing activities, my delegation will strongly oppose it.

The third issue is on the possible independence of IOTC, which is linked with amendment of IOTC agreement. The issue is very sensitive and requires careful consideration. Since it will be touched upon later, my delegation would like to outline some impacts if the door of Agreement amendment is open:

1. Considering the fact that UNIA will be enter force tomorrow, any member of IOTC has the right to put forward amendment suggestion it feels important in accordance with UNIA. At that time, IOTC will have some trouble since a number of states around this table have difficulties on the UNIA.
2. After independence of IOTC, the staff of IOTC can only be from IOTC members instead of FAO members. We have to face the situation that some excellent IOTC staff of high rank will leave the organization.
3. The formal acceptance of IOTC Agreement amendment will take a long time. It can not solve the current urgent issues.

Thank you.

Opening statement of Japan

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to thank the Government of Seychelles and the IOTC secretariat for hosting once again this very important session of the IOTC.

Mr. Chairman, under your leadership, we made progress on many issues at the last session. The discussion we had at the last session as well as the Scientific Committee last week will serve to guide our deliberations here as we move forward to address the substantive issues that remain. We have written a paper that will be made available to all delegations, which reflects the views of Japan on outstanding issues. While I will not address here all the points made in that paper, I would like to take a few moments to highlight what we see as some of the key outstanding issues to be addressed in the coming days.

First, my delegation has grave concern about the high increase in fishing effort on juveniles and adults of bigeye tuna exerted by purse seiners and freezer longliners, respectively, through increases in efficiency and changes in targeting. I wish to ask all delegates to seriously consider effective measures, that is to say, the substantial reduction of its fishing capacity/effort to the level commensurate with stock sustainability. I know that some IOTC members including Japan have already taken appropriate steps to adjust the fishing capacity to the resources sustainable. However, more work in this area by other States is still required. This is a key issue for Japan, as well as for other delegations, and we hope we can resolve it by adopting the effective measures in a mutually agreeable manner.

Second, I would like to point out the importance of compliance by Members and non-Members if we want apply effective measures to the grave problem that is undermining the effectiveness of IOTC. I am referring to illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. It should be concerned that recent transfers of IUU fishing from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean might pose a possible threat to the bigeye stock in the Indian Ocean. In this regard, trade related measures should be accepted as a way to promote compliance of management measures. On this basis, my delegation wishes to put forward an Action Plan for Conservation of Bigeye Tuna during this session. I strongly believe that the Action Plan for Bigeye tuna should be treated as a management tool to ensure the effective measures for bigeye tuna.

Third, I believe that the IOTC should consider a new international trade tracking programme for bigeye. As we have seen in the cases of bluefin and bigeye in the ICCAT and southern bluefin in the CCSBT, such a programme improves our understanding of the fisheries under the IOTC's competence and provides information that can be of assistance in identifying IUU fishing activities.

Fourth, I believe that the control and inspection scheme is a fundamental tool to ensure the effective implementation of conservation and management measures. The Intersessional Meeting on Elaboration of a Control and Inspection Scheme in Yaizu, Japan, March this year 2001 has made notable progress and we should congratulate ourselves on this, with respect to basic elements of an integrated monitoring scheme. It is important to mention that the sovereign rights of flag states and fairly transparency should be adequately observed in this scheme. Given that ICCAT is now a clear

reference to other regional tuna bodies in the conservation and management of tuna stocks including control and inspection scheme, on-going discussion in the ICCAT regarding the integrated monitoring scheme would be a good reference to the IOTC.

Finally, I wish to refer to the matter related to the budget of the IOTC. I am pleased to inform that Government of Japan paid in full its annual contribution of 2001, on 20th November 2001. Also I want to express concern about the increasing budget level of the Commission. As we have seen in the FAO, further saving and cost-effective resource allocations are needed.

Mr. Chairman, may I conclude by expressing our best wishes for a productive session of the IOTC and a successful conclusion of its important work.

Opening statement of Korea

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Korean delegation I am pleased to participate in the 6th Session of the IOTC and thank the Secretariat for its hard work for preparing this meeting.

The Korean Government, as you may recall, has been successfully cooperating and working to comply with the objectives and principles of IOTC. And all States and fishing entities have also recognized and understood the need for action to ensure IOTC goals to conserve and manage tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC Area of Competence since its initial beginnings.

We all know that since 1996, we have discussed a variety of important issues over the last several years through annual Sessions, Working Party Meetings and Special Meetings. During this Session we might continue to discuss on these persistent issues along with other issues, such as, FOC, IUU, FAO-IPOA, Bigeye tuna, and Statistical Document System for the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Although an agreement had been reached, similar to ICCAT, CCSBT and IATTC, on the need for an Action Plan on the conservation and management for these species, and although there were several recommendations and resolutions on these matters, it has been 'all talks' and 'no actions' because it may be inadequate regulatory measures. In this sense, all future recommendations and resolutions should be practicable, workable and acceptable for all States.

If we need more scientific evidence for specific issues we should then concentrate more of our efforts on scientific research to gather the best information available. However, in the meantime, let me recommend that this formal meeting's tone be the same as that of an informal one. We should discuss freely on these matters and bare our inmost thoughts so that we may discover each others' compliance capabilities in retaining the MSY for ensuring the effectiveness of IOTC conservation and management measures.

I hope this Session of the IOTC will be fruitful.

Thank you.

Opening statement of India

Opening comments by Mrs Neerja Rajkumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (Fisheries), Government of India on 10/12/01

Mrs Rajkumar welcomed the new Member countries and the Observers. She stated that India had a coastline of over 8,000km and the coastal waters were already over exploited for fishing. India has about 150,000 traditional fishing craft and over 50,000 mechanized boats. About 1 million people depend on inshore and offshore fishing. At the same time deep sea fishing by Indian vessels is almost negligible. She also mentioned that the Government of India is in the process of revising the marine Policy, which will have focus on deep sea fishing, which has unexploited potential for development for India.

In this context the Government of India would like to promote sustainable fishing in deep seas. She mentioned that India shares the concern of other developing countries on irregular, unauthorized and unreported fishing (IUU) and advocates that the justified share of the developing countries that have a coastline in Indian Ocean should be ensured. Mrs Rajkumar also mentioned that India is taking active interest in building up vessel monitoring systems (VMS). A National Action Plan is under preparation with the involvement of concerned agencies in the Government of India. She also mentioned that the FAO representatives had also come to India in this context. The Government of India would also like to explore the possibility of using Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) through the use of the satellite. Mrs Rajkumar mentioned that the regional cooperation is very important in this context and requested the Commission and the concerned bodies to lend full support to India and other countries who are trying to promote the schemes to check the IUU.

Mrs Rajkumar mentioned that through the working parties have done a good job of collecting scientific data on exploitation and stock assessment, special emphasis should be placed on verifying the reliability and validity of this data as there may be a number of loopholes. Mrs Rajkumar also mentioned that India continues to have strong interest in the tagging programme as well as training of the trainers programme of the Commission and hoped that a quick initiative will be possible in this direction.

Opening statement of Malaysia

Malaysia wishes to congratulate the IOTC Secretariat and all other parties for continuing the excellent work of the Commission. We would like to welcome also the new members, Comoros and Iran. We were actually looking forward to the Chairpersonship of Ms. Nita Chowdhury but understandably she had other more important commitment. Nevertheless we are confident of your chairmanship too, Mr Chairman.

Malaysia has always believed that by having a High Sea Fishing Act, it will render support to the implementation of the IPOAs of the FAO. In contrary to Malaysia's statement in 2000 last year, Malaysia will restart the tabling of a bill on the High Seas Fishing next year. This is on the realization of the need to protect our fishers operating in a safer manner, particularly in the Indian Ocean. Malaysia also believes that by having an Act, the IPOAs could be effectively implemented thus ensuring the proper operations of fishing in the high seas and this will benefit everyone and the resources.

Malaysia wishes to indicate also on the need to implement the Control and Inspection Scheme for the area immediately as any IUU fishing in the area can be construed as an act of pilferage, and this prevents the members of their rightful share of the resources. In relation to this Malaysia is prepared to combat FOC vessels landing in the Penang Port.

Malaysia has conducted the second exploratory fishing in the Indian Ocean in February this year. And obviously it is still in the very infancy stage of affairs. Therefore Malaysia seeks to cooperate with members in the responsible exploitation of the tuna resources in the Indian Ocean.

Malaysia has in a way contributed to The Port Sampling programme currently underway in Penang Port, by partly providing the fund. On the recommendation of the Secretariat, Malaysia will continue the collection of data for a longer while on our own. As the neritic tuna also forms a substantial landing in Malaysia, the sampling programme will be expanded to include the neritic species. We are prepared to receive any form of support from the members or the Secretariat.

As most of us are aware that the TUNA 2002, the INFOFISH 7th World Tuna Trade Conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur from 29-31 May 2002, the Government of Malaysia wishes to welcome all members and participants to the conference.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, let us hope that this meeting will continue to be a productive and a successful one.

APPENDIX VI – AGENDA OF THE SIXTH SESSION

Opening of the Session

Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Session (IOTC-01-01) [for decision]

Consideration of requests to accede as Cooperating Non-contracting Parties [for decision].

Admission of observers [for decision]

Matters arising from the Fifth Session (IOTC/S/05/00/R[E]) [for discussion and decision]

- Contracting and collaborating party reports on implementation status of IOTC resolutions (Inf. document with the collection of resolutions)
- Report from FAO/LEG on changes proposed to the Rules of Procedure determining the conditions for the presentation of resolutions (5th Session Report, para. 45)(IOTC-01-09).
- Report of FAO/LEG on the implications of the Secretariat assuming financial control under independent audit (5th Session Report, para. 115) (IOTC-01-08).
- Review of proposals for a revised formula for the calculation of the contributions (5th Session Report, para. 107).
- Review of selected Indian Ocean coastal States' fisheries legislation (IOTC-01-12)

Progress report of the Secretariat (IOTC-01-03) [for discussion]

Report of the Intersessional Meeting on Elaboration of a Control and Inspection Scheme (IOTC/SS/01/R[E]) [for discussion and decision]

Report of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-01-04) [for discussion and decision]

Proposed activities for improvement of data collection and statistics (IOTC-01-05) [for discussion and decision]

Programme of Work and Budget for 2002 (IOTC-01-06) [for discussion and decision]

Process for the election of the Secretary (IOTC-01-07) [for discussion and decision]

Any other matters [for discussion and decision]

- Relationship with other Bodies.
- Discussion of issues related to IOTC autonomy (other than financial).

Date and Place of the Fifth Session of the Scientific Committee and the Seventh Session of the Commission [for decision].

Election of the Chairperson

Adoption of the report

APPENDIX VII – LIST OF DOCUMENTS

IOTC-01-01	Provisional annotated agenda for the Sixth Session
IOTC-01-03	Progress report of the Secretariat
IOTC-01-04	Report of the fourth session of the Scientific Committee
IOTC-01-05	Proposed activities for improvement of data collection and statistics
IOTC-01-06	Programme of Work and Budget of the Secretariat
IOTC-01-07	Process for the election of the Secretary
IOTC-01-08	Report of the FAO legal adviser on certain legal questions raised at the Fifth Session of IOTC
IOTC-01-09	Possible modification of rules for submitting documents
IOTC-01-10	Statement outlining Australia's actions in respect of the resolutions arising from IOTC 5
IOTC-01-11	Statement by Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) to the Sixth meeting of the IOTC
IOTC-01-12	Review of selected Indian Ocean coastal States' fisheries legislation

APPENDIX VIII – OPENING STATEMENTS OF , VANUATU, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, CCSBT, FFA AND SEAFDEC

Opening statement of Vanuatu

Mr. Chairman, The Executive Secretary, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentleman On behalf of the Vanuatu delegation, it is a pleasure to be back again to observe this important annual session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission for the second time.

I convey our congratulations on your appointment and our very best wishes for a highly successful session of IOTC. We look forward to further developing a productive working relationship between Vanuatu and the Commission, for the benefit of our shared interest in the membership of the Commission.

Membership

The government of Vanuatu is in the process to deposit its instrument of accession to the Commission. My delegation wishes to assure you that Vanuatu has a strong interest in becoming a member of IOTC in the near future.

Registry

Mr. Chairman, in this connection, I am pleased to report that since the last IOTC meeting, my Government has made some positive steps towards reviewing its Fisheries Act and introducing the Tuna management plan to be effective as of the beginning of 2002. The revised Fisheries Act will ensure that the implementation of better management measures in improving our capability in managing our fishing fleet both domestically and internationally through the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR) and the issue of certificate of origin to registered vessels under the management plan.

It is worth mentioning that, of the Fishing vessels registered under the registry, all trawler and purse-seiners are only operating within the Western and central Pacific. It is to our understanding that there are 27 longliners registered under the registry.

My delegation is of the view that there might be some Vanuatu registered long liners already operating in the Indian Ocean such as Crusader and Sunrise. However, in the spirit of cooperation, we would like to seek the assistance of the Secretariat in providing the necessary information on the concern vessels if observed by any member delegations fishing within the Commission area. I would like to assure the Commission that my delegation would take every necessary measure in our capacity in ensuring that any identified vessel will comply with the implemented requirements as set in the revised fisheries management plan and likewise to the terms and conditions of the commission.

In this context chairman, may we sincerely request that all members of the Commission recognizes the certificate of origin issued by the Republic of Vanuatu to all flagged fishing vessels calling into their port or report to Vanuatu authorities immediately in the absence of such documents.

In addition to the revision of the Fisheries Legislation, Vanuatu is also in the process of implementing a Vessel Monitoring System as a prerequisite of the International Shipping Registry to all fishing vessels. The system will enhance our monitoring capabilities of our Flagged fishing vessels operating in the zones of International and regional arrangements in which Vanuatu is or will be a member to.

Finally Chairman, let me take this opportunity in thanking you in allowing me to present this statement on behalf of my delegation and allow me to express my congratulations to the Executive Secretary and the staff of the Commission for the excellent arrangements for this meeting.

May we also take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the government and the people of Seychelles for the warm welcome and the kind hospitality extended to my delegation since we arrived. I look forward to your fruitful deliberations this week and wish you all the very best for a successful outcome of this meeting.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Opening statement of the Russian Federation

First of all I would like to thank for the invitation to attend the Sixth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). And I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the IOTC Secretariat for hosting and preparing this meeting. Russia is pleased to take part in the work of this IOTC Session as an observer.

There are two main reasons for our participation in the work of the IOTC.

Firstly. In the Indian Ocean the USSR commercial long line tuna fisheries and research activity started in 1960. This type of fishery and research were actively carried out up to the end of 80's. In this period more than 100 specialized long line expeditions were conducted. Russian commercial purse-seining tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean started in 1983, and were actively carried out up to 1991. During more than two decades the large volume of fishery and biological information was collected by Russian scientific organizations. In addition, tuna research has been conducted on distribution, behavior and biology of this species during directed research expeditions.

Secondly. In present time, Russian commercial and research fisheries organizations still keep their interest to continue the tuna fisheries in the region.

Taking into account all the above stated, Russia as one of the nations with a long history of fishing activities in the Indian Ocean is very much concerned about the healthiness of the tuna stocks and will make every effort to further fruitful cooperation with IOTC.

And finally, I would like to explain that we expect to attain general recognition by the Commission of Russia's regular involvement in the Commission's activities, and our systematic participation in various meetings.

Opening statement of CCSBT

Thank you for this opportunity to address the IOTC. I am Brian Macdonald the new Executive Secretary to the Commission. I commenced with the Commission in July of this year.

Since the last meeting of the IOTC in 2000, the CCSBT has taken a number of practical steps to enhance the management and conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) fishery.

Korea acceded to the Commission on 17 October with a catch limit of 1 140 tonnes compared with an average catch of 1 240 tonnes over the last 5 years.

Taiwan, China, indicated to the Commission that it will make its best efforts to lodge an application to become a member of the Extended Commission as soon as possible with a catch limit of 1 140 tonnes. The Commission welcomed Taiwan's decision and indicated this should occur before 31 December 2001. Taiwan's catch has averaged 1 390 tonnes over the last 5 years.

The CCSBT successfully completed and agreed to an assessment of the global stock of SBT. The Sixth Scientific Committee reported that current catch levels of about 15 600 tonnes appear to be roughly close to replacement yield. In this context the Committee indicated any growth in non-member catch levels would be of very serious concern; an immediate reduction in total removals is not necessary to prevent stock collapse; and a policy of maintaining current removals would most likely enable the CCSBT to react in a timely fashion to future stock trends. The Commission will manage the fishery in 2002 on the basis of this advice.

Implementation of a CCSBT Scientific Research Programme commenced.

- A Database Manager has been appointed and has begun development of a database for the Commission. The database will hold all the Commission's information including tagging; catch and effort; size composition; observer data; and trade information data. CCSBT would like to keep in touch with the IOTC to learn from the experiences of IOTC on database management.

- A tagging programme, to be coordinated and managed by the CCSBT Secretariat, commenced in November 2001. Up to 10 000 tags will be placed in 2-4 year old SBT in the surface fishery off the coast of southern Australia; 250-300 tags will be placed by a Japanese research cruise in the western Indian Ocean; and up to 1 000 tags will be placed by Australian longliners in the western Pacific Ocean.

- Development of a standard for a CCSBT scientific observer programme will proceed.

- A workshop on CPUE modelling will be convened to address the need to improve CPUE measures for assessments and the interpretation of CPUE data.

- Work has commenced on the development of a management procedure model under the technical guidance of external advisory panel members.

- A practical direct ageing workshop will be conducted in Australia in mid-2002. Scientists from IOTC members are invited to participate at their own expense.

Funding levels for the Secretariat have been increased by 16% to reflect the increase in activity in 2002.

An Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) was established in 1995 and since then, ERSWG has met four times to discuss ERS issues. CCSBT seems to be well ahead of the IOTC in terms of progress toward ecosystem management of living marine resources.

The CCSBT Action Plan to target the fishing activities of non-members, which are inconsistent with the Commission's management and conservation activities, moved a step forward. Advice has been forwarded to Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, Cambodia and Belize that unless they take action to discontinue activities that diminish the effectiveness of CCSBT efforts to manage and conserve the SBT stock, the Commission will consider taking trade restrictive measures against them. Indonesia was also identified as a non-cooperative non-Member and informed that their activities were of concern and cooperation with the Commission has been sought in accordance with the Action Plan.

Currently active IUU fishing vessels are highly mobile. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for the CCSBT and the IOTC to cooperate in order to eliminate IUU fishing operations.

The database for the CCSBT Trade Information Scheme is now at a stage where it can be used as an aid to the management of the SBT fishery. The implementation of the scheme will be further reviewed to collect appropriate information on SBT fisheries, especially from non-Members.

The CCSBT hopes to expand contact and share experiences with the IOTC in 2002 in areas of mutual interest.

Opening statement of FFA

On behalf of the observer mission from the Forum Fisheries Agency, I wish to express sincere appreciation for the invitation to attend this session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission in the beautiful Seychelles. This is a unique opportunity for us to observe your 6th session and to meet with members informally to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Our team consists of

Akau'ola from Tonga

Ramon Rechebei from Palau

Barry Pollock from the FFA secretariat in the Solomon Islands

The Forum Fisheries Agency was established some 23 years ago and has a membership of 16 Pacific Island countries. The role of FFA is to coordinate the efforts of its member countries in the management development of the tuna fishery in their region of the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Island countries are also parties to the MHLC tuna convention in the Western and Central Pacific. The primary purpose of our observer mission is to gain insights on how the IOTC functions. We believe that this will assist the Pacific Island countries as they proceed with the establishment of the tuna commission in their region. Our observer mission will be reporting back to the Pacific Island countries on our findings. We are particularly interested in understanding your approaches to the participation of the developing coastal states in the work of the IOTC, in your ways in dealing with scientific assessments and the resulting managements, and in how the important matter of compliance is addressed.

The tuna fishery in the Western and Central Pacific region has a number of interesting and unusual features. It is now the only large ocean region which does not have a tuna management commission in operation. A very large proportion of the catch in our region is taken from the EEZs of Pacific Island countries by distant water fishing nations, including Japan, Korea, Taiwan and USA. However domestic fisheries for tuna in our region are growing quickly at present.

We are very pleased to be able to attend this meeting. The Pacific Island countries welcome the opportunity to communicate directly with commissioners and staff of the IOTC. We look forward to continuing good relationships between FFA and the IOTC.

Opening statement of SEAFDEC by Mr. Shogo Sugiura

Mr. Chairman, distinguished guest, participants, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre or SEAFDEC, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the invitation to attend this Sixth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission as (IGO), and to observe and organization whose objectives are closely aligned with the objective of SEAFDEC.

SEAFDEC has been established since 1967 to promote fisheries development in Southeast Asia and it aims specifically to develop fishery potentials in the region through training, research and information services in order to improve the food supply by the rational utilization of fisheries resource in the region. At present, there are ten member countries of SEAFDEC, which are Brunei, Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

For over thirty years, SEAFDEC has served the development of fisheries in the region through a programme of activities having the objective of technical development. Recently, the policy of SEAFDEC has been extended from a wholly technical and training organization to serve as a fisheries policy and guardian of member countries against predicted or existing fisheries problems. The work of SEAFDEC now continues both on specific technical issues and

on the more broad concepts of regional codes of conduct, fish trade and environment and coastal fisheries management issues.

SEAFDEC has conducted preliminary research activity on Tuna resources in the Indian Ocean, particularly Eastern Indian Ocean using the Training/Research Vessel, MV SEAFDEC since 1994. This preliminary research aims to collect the information of fishing ground condition, distribution and biological aspects of tuna in the Indian Ocean. Many oceanographic data were also measured and analyzed in relation to the catch results. All of this information is open through the SEAFDEC homepage address.

SEAFDEC has a plan of three years programme starting in 2001, to conduct the survey on tuna resources in the Eastern Indian Ocean in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries Thailand and Malaysia. The first year survey has been conducted starting from January to March of 2001 and from October 2001 to January of 2002. Many research works have been conducted such as 1) Tuna resources, 2) Study on By-Catch of purse seine, 3) Study on shark, 4) Biological aspects such as growth, stomach content etc, and 5) fishing ground conditions. We also plan to have a Tuna Tagging Programme from 2002. And regarding the SEAFDEC programme, we would appreciate receiving technical supports from IOTC and we very much look forward to a closer collaboration with IOTC both in the immediate future and in the long-term.

And with this opportunity, I would also like to announce that ASEAN and SEAFDEC jointly organized a Regional Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium "Fish for the people" in Bangkok during 19-24 November 2001, in collaboration with the FAO and the Department of Fisheries of Thailand. The aim of the Conference is to develop a regional policy on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to the Food Security in the ASEAN region. As a result of the Conference, a Resolution and Plan of Actions for the Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries to Food Security in ASEAN Region was adopted by the Fisheries Ministers of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries. All SEAFDEC Departments will implement this programme in different parts of ASEAN region during 2002-2005 as guided by the issues defined at the Conference.

Finally, I hope that the objectives of this meeting are accomplished and this will finally leads to a sustainable development of fisheries activities of the region, which is the goals of both IOTC and SEAFDEC.

Thank you.

APPENDIX IX – RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SIXTH SESSION OF IOTC

RESOLUTION 01/01

CONCERNING THE NATIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMMES FOR TUNA FISHING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

Taking note of the conclusions of the intersessional meeting on the establishment of a control and inspection scheme which was held in Yaizu, Japan from the 27th to the 29th March 2001, and notably of paragraph 30 relating to the observer programmes,

Aware of the need to adopt and put into effect, prior to the adoption of an integrated programme of control and inspection, minimum control measures applicable to vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party undertaking activities in the IOTC zone of competence,

Recommends in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, that

1. The Contracting Parties, and non-contracting Parties cooperating with the IOTC are encouraged to present, as appropriate, before the annual meeting to be held in 2002, the national observer programmes that have been put into effect in order to observe and follow the application and compliance with IOTC measures for the vessels of Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, and fishing entities in the area of competence of IOTC
2. This presentation may include the following elements:
 - objectives of the programme (the IOTC measures concerned, the fisheries concerned)
 - characteristics of the vessels concerned (overall length, tonnage (GT, GRT), presence of vessel monitoring equipment on board, type of fishing gear, species caught)
 - coverage rate by fleet (number of observers on board compared with the number of vessels engaged in fishing, average duration of each trip for each vessel),
 - observation reporting model;
 - principal results of the observer programme

RESOLUTION 01/02
RELATING TO CONTROL OF FISHING ACTIVITIES

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

Taking note of the results of the Intersessional Meeting on an Integrated Control and Inspection Scheme, held in Yaizu, Japan, from 27 to 29 March 2001.

Taking note of the willingness to introduce, before the adoption of the integrated control and inspection scheme, minimum control measures applicable to the fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting party, and or, of a Cooperating Non Contracting Party, which carry out fishing activities in the area of the competence of the IOTC.

Taking into account that Contracting Parties have agreed that the implementation of an integrated control and inspection scheme should follow a phased approach.

Adopts, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, the following:

1. Each Contracting Party and Non-Contracting Party co-operating with the IOTC shall:
 - a) Authorise the use of fishing vessels flying its flag for fishing activities only where it is able to exercise effectively its responsibilities in respect of such vessels;
 - b) Ensure that fishing vessels flying its flag comply with applicable resolutions adopted under the IOTC Agreement;
 - c) Notify to the Secretariat on an annual basis by 31st January, or in any case before the vessel's entry into the IOTC Area, all fishing vessels greater than 24 meters in overall length (or greater than 20 meters between perpendiculars) authorised to fish in the IOTC Area and notably whether the vessel is authorised to fish one or more regulated resource.

This notification shall include for each vessel:

- I. Name of vessel, registration number;
- II. Previous flag (if any);
- III. International Radio Call Sign;
- IV. Vessel type, length and gross registered tonnage or gross tonnage;
- V. Name and address of owner and/or charter, and/or operator.

Each Contracting Party and Non-Contracting Party co-operating with the IOTC shall notify to the Secretariat of any modifications including suspensions, withdrawals and limitations to this information without delay.

The Secretary shall make available to all Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties co-operating with the IOTC, the information notified under sub-paragraph (c).

2. Each Contracting Party and Non-Contracting Party co-operating with the IOTC shall:
 - a) Ensure that each of its fishing vessels carry on board documents issued and certified by the competent authority of that Contracting Party or of that Non-Contracting Party co-operating with IOTC, including, at a minimum, the following:
 - I. License, permit or authorisation to fish and terms and conditions attached to the licence, permit of 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 charter;
 - 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 1.a) is certified by the competent authority of that Contracting Party or of that Non-Contracting Party co-operating with the IOTC
3. Each Contracting Party and Non-Contracting Party co-operating with the IOTC shall ensure that its fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC area are marked in such a way that they can be really identified with generally accepted standards such as the FAO Standard Specification for the Marking and Identification of Fishing vessels.
4. a) Each Contracting Party and Non-Contracting Party co-operating with the IOTC shall ensure that gear used by its fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area is marked appropriately, such as, 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.
5. Each Contracting Party and Non-Contracting Party co-operating with the IOTC shall ensure that all their respective fishing vessels greater than 24 m LOA, and authorized to fish in the IOTC Area 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 for a period of at least 12 months.

RESOLUTION 01/03
ESTABLISHING A SCHEME TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE BY NON-CONTRACTING PARTY VESSELS WITH
RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHED BY IOTC

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

Taking note of the results of the Intersessional Meeting on an Integrated Control and Inspection Scheme, held in Yaizu, Japan, from 27 to 29 March 2001.

Taking note of the need to fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries (IUU).

Taking into account that Contracting Parties have agreed that the implementation of an integrated control and inspection scheme should follow a phased approach.

Adopts, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX of the Agreement creating the IOTC, the following:

1. Any observation by a Contracting Party vessel or aircraft of Non-Contracting Party, Entity or fishing Entity vessels, indicating that there are grounds for believing that these vessels are fishing contrary to IOTC conservation or management measures, shall be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities of the flag-State making the observation. The Contracting Party shall then notify immediately the appropriate authorities of the flag-State of the vessel fishing. Each Contracting Party making the observation shall also immediately notify the IOTC Secretariat, which, in turn, shall notify the other Contracting Parties.
2. A vessel flying the flag of a Non-Contracting Party, Entity or fishing Entity, which has been sighted in the IOTC Area, in conformity with the conditions of paragraph 1, is presumed to be undermining IOTC conservation and management measures.
3. When a vessel of a Non-Contracting Party, Entity or fishing Entity referred to in paragraph 2 enters voluntarily a port of any Contracting Party, it shall be inspected by authorised Contracting Party officials knowledgeable of IOTC measures and shall not be allowed to land or tranship any fish until this inspection has taken place. Such inspections shall include the vessel's documents, logbooks, fishing gear, catch on board and any other matter relating to the vessel's activities in the IOTC Area.
4. Landings and transhipments of all fish from vessels of a Non-Contracting Party, Entity or fishing Entity which have been inspected pursuant to paragraph 3 shall be prohibited in all Contracting Party ports if such inspection reveals that the vessel has onboard species subject to IOTC conservation or management measures, unless the vessel establishes that the fish were caught outside the IOTC Area or in compliance with the relevant IOTC conservation measures and requirements under the Agreement.
5. Information on the results of all inspections of vessels of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or fishing Entities, conducted in the ports of Contracting Parties, and any subsequent action, shall be transmitted immediately to the Commission. The Secretariat shall transmit this information to all Contracting Parties and to the relevant flag-State(s).

RESOLUTION 01/04

ON LIMITATION OF FISHING EFFORT OF NON MEMBERS OF IOTC WHOSE VESSELS FISH BIGEYE TUNA

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

Recalling that at the 4th Session of the Scientific Committee it was recommended that a reduction of the catching of Bigeye Tuna by all the fishing gears should be applied as soon as possible.

Considering that some non-Members of the Agreement establishing the IOTC have increased in a substantial manner their catches and fishing effort on bigeye tuna during recent years and that, consequently, it is necessary for the effective conservation and management of the bigeye stock that these non-Members decrease their fishing effort.

Recommends, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX of the Agreement on the establishment of the IOTC, the following:

1. Taking into account the urgent need to manage in a global and efficient way the fishing effort on bigeye tuna, the Commission requests non-Members of IOTC to reduce their fishing effort in 2002 in relation to 1999 levels.
2. They are urged to inform the Commission, before 30 June 2002, of the measures they have taken in order to ensure the implementation of this Resolution, including their 1999 fishing effort in terms of catch and effort data, and the number of vessels.
3. The Commission shall review at the 2002 Session the measures taken by non-Members to implement reductions described in paragraph 1 above.
4. The Chairman shall communicate this Resolution to the non-Members concerned.

RESOLUTION 01/05
MANDATORY STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC MEMBERS

Catch and effort data

- a) **Surface fisheries:** catch and effort data of the surface fisheries, catch weight and fishing days at least (purse seine, baitboat, troll, drift nets) should be provided to the IOTC by 1° grid area and month strata. Purse seine fishery data should be stratified by type of school. Those data should preferably be extrapolated to the national monthly catches of each gear. The raising factors used, corresponding to the logbook coverage, should be given routinely to the IOTC.
- b) **Longline fisheries:** catch and effort data of the longline fisheries should be provided to the IOTC by 5° grid area and month strata, preferably in numbers and in weight. The fishing effort should be given in numbers of hooks. Those data should preferably be extrapolated to the national monthly catches. The raising factors used, corresponding to the logbook coverage, should be given routinely to the IOTC.
- c) The catches, efforts and sizes of the **artisanal, small scale and sport fisheries** should also be submitted on a monthly basis, but using the best geographical areas used to collect and process those data.

Size data

Considering that size data are of key importance for most tuna stock assessment, length data, including the total number of fish measured, should be routinely submitted to the IOTC on a 5° grid area and month basis, by gear and fishing mode (e.g. free/log schools for the purse seiners). Size data should be provided for all gears and for all species covered by the IOTC. Size data sampling should preferably be run under strict and well described random sampling schemes which are necessary to provide unbiased figures of the sizes taken. The exact recommended level of sampling could vary between species (as a function of various parameters), but the specific level of recommended sampling needs to be established by the working party on statistics. More detailed size data, for instance size by individual samples, should also be made available to the IOTC when requested by specific working groups, but under strict rules of confidentiality.

Fishing for tunas in association with floating objects including Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

It is essential for IOTC to better understand changing patterns in effective fishing effort in respect of fleets operating in the IOTC Area of Competence that more information is obtained. Considering that the activities of supply vessels and the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet the following information should be routinely submitted to the IOTC:

- a) **Number and characteristics of supply vessels:** (i) operating under their flag, (ii) assisting purse seine vessels operating under their flag, or (iii) licensed to operate in their exclusive economic zones, and that have been present in the IOTC Area of Competence.
- b) **Levels of activity of supply vessels:** including number of days at sea by 1° grid area and month basis.

In addition, Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties shall make their best endeavours to provide data on the **total number and type of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)** operated by the fleet by 5° grid area and month basis.

Timeliness of data submission to the IOTC

It is essential that all the fishery data be available in due time to allow the monitoring of stocks and analysis of the data. It is thus recommended that the following rules should be applied as standard obligation:

- a) **Surface fleets and other fleets operating in coastal zone** (including in respect of supply vessels) must provide their fishery data at the earliest possible date but **no later than the 30th of June each year** (previous year data).
- b) **Longline fleets operating in the high seas** must provide the **provisional** fishery data at the earliest date, but **no later than before June 30th** (for the previous year data). They must provide the **final estimate** of their fishery data **before December 30th each year** (for the previous year data).

The delays presently required to submit statistics could be reduced in the future because of the development of communication and data processing technologies, which should reduce the present data processing delays.

RESOLUTION 01/06
RECOMMENDATION BY IOTC CONCERNING THE IOTC BIGEYE TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT
PROGRAMME

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

Recognizing the authority and responsibility of IOTC to manage bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence (“Convention Area”), at the international level,

Recognizing also the nature of the international market for bigeye tuna in the Convention Area,

Recognizing also that there is uncertainty on the catch of bigeye tuna in the Convention Area and that the availability of trade data would greatly assist in reducing such uncertainty,

Recognizing also that bigeye tuna is the main target species of “flag of convenience” fishing operations and that most of the bigeye harvested by such fishing vessels are exported to Contracting Parties, especially to Japan,

Recalling that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has established its Bluefin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish Statistical Document Programs, and that the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) has also established its Southern Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Programme,

Recognizing that the Statistical Document Programme is an effective tool to assist the Commission’s effort for the elimination of IUU fishing operations,

Recommends, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Agreement, that,

- 1 Contracting Parties, by July 1, 2002 or as soon as possible thereafter, require that all bigeye tuna, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party, be accompanied by an IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document which meets the requirements described in **Annex 1** or an IOTC Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate which meets the requirements described in **Annex 2**. Bigeye tuna caught by purse seiners and pole and line (bait) vessels and destined principally for the canneries in the Convention Area are not subject to this statistical document requirement. The Commission and the Contracting Parties importing bigeye tuna shall contact all the exporting countries to inform them of this Programme in advance of the implementation of the Programme.
- 2 (1) The IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document must be validated by a government official or other authorized individual or institution of the flag State of the vessel that harvested the tuna, or, if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, by a government official or other authorized individual of the exporting state, and;
(2) The IOTC Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate must be validated by a government official or other authorized individual or institution of the state that re-exported the tuna.
- 3 Each Contracting Party shall provide to the Secretary sample forms of its statistical document and re-export certificate required with bigeye tuna imports and information on validation in the format specified in **Annex 4**, and inform him/her of any change in a timely fashion.
- 4 The Contracting Parties which export or import bigeye tuna shall compile data from the Programme.
- 5 The Contracting Parties which import bigeye tuna shall report the data collected by the Programme to the Secretary each year by April 1 for the period of July 1 - December 31 of the preceding year and October 1 for the period of January 1 - June 30 of the current year, which shall be circulated to all the Contracting Parties by the Secretary. The formats of the report are attached as **Annex 3**.
- 6 The Contracting Parties which export bigeye tuna shall examine export data upon receiving the import data mentioned in paragraph 5 above from the Secretary, and report the results to the Commission annually.
- 7 The Contracting Parties should exchange copies of statistical documents and re-export certificates to facilitate the examination mentioned in paragraph 6, consistent with domestic laws and regulations.

- 8 The Commission shall request Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties to take the measures described in the above paragraphs.
- 9 The Secretary shall request information on validation from all the non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities fishing and exporting bigeye tuna to Contracting Parties, and request them to inform him/her in a timely fashion of any changes to the information provided.
- 10 The Secretary shall maintain and update information specified in paragraphs 3 and 9 and provide it to all the Contracting Parties, and promptly circulate any changes.
- 11 The Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties which import bigeye tuna to cooperate with implementation of the Programme and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.
- 12 Implementation of this Programme shall be in conformity with relevant international obligations.
- 13 At the initial stage of the programme, the statistical documents and the re-export certificates will be required for frozen bigeye products. Prior to implementing this Programme for fresh products, several practical problems need to be solved, such as guidelines to ensure procedures to handle fresh products at customs.
- 14 The statistical documents for bigeye tuna caught by fishing vessels flying the flag of a Member State of the European Community may be validated by the competent authorities of the Member State whose flag the vessel flies or by those of a different Member State where the products are landed, provided the corresponding quantities of bigeye tuna are exported outside the Community from the territory of the Member State of landing.
- 15 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article IX, paragraph 4, of the Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall implement this recommendation by July 1, 2002 or as soon as possible thereafter in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each Contracting Party.

Requirements Concerning the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document

- 1 The sample form of the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document shall be as in the Appendix.
- 2 Customs or other appropriate government officials will request and inspect all import documentation including the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document for all bigeye tuna in the shipment. Those officials may also inspect the content of each shipment to verify the information on the document.
- 3 Only complete and valid documents will guarantee that shipments of bigeye tuna will be allowed to enter the territory of Contracting Parties.
- 4 Shipments of bigeye tuna that are accompanied by improperly documented Bigeye Tuna Statistical Documents (i.e., improperly documented means that the Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document is either missing from the shipment, incomplete, invalid or falsified) will be considered illegitimate shipments of bigeye tuna, that are contrary to IOTC conservation efforts, and their entry will be suspended (PENDING RECEIPT OF A PROPERLY COMPLETED DOCUMENT) into the territory of a Contracting Party or subject to administrative or other sanction.
- 5 The import of fish parts other than the meat, i.e., head, eyes, roe, guts, tails may be allowed without the document.

DOCUMENT NUMBER	IOTC BIGEYE TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT		
EXPORT SECTION			
1.FLAG OF COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY			
2.NAME OF VESSEL AND REGISTRATION NUMBER (when available)			
3.TRAPS (if applicable)			
4.POINT OF EXPORT (City, State / Province, Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)			
5.AREA OF CATCH (check one of the following) (a) Indian (b) Pacific (c) Atlantic * In case of (b) or (c) checked, the item 6 and 7 below do not need to be filled out.			
6.DESCRPTION OF FISH			
Product Type (*1)		Gear Code(*2)	Net Weight
F/FR	D/GG/DR/FL/OT		(Kg)
*1= F=Fresh, FR=Frozen, RD=Round, GG=Gilled and Guttet, DR=Dressed, FL=Fillet OT=Other, describe the type of product *2= When the Gear Code is OT, describe the type of gear,_____.			
7.EXPORTER CERTIFICATION <u>I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.</u>			
Name	Company name	Address	Signature Date License Number (if applicable)
8.GOVERNMENT VALIDATION <u>I validate that information listed above is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.</u>			
Total weight of the shipment _____ Kg			
Name & Title	Signature	Date	Government Seal
IMPORT SECTION:			
IMPORTER CERTIFICATION <u>I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.</u>			
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)			
Name	Address	Signature	Date License # (if applicable)
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)			
Name	Address	Signature	Date License # (if applicable)
Final Point of Import			
City	State/Province	Country / Entity / Fishing Entity	

NOTE: If a language other than English is used in completing this form. Please add the English translation on this document.

INSTRUCTIONS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: Block for the issuing Country to designate a country coded Document Number.

(1) FLAG COUNTRY/ENTITIES/FISHING ENTITIES: Fill in the name of the country of the vessel that harvested the bigeye tuna in the shipment and issued this Document. According to the Recommendation, only the flag state of the vessel that harvested the bigeye tuna in the shipment or, if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, the exporting state can issue this Document.

(2) NAME OF VESSEL AND REGISTRATION NUMBER (when available): Fill in the name and registration number of the vessel that harvested the bigeye tuna in the shipment.

(3) TRAPS (if applicable): Fill in the name of the trap that harvested the bigeye tuna in the shipment.

(4) POINT OF EXPORT: Identify the City, State or Province, and Country from which the bigeye tuna was exported.

(5) AREA OF CATCH: Check the area of catch. (If (c) or (d) checked, items 6 and 7 below do not need to be filled out.)

(6) DESCRIPTION OF FISH: The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information.

NOTE: One row should describe one product type

(1) Product Type: Identify the type of product being shipped as either FRESH or FROZEN, and in ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED, FILLET or OTHER form. For OTHER, describe the type of products in the shipment.

(2) Gear Code: Identify the gear type which was used to harvest the bigeye tuna using the list below. For OTHER TYPE, describe the type of gear, including farming.

(3) Net product weight in kilograms.

(7) EXPORTER CERTIFICATION: The person or company exporting the bigeye tuna shipment must provide his/her name, company name, address, signature, date the shipment was exported, and dealer license number (if applicable).

(8) GOVERNMENT VALIDATION: Fill in the name and full title of the official signing the Document. The official must be employed by a competent authority of the flag state government of the vessel that harvested the bigeye tuna appearing on the Document or other individual or institution authorized by the flag state. When appropriate, this requirement is waived according validation of the document by a government official, or if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, by a government official or other authorized individual or institution of the exporting state. The total weight of the shipment shall also be specified in this block.

(9) IMPORTER CERTIFICATION: The person or company that imports bigeye tuna must provide his/her name, address, signature, date the bigeye was imported, license number (if applicable), and final point of import. This includes imports into intermediate countries. For fresh and chilled products, the signature of the importer may be substituted by a person of a customs clearance company when the authority for signature is properly accredited to it by the importer.

GEAR CODE:

<i>GEAR CODE</i>	<i>GEAR TYPE,</i>
BB	BAITBOAT
GILL	GILLNET
HAND	HANDLINE
HARP	HARPOON
LL	LOGLINE
MWT	MID-WATER TRAWL
PS	PURSE SEINE
RR	ROD AND REEL
SPHL	SPORT HANDLINE
SPOR	SPORT FISHERIES UNCLASSIFIED
SURF	SURFACE FISHERIES UNCLASSIFIED
TL	TENDED LINE
TRAP	TRAP
TROL	TROLL
UNCL	UNSPECIFIED METHODS
OT	OTHER TYPE

RETURN A COPY OF COMPLETED DOCUMENT TO: (the name of the office of the competent authority of the flag state).

**Requirements Concerning
the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate**

- 1 The sample form of the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate shall be as in the Appendix.
- 2 Customs or other appropriate government officials will request and inspect all import documentation including the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate for all bigeye tuna in the shipment. Those officials may also inspect the content of each shipment to verify the information on the document.
- 3 Only complete and valid documents will guarantee that shipments of bigeye tuna will be allowed to enter the territory of Contracting Parties.
- 4 A Contracting Party shall be free to validate IOTC Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificates for bigeye tuna imported by that Contracting Party, to which IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Documents or IOTC Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificates are attached. IOTC Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificates shall be validated by government organizations or by recognized institutions which are accredited by a Contracting Party's government to validate the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document. A copy of the original Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document accompanying the imported bigeye tuna must be attached to an IOTC Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate. The copy of the original Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document so attached must be verified by that government organization or by that recognized institution accredited by a government which validated the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document. When re-exported bigeye tuna is again re-exported, all copies of documents, including a verified copy of a Statistical Document and Re-export Certificate which accompanied that bigeye tuna upon importation, must be attached to a new Re-export Certificate to be validated by a re-exporting Contracting Party. All copies of the Documents to be attached to that new Re-export Certificate must be also be verified by a government organization or a recognized institution accredited by a government which validated the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document.
- 5 Shipments of bigeye tuna that are accompanied by improperly documented Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate (i.e., improperly documented means that the Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate is either missing from the shipment, incomplete, invalid or falsified) will be considered illegitimate shipments of bigeye tuna, that are contrary to IOTC conservation efforts, and their entry will be suspended (PENDING RECEIPT OF A PROPERLY COMPLETED DOCUMENT) into the territory of a Contracting Party or subject to administrative or other sanction.
- 6 IOTC Contracting Parties that validate Re-export Certificates in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 4 shall require from the re-exporting bigeye dealer necessary documents (e.g. written sales contracts) which are to certify that the bigeye tuna to be re-exported corresponds to the imported bigeye tuna. Contracting Parties which validate Re-export Certificates shall provide flag states and importing states with evidence of this correspondence upon their request.
- 7 The import of fish parts other than the meat, i.e., head, eyes, roe, guts, tails may be allowed without the document.

DOCUMENT NUMBER	IOTC BIGEYE TUNA RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE			
RE-EXPORT SECTION:				
1.RE-EXPORTING COUNTRY / ENTITY / FISHING ENTITY				
2.POINT OF RE-EXPORT				
3.DESCRPTION OF IMPORTED FISH				
F/FR	Product Type(*) RD/GG/DR/FL/OT	Net Weight (Kg)	Flag country/ Entity/Fishing Entity	Date of Import
4.DESCRPTION OF FISH FOR RE-EXPORT				
F/FR	Product Type(*) RD/GG/DR/FL/OT	Net Weight (Kg)		
* F=FRESH, FR=Frozen, RD=Round, GG=Gilled and Guttred, DR=Dressed, FL=Fillet OT=Other(Describe the type of product)				
5.RE-EXPORTER CERTIFICATION: <u>I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.</u>				
Name/Company Name Address Signature Date License Number (if applicable)				
6.GOVERNMENT VALIDATION: <u>I validate that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.</u>				
Name & Title Signature Date Government Seal				
IMPORT SECTION:				
7.IMPORTER CERTIFICATION: <u>I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.</u>				
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)				
Name Address Signature Date License # (if applicable)				
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)				
Name Address Signature Date License # (if applicable)				
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)				
Name Address Signature Date License # (if applicable)				
Final Point of Import				
City _____ State/Province _____ Country / Entity / Fishing Entity				

NOTE: If a language other than English is used in completing this form. Please add the English translation on this document.

INSTRUCTIONS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: Block for the issuing Country/Entity/Fishing Entity to designate a Country/Entity/Fishing Entity coded document number.

(1) RE-EXPORTING COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY

Fill in the name of the Country/Entity/Fishing Entity which re-exports the bigeye tuna in the shipment and issued this Certificate. According to the IRecommendation, only the re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity can issue this Certificate.

(2) POINT OF RE-EXPORT

Identify the City/State Province and Country/Entity/Fishing Entity from which the bigeye tuna was re-exported.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTED FISH

The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information: NOTE: One row should describe one product type. (1) Product type: Identify the type of product being shipped as either FRESH or FROZEN, and in ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED, FILLET or OTHER form. For OTHER, describe the type of products in the shipment. (2) Net weight: Net product weight in kilograms. (3) Flag Country/Entity/Fishing Entity: the name of the Country/Entity/Fishing Entity of the vessel that harvested the bigeye tuna in the shipment. (4) Date of import: Imported date.

(4) DESCRIPTION OF FISH FOR RE-EXPORT

The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information: NOTE: One row should describe one product type. (1) Product type: Identify the type of product being shipped as either FRESH or FROZEN, and in ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED FILLET or OTHER form. For OTHER, describe the type of products in the shipment. (2) Net weight: Net product weight in kilograms.

(5) RE-EXPORTER CERTIFICATION

The person or company re-exporting the bigeye tuna shipment must provide his/her name, address, signature, date the shipment was re-exported, and re-exporter's license number (if applicable).

(6) GOVERNMENT VALIDATION

Fill in the name and full title of the official signing the Certificate. The official must be employed by a competent government authority of the re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity appearing on the Certificate, or other individual or institution authorized to validate such certificates by the competent government authority.

(7) IMPORTER CERTIFICATION

The person or company that imports bigeye tuna must provide his/her name, address, signature, date the bigeye tuna was imported, license number (if applicable) and re-exported final point of import. This includes imports into intermediate Countries/Entities/Fishing Entities. For fresh and chilled products, the signature of the importer may be substituted by a person of a customs clearance company when the authority for signature is properly accredited to it by the importer.

RETURN A COPY OF THE COMPLETED CERTIFICATE TO: (the name of the office of the competent authority of the re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity).

REPORT OF THE IOTC BIGEYE TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT

Period _____ to _____, _____
 Month Month Year IMPORT COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY

Flag Country/Ent ity/Fishing Entity	Area Code	Gear Code	Point of Export	Product Type		Product Wt.(Kg)
				F/FR	RD/GG/DR/FL/ OT	

Gear Code **Gear Type**

BB Baitboat
 GILL Gillnet
 HAND Handline
 HARP Harpoon
 LL Longline
 MWT Mid-water trawl
 PS Purse seine
 RR Rod & reel
 SPHL Sport Handline
 SPOR Sport fisheries unclassified
 SURF Surface fisheries unclassified
 TL Tended line
 TRAP Trap

TROL Troll
 UNCL Unclassified methods
 OTH Other type (Indicate the
 type of gear):

Product type

F Fresh
 FR Frozen
 RD Round
 GG Gilled & gutted
 DR Dressed
 FL Fillet
 OT Other form, describe the type of
 products in the shipment

Area Code

ID Indian Ocean
 PA Pacific
 AT Atlantic

REPORT OF THE IOTC BIGEYE TUNA RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE

Period _____ to _____, _____ IMPORT COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY
 Month Month Year

Flag Country/Entity/Fishing Entity	Re-export Country/Entity/Fishing Entity	Point of Re-export	Product Type		Product Wt.(Kg)
			F/FR	RD/GG/DR/FL/OT	

Product type

- F Fresh
- FR Frozen
- RD Round
- GG Gilled & gutted
- DR Dressed
- FL Fillet
- OT Other form, describe the type of products in the shipment

INFORMATION ON VALIDATION OF IOTC STATISTICAL DOCUMENTS

1 Flag

2 Government/Authority Organization(s) accredited to validate Statistical Documents

Organization Name	Organization Address	Sample Seal

NOTE: For each organization, attach a list with the names, titles and addresses of the individuals authorized to validate Documents.

3 Other institutions accredited by the government/authority to validate Statistical Documents

Organization Name	Organization Address	Sample Seal

NOTE: For each organization, attach a list with the names, titles and addresses of the individuals authorized to validate Documents.

Instructions

Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities, Fishing Entities having vessels that harvest species whose international trade must be accompanied by Statistical Documents are requested to submit the information on this sheet to the Secretary of IOTC*, and to ensure that any changes to the above are also transmitted to the Secretary on a timely fashion.

*IOTC; P.O.BOX 1011, Fishing Port, Victoria, Seychelles

RESOLUTION 01/07
CONCERNING THE SUPPORT OF THE IPOA-IUU PLAN

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

Recalling that the Committee of the Fisheries of FAO adopted on 2 March 2001 the International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate the illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries, and that the Council of FAO adopted it on 23 June 2001.

Recalling that IOTC adopted measures aiming to fight against IUU fishing.

Decides:

1. To support the International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate the illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries, and to encourage its application.
2. That the identification of the vessels engaged in IUU activities should be made by IOTC through agreed procedures in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner.
3. That the establishment of, and co-operation in, the exchange of information on vessels identified according to the above procedures as engaged in or supporting IUU fishing, including trade information, should be made by IOTC.

APPENDIX X – DRAFT RESOLUTIONS DEFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION

Draft Resolution

AN ACTION PLAN TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME FOR BIGEYE TUNA IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

Recognizing the need for action to ensure the achievement of IOTC objectives to conserve and manage bigeye tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence (hereinafter referred to as "the Area"),

Recognizing the obligation of Contracting Parties and the commitment of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties to comply with the IOTC conservation and management measures,

Recognizing that a considerable number of vessels fishing for bigeye tuna in the Area flying the flag of nations and fishing entities which are not members of IOTC, or do not cooperate with IOTC,

Expressing concern over the status of exploitation of bigeye tuna in the Area,

Being aware of the strenuous efforts by Contracting Parties to ensure enforcement of IOTC conservation and management measures and to encourage non-member nations and fishing entities to abide themselves by these measures,

Finding that the IOTC ability to manage bigeye tuna in the Area on a sustainable basis is undermined or deteriorated by harvest contrary to IOTC recommendations and the need to take further strenuous measures to ensure the effectiveness of the IOTC bigeye tuna conservation measures,

Resolves, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, that:

1. The Commission shall review annually, the information obtained through the IOTC Bigeye Statistical Document Programme, national catch statistics, trade and other relevant information obtained in ports and at the fishing grounds, and identify those Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties or fishing entities whose vessels have been fishing bigeye tuna in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the IOTC conservation and management measures, based upon the above information.
2. The Commission shall request those Contracting and non-Contracting Parties or fishing entities identified in paragraph 1 above to take all necessary measures so as not to diminish the effectiveness of the IOTC conservation and management measures, including the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the vessels concerned, as well as to become Contracting Parties if applicable.
3. The Commission or other appropriate subsidiary bodies shall review annually the actions taken by those Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties or fishing entities referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and identify those Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties or fishing entities that have not taken appropriate actions as requested.
4. To ensure the effectiveness of conservation measures recommended by IOTC for bigeye tuna in the Area, the Commission will recommend, if appropriate, in accordance with the Agreement establishing the IOTC, that Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties take measures with respect to importation of bigeye tuna products, harvested in the Area in any form, from the Parties or fishing entities identified in paragraph 3. Such measures shall be multilateral, consistent with international law and obligations of Contracting Parties, and shall be implemented in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

EC Draft Recommendation
RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

Taking note of the results of the Intersessional Meeting on an Integrated Control and Inspection Scheme, held in Yaizu, Japan, from 27 to 29 March 2001.

Taking note that it was agreed that Vessel Monitoring Systems are a valuable element to assure the monitoring of tuna fishery activities; that, nevertheless, it is necessary to incorporate these systems progressively to allow all Contracting Parties to implement these systems at national level.

Recommends, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX of the Agreement creating the IOTC, that:

Each Contracting Party and Non-Contracting Parties co-operating with the IOTC implement, no later than [1st January 2003] a vessel monitoring system (hereinafter referred to as VMS) for its fishing vessels exceeding 20 metres between perpendiculars or 24 metres overall length which fish for IOTC species on the high seas outside the fisheries jurisdiction of any Coastal State and:

- a) require its fishing vessels, fishing in the IOTC Area, to be equipped with an autonomous system able to automatically transmit messages to a land-based national Fisheries Monitoring Centre (hereinafter referred to as FMC) allowing a continuous tracking of the position of a fishing vessel by the Contracting Party or the Non-Contracting Parties co-operating with the IOTC of that fishing vessel;
- b) ensure that the satellite device enable a fishing vessel to communicate by satellite to the Contracting Party or to the Non-Contracting Parties co-operating with the IOTC of that fishing vessel:
 - the vessel identification,
 - the most recent geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with a position error which shall be less than 500 metres, at a confidence level of 99 %,
 - the date and time of the fixing of the said position of the vessel.

1. Each Contracting Party and Non-Contracting Parties co-operating with the IOTC take the necessary measures to ensure that the FMC receives through the VMS the messages requested in paragraph 1.b).
2. Each Contracting Party and Non-Contracting Parties co-operating with the IOTC ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag shall ensure that the satellite tracking devices are at all times fully operational and that the information in paragraph 1.b) is transmitted at least once every 6 hours. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device fitted on board of a fishing vessel, the device shall be repaired or replaced within one month. After this period, the master of a fishing vessel shall not be authorised to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Where a device stops functioning and a fishing trip lasts more than one month, the repair or the replacement has to take place as soon as the vessel enters a port. The fishing vessel shall not be authorised to continue or commence a fishing trip without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.
3. Each Contracting Party or Non-Contracting Parties co-operating with the IOTC shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate at least daily, reports containing the information requested in paragraph 1.b) to the FMC by other means of communication (radio, telefax or telex).
4. Until [1st January 2003] fishing vessels, which are not equipped with satellite tracking devices and which are engaged in fishing activities in the IOTC Area shall report by radio, telefax or telex, including, inter alia, information on the official numbers (radio call sign and registration number), the name of the fishing vessel, sequence number, type of message, the date, the time (UTC) and the geographical position (latitude and longitude) when transmitting the report, to their competent authorities:
 - the geographical position at the beginning of the fishing trip;
 - the geographical position at the end of the fishing trip.

APPENDIX XI – REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Fourth Session of the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held at the Victoria Conference Centre in Victoria, Seychelles, from the 4th to the 7th of December 2001. It was attended by 33 delegates from 13 IOTC Members, as well as six observers from member countries of FAO or other UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations. Dr Chien-Chung Hsu and Mr Yu-Yi Huang attended as invited experts. The list of participants is reproduced in Appendix I.

Mr. Renaud Pianet of France, Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, chaired the Session. Mr. Pianet welcomed the delegates and noted the large amount of work to be done in the short time available.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION (IOTC/SC/01/01)

The Scientific Committee adopted the Agenda as presented in Appendix II of this report. The documents available are listed in Appendix III.

3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

In conformity with the decision of the Third Session of the Commission on the admission of observers, the delegates from the Islamic Republic of Iran (members of FAO) and Russian Federation (non-members of FAO, members of other UN Agencies), ICCAT and FFA (international organization) were admitted. The Chairman then invited the delegates to introduce themselves.

4. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT (IOTC/SC/01/02)

The Secretariat presented IOTC/SC/01/02, outlining staff changes, the core activities of acquisition, processing and dissemination of information pertinent to the tuna fisheries of the Indian Ocean, as well as a work-plan for the year 2002.

The acquisition of information remained the main focus of the Secretariat's activities throughout the year. Requests for submission of the mandatory data were sent to all Member and non-Member countries and new data were entered in the databases. Additional data validation procedures were developed, which allowed the identification of various problems in specific datasets. Some of these problems were resolved after contacting the data correspondent. The execution of sampling programmes in Thailand and Malaysia continued. An agreement was also reached to establish a similar programme in Sri Lanka. Missions to other countries in the Indian Ocean were undertaken to assess the possibility of initiating similar joint activities.

The design of the IOTC database received some minor modifications, including the addition of facilities to assign a quality code and a code indicating the reporting source to most items of information stored. Additional procedures for data entry and validation were put in place. The Secretariat also undertook a major upgrade of the hardware used to maintain the database, which now resides on a dedicated server.

During 2001, more emphasis was placed than in previous years on processing existing information. These activities involved exploratory data analyses of various datasets, including historical data and the Vessel Record, with the objective of identifying inconsistencies in the data; estimation of catches from non-reporting fleets; and statistical analyses and data modelling to assist the work of the Working Parties.

Development of WinTuna, software to assist in the collection and processing of national statistics has proceeded as expected, and the first elements of the software are complete and ready for deployment. Several countries in the region have expressed interest in using the software which has now been installed at the Seychelles Fishing Authority, where it will be used to maintain the information from the domestic longline fishery. The FAO Fisheries Information, Data and Statistics Service (FIDI) has initiated the conversion of its artisanal fisheries software ARTFISH to the WinTuna architecture, thereby adding a module to handle sample-survey statistics normally used for artisanal fisheries. This partnership is likely to broaden the use of this software considerably and will contribute to its long-term support.

Activities related to the dissemination of information were carried out as in previous years with the publication of newsletters, data products and reports of the meetings that took place during the year. The IOTC website was redesigned to expand and improve access to its contents. In addition to all the Working

Party and Committee reports, the website now includes electronic versions of virtually all the scientific papers presented to the Working Parties and recent Expert Consultations. In addition, the Secretariat has continued its partnership in the FIGIS initiative sponsored by the FAO, and has produced a version of the Permanent Report on the Status of the Species (PRESS) that is available through the querying system provided by FIGIS.

The Committee congratulated the Secretariat on the amount and quality of the work performed during the last year, in particular considering the restricted staff working in the Secretariat, and endorsed the plan of work for the year 2002.

The Committee considered that the current staff situation of the Secretariat must be revised in order to achieve the objectives of the work-plan for next year. The expansion of the responsibilities of the Secretariat in general and the addition of two major activities, the Indian Ocean Tuna Tagging Programme (IOTTP) and the IOTC/OFCF project will impose untenable workloads on the current staff.

Therefore, the Committee strongly recommends that the Secretariat staff be increased by recruiting :

- A Database Administrator that could assist in the maintenance, validation and analyses of the data available and other data-related tasks. This support is considered essential as the Data Manager will be heavily involved in the activities that would be part of the IOTC/OFCF project.
- A permanent Translator/Bilingual Editor, who would reduce the need for the professional staff to spend time in translating and editing the regular publications of the Commission.

5. REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTIES

Report of the Permanent Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS) (IOTC/SC/01/03)

The Third Meeting of the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics took place in Mahé, Seychelles on December 3rd with the participation of 27 scientists from various countries.

The WPDCS reviewed the situation of the data holdings at the Secretariat, noting the improvement in several areas, including the retrieval of important historical datasets from several countries, better estimation of the catches of fresh-tuna IUU vessels, the progress of the sampling programmes in Thailand and Malaysia and the recent implementation of a sampling programme in Sri Lanka. At the same time, it was noted that there is still no information about the fleet of IUU deep-freezing longliners and the former-Soviet purse-seine vessels that continues to operate in the Indian Ocean. The situation of the data holdings for nominal catches and catch-and-effort data has improved considerably in the past year, although the scarcity of size-frequency data from the longline and artisanal fisheries continues to be a major impediment for the application of a rigorous stock assessment.

Regarding the situation by groups of species, the WPDCS noted the following:

- **Tropical Tunas:** Problem areas include the poor knowledge of catches and effort of IUU vessels and the lack of size-frequency information for these and the Taiwan province of China , longline fishery. The WPDCS noted the improvements in the levels of catch reporting, collection of vessel registry information, estimation of IUU catches, estimation of Indonesian longline catches, recovery of historical data and establishment of new sampling programmes by the Secretariat.
- **Billfish:** Species aggregation, mislabelling, underreporting and non-reporting are widespread problems, indicating that, although data in the Secretariat's database are considered accurate and reliable for minor fishing entities, they are far from complete. The lack of size frequency statistics from Taiwan province of China prevented the Billfish group from conduct a rigorous stock assessment of swordfish.
- **Neritic Tunas:** Reporting of catches of neritic tunas has also been worsening. In recent years catches have not been reported or were reported aggregated for many Indian Ocean coastal countries. Catch and effort and size frequency statistics for these species are conspicuously absent from the IOTC database because they are rarely included in the data submissions. It is thought, however, that many countries may have collected information for these species.

- **Temperate tunas:** The reporting of catches and effort of albacore has been worsening since the mid-eighties proportionally to the increase of IUU longliners operating in the Indian Ocean. Nevertheless, the completeness of the catch and catch-and-effort data is still good. In contrast, the size frequency statistics are poorly represented, because of the lack of reporting by Taiwan province of China and IUU fleets.

The Committee stressed that the timeliness of data submissions must be improved, and encourages countries to provide their data before the stated deadlines. This is important to ensure that the Secretariat can process this information in a timely manner for the activities of the Working Parties.

The Committee concurred with the WPDCS that it will be important to collect detailed statistics in the main landing places for the species targeted by the Indian Ocean Tagging Programme.

The Committee concurred on the need to carry out a review of the procedures to raise catch-and-effort and size-frequency data to total catch, and agreed that such reviews should be done in the context of the Working Party on Methods. The Committee further agreed that the database obtained should be made available, in a standard format on CD-ROM, upon request.

The Committee agreed with the WPDCS that the use of supply vessels and Fish Aggregating Devices are integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse-seine fishery in association with floating objects and that more information is needed to obtain an appropriate measure of the fishing effort in this fishery.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that countries fishing for tunas in association with floating objects submit information on :

- Number and characteristics of supply vessels: a) operating under their flag, b) assisting purse-seine vessels operating under their flag, or c) licensed to operate in their economic exclusive zones, and that have been present in the Indian Ocean during the previous year.
- Levels of activity of supply vessels, including number of days at sea, by one-degree area and month during the previous year.

The Committee also noted that to properly assess the effective effort exerted by this fishery, it will be necessary to obtain data on:

- Total number and type of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) operated by the fleet by one-degree area and month.

Finally, the Committee expressed concern regarding the high amounts of incidental catches assumed for some longline fisheries, made up mainly of sharks. The Committee strongly recommended that observer programmes be initiated for purse seine and longline fisheries in order to quantify the actual amount of by-catches and discards occurring in these fisheries.

The Committee expressed great concern regarding the non-reporting of size-frequency statistics from Taiwan province of China considering that these data are crucial to conduct the assessment of species such as yellowfin, bigeye and albacore tunas, and swordfish and requested that data be submitted as soon as possible, according to the Mandatory Data Requirements of IOTC. The Committee also strongly recommended that Japan and Korea make every possible effort to increase the sampling effort to ensure that the size-frequency samples are representative of the size distribution of the catch.

Report of the ad hoc Working Party on Methods (WPM) (IOTC-SC-01-04)

The meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Party on Methods (WPM) was held in Sète, France, from 23 to 27 April 2001, involving 12 participants from seven countries or organisations.

The main objective of this meeting was to discuss methodological aspects relevant to the activities of the species Working Parties. The discussions were centred on problems affecting directly the assessment of bigeye tuna, the main priority for the Working Party on Tropical Tunas in 2001.

Recognizing that the methodological approaches for stock assessment are closely related to the characteristics and availability of data for the stock in questions, the WPM summarized and discussed the features of main datasets available for bigeye tuna. This review concentrated on three data series for

longliners from Japan, Korea and Taiwan province of China . After a review of these datasets, the WPM agreed that most of the assessment analyses would have to be based on the Japanese data, as there were inconsistencies with the other two datasets which could not be resolved.

The WPM recommended a number of additional improvements to the existing analyses of catch-and-effort data to provide indices of abundance from fisheries data. The WPM noted that, until the estimation of indices of abundance from the purse-seine fishery is completed, any CPUE-based analyses for yellowfin or bigeye tunas would have to rely primarily on data from the longline fleet, especially the Japanese fleet.

As the size composition of the catch is not well known, even for recent years, the WPM also recognized the need for giving priority to approaches based on production modelling, in particular age-structured production models. The benefits of integrating the standardization of the CPUE with the assessment model were also acknowledged and it was recommended that further work be done in this area.

The WPM also discussed the need for adopting standard testing procedures, based on simulation modelling, which would be of help in improving the understanding of the properties of new and existing methods. The WPM drew a list of desirable characteristics that such a simulation, also called 'operating model' should have.

The Committee noted the development of integrated catch-at-age models in other commissions, although it considered that the use of standard models and methods should be continued.

The Committee discussed the possibility of using an operating model and noted that such models have been developed by other commissions and organizations around the world. Some of this work could be suitable for the stocks of the Indian Ocean after necessary modifications. The Committee requested that the Secretariat prepare a review of operating models currently in use for the next meeting of the WPM and the Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee observed that the task of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas last year was greatly facilitated by the work performed by the WPM, and suggested that the WPM could meet again next year if there are specific subjects for the WPM to consider.

Report of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT) (IOTC-SC-01-05)

The Third Meeting of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT) was held in Mahé, Seychelles from 19 to 27 June 2001, involving 35 participants from 12 countries or organisations. The main priority for this was to review the status of bigeye tuna, however, the WPTT was able to devote time to briefly review the situation of skipjack and yellowfin tunas.

A review of the data situation showed significant improvements relative to the previous year, in particular regarding the catches of fresh-tuna longliner IUU fleets estimated through the sampling programmes. Although the availability of data for bigeye was considered good, there was concern regarding a worsening of the situation in recent years, mainly due to the non-reporting of IUU purse seiners and deep-freezing longliners and of the Indonesian fresh-tuna longliners and possibly double-counting in longliners. The lack of size data from Taiwan province of China for the last decade and the low sample sizes from the Japanese longline fisheries in recent years continues to limit the ability of the WPTT to conduct a rigorous assessment of the bigeye tuna.

In spite of these limitations, the WPTT was able to conduct a stock assessment of bigeye tuna. The results of the assessment should be considered with caution as there are still unresolved uncertainties. These include the lack of an appropriate growth curve for the Indian Ocean, uncertainty about natural mortality at various life stages, uncertainty about the increase in efficiency of the different fisheries involved (especially in the purse-seine fishery) and unexplained anomalous observations in the indices of abundance. Although there is scope for improvement in the assessment, it is unlikely that these uncertainties will be substantially reduced in the next assessment cycle.

The WPTT also reviewed a number of stock status indicators for yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna. The group agreed that the catches of yellowfin tuna have stabilized since 1993 could be interpreted as a sign of overexploitation, with catches of this species above MSY since that year.

The WPTT, given the incompleteness of the information on the existing fleet capacity, concurred with the conclusion of the WPM that it is not possible to provide advise on the question of the optimum fishing capacity of the fishing fleet for the sustainable exploitation of tropical tunas in the Indian Ocean.

The Committee commended the WPTT for the report and the progress achieved since the previous meeting, considering that the arrangements issuing from the last Scientific Committee had been successful, and suggested that, in the future, catch tables including catch by species, country, gear and year be included in the report.

When relatively long living species such as bigeye or swordfish, which have about 10 to 15 exploited year classes, are exploited with rapidly increasing fishing effort, trends which are clearly observed in the Indian Ocean for both stocks, the observed catches are always higher than the equilibrium catches that would be taken under stable fishing effort. Because of this disequilibrium, keeping the effort (and fishing mortality) constant will lead to decreasing catches, until the fisheries and stocks reach the equilibrium corresponding to that fishing mortality. In such situations of disequilibrium, trying to maintain constant catches would necessarily involve permanently increasing the fishing mortality, in order to compensate for the stock decline.

In the present context of increasing fishing effort in the Indian Ocean, keeping the fishing effort constant would be theoretically safer than maintaining a constant catch, even if the effort is larger than that corresponding to the fishing mortality leading to the MSY. Conversely, if catches are permanently larger than the MSY, keeping catches constant would unavoidably lead to overfishing of the stock.

The stock assessment of bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean indicates that fishing mortality is close to the level that produces MSY and that the population is currently above the MSY level. Bigeye catches in the past six years (1994-99) have been substantially above the estimated MSY level (90,000 t), but projections suggest that if the current catches continue at the 1999 level, the spawning stock biomass will fall to levels well below the one that produces MSY in five or six years. Therefore, the Committee recommends that a reduction in catches of bigeye tuna from all gears, eventually to the level of MSY, be started as soon as possible.

The reduction of catches can be achieved by direct control of the catches (establishing a total allowable catch); likewise, maintaining the fishing mortality rate (F) at its current level would result in a reduction of catches to the level of the MSY. Recognising that controlling fishing mortality rate would be very difficult in practice, the Scientific Committee recommended that the control of the catches or, alternatively, fishing effort would be technically more realistic and feasible.

To achieve this objective, and considering differences in characteristics of the longline and purse-seine fisheries for bigeye tuna, different approaches may be considered to reduce catches in each fishery; for example, a time-area closure and/or effort control for the purse seine fishery and a catch quota and/or effort control for the longline fishery.

The Committee noted that a control in fishing effort of purse seine and longline could be effective in reducing fishing mortality for other tuna or tuna-like stocks which may already be near to or below the MSY level (e.g., southern bluefin tuna, swordfish, yellowfin tuna).

The Committee agrees with the suggestion that priority should be given to yellowfin tuna in the next assessment. It was indicated that many of the previous results from the WPM would be useful also for yellowfin, but concerns were raised about the availability of data, in particular catch-and-effort and size frequency from artisanal and longline fisheries.

The Committee also recommends that next WPTT give some consideration the issues that might arise in attempting to study the interactions between fisheries for skipjack, in particular, between the industrial Indian Ocean purse-seine fishery and the artisanal fisheries in the region, including Maldives.

Report of the Working Party on Tagging (WPT) (IOTC/SC/01/06)

A meeting of the WPT was held in connection with the 3rd Working Party on Tropical Tunas to refine plans for pilot tagging studies and to discuss the prospects of the Indian Ocean Tuna Tagging programme (IOTTP). The chairman of the Working Party presented their report as document IOTC/SC/01/06E.

The Chairman of WPT described the situation regarding funding for the IOTTP. In the short term, only approximately \$135,000 of surplus IPTP funds might be available. No IOTC countries have firmly committed funds to this project to date. A possible new source of funds through the EC General Directorate for Development (DG-Dev) has been identified with funds of about EUR 4.5 million available to fund projects proposed by at least two countries of the western Indian Ocean area. Seychelles and Mauritius have already transmitted a request to the EC, and a detailed project document will be prepared early 2002 through a consultancy initiated by the EC. In addition, China has indicated that \$25,000 might be provided for tagging and the Secretariat has submitted a request for funding under the "Large Marine Ecosystems" programme of the Global Environment Fund, although no response has been received yet.

Obtaining bait supplies for the proposed large-scale pole-and-line tagging platforms is a potential problem. Bait resources are still poorly known in the Indian Ocean. Therefore, a comprehensive study of bait availability was added to the original pilot tagging programmes, and the Working Party recommended that the Secretariat contract a consultant on tuna baitfish to identify potential live bait resources and to test the best way to catch and to conserve them in coastal facilities, probably in Seychelles.

The main goals of the pilot tagging programmes are to test the feasibility of using small-scale tagging platforms other than pole-and-line vessels. In this sense, the Working Party recommended several research operations and actions for the pilot programme. The Working Party recommended that the Secretariat should initiate the purchase of a minimal set of tagging equipment needed for the pilot study as soon as possible.

The Committee congratulated the WPT for the progress of its work and commended the European Community for its support to the initial phase of the tagging programme.

The WPT considered that the original five-year large-scale programme covering the whole Indian Ocean, approved in the previous meeting of the Scientific Committee, must be maintained to achieve all the objectives of the programme. Funding needs, however, could be reduced to about \$12 million, if the EC tagging programme could be realized.

The Scientific Committee restated its strong support for the IOTTP. The Committee emphasized that no reliable assessment in the Indian Ocean could be achieved without a comprehensive tagging programme. This is worrisome considering the continuous increases in tuna catches and that some of the species could be overexploited.

The Committee noted with concern the fact that funds for the full IOTTP have not been secured, as it believes this programme should be given high priority. The Scientific Committee therefore recommends that the Commission explicitly express its support for the IOTTP and provides all the assistance necessary to secure funds for the programme.

Report of the Working Party on Billfishes (WPB) (IOTC/SC/01/07)

The second meeting of the WPB took place in St. Gilles, La Réunion, from 5th-8th November, 2001, and included 21 participants. As instructed by the Scientific Committee, the WPB concentrated its efforts on assessing the status of swordfish, and briefly reviewed new information available for other species.

The Working party reviewed the swordfish fisheries of five countries: Seychelles, La Réunion, Western Australia, South Africa and Spain. These five fisheries show several common characteristics, including recent development, a semi-industrial scale and limited geographical extension. These characteristics contrast with those of the Japanese, Taiwanese and Korean longline fleets, which have been taking swordfish in the Indian Ocean over a long period of time.

The Taiwanese longline fleet is the dominant swordfish fishery in the Indian Ocean, catching more than 50% of the landed swordfish. However, Taiwan province of China has not reported swordfish size-frequency data since 1989 and there are unresolved inconsistencies in other data which greatly limited the type of analyses that could be carried out using these data. In this sense, the Committee urged Taiwan, China to provide this information for their longline fishery.

The catch and effort information from the Japanese longline fleet provides coverage over a large area and time period. However, the fact that this fishery targets mainly southern bluefin tuna and bigeye tuna, and the catch of swordfish is small, might limit the usability of the data for swordfish and billfish stock assessments.

The Working Party reviewed information regarding the biology, ecology and fisheries oceanography. The Working Party also reviewed several abundance and stock indicators for swordfish, including catch trends, changes in fishing areas and CPUE trends. It was noted that increases in swordfish catches are usually linked to an expansion of the fishing zones and or local highs in concentration of fish. The Working Party considered the CPUE trends of the longline fisheries of Japan, La Réunion and Seychelles. The CPUE indices for Taiwan showed several anomalies that could not be resolved. The CPUE trends consistently indicate declines in areas where the swordfish resource has been more intensely exploited.

The Scientific Committee agreed with the conclusion of the WPB that the stocks of swordfish in the Indian Ocean should be closely monitored. The situation of the resource is highly complex, with local depletion apparently contradicting trends in different areas, etc. The Committee also agrees that it is necessary to improve the data available in order to be able to better assess targeting on swordfish.

The Committee recognized that it is a priority to obtain size data, preferably by sex, that would allow a better assessment of the status of the resource.

The Committee considered that it would be useful for the WPB to fully compare the detailed biological characteristics of swordfish observed in each ocean as a function of the environment (for instance sex ratio at size in spawning and feeding grounds). The reaction of the various swordfish stocks and fisheries to increasing fishing pressure, at a global and local scale, should also be usefully compared. Such an in-depth and comprehensive “between oceans review” of swordfish stocks and fisheries should be prepared before the next WPB meeting. Such work should include the acquisition of selected data bases which would allow further quantitative comparisons between stocks. Therefore, it recommended that the Secretariat make arrangements for conducting such a review in the most cost-effective way.

The Committee took note that the catches of swordfish have increased seven-fold in the last ten years, and agreed with the conclusion of the WPB that if further increases in catch and effort occur, it is likely that they will be unsustainable. Given the life history characteristics of swordfish, it is also likely that it will not be possible to detect over-fishing in time to correct serious damage to the stock.

The Committee recommends that, until the missing data are obtained and a stock assessment is achieved, and although a reduction of catch and effort is the preferable measure, at least no increases in catch and effort should be allowed.

Schedule of Working Party meetings in 2002

The Committee recommended that the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics be held in 2002 just before the fifth Session of the Scientific Committee to facilitate participation of scientists also attending that meeting.

The Committee agreed that the Working Party on Tropical Tunas should meet again during the first fortnight June 2002 with priority given to yellowfin tuna. The Committee welcomed the invitation from China to hold the meeting in Shanghai, agreeing that final arrangements be made at a later date by the Secretariat after contacts with the interested parties.

The Committee agreed that the Working Party on Tagging should meet for one day immediately after the Working Party in Tropical Tunas. The Committee pointed out many activities tagging would have to be carried out before the meeting, and agreed that this should be done in consultation between the interested parties and the Secretariat, including an interim meeting if necessary.

The Secretariat agreed that an ad-hoc Working Party on Methods should meet in 2002. The Committee agreed that the Working Party should focus on reviewing procedures for raising size and catch-and-effort data and on a review of stock status indicators. It was further agreed that these tasks could be carried out during two days before the Working Parties on Tropical Tunas and Tagging. The final dates will be decided in consultation with the Chinese authorities.

The Committee noted that there was not sufficient justification for a meeting of the Working Party on Billfish in 2002 as it was unlikely that there would be important changes in the availability of data on these species.

The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should continue with the arrangements for the first meeting Working Party on Neritic Tunas to be held in 2002. The Committee welcomed the proposal by Iran to hold the meeting in September 2002 in Bandar-Abbas, and agreed that final arrangements be made at a later date by the Secretariat after contacts with the interested parties.

The Committee noted a sharp increase in the catches of albacore tuna recorded since 1998. It was suggested that a document be prepared for the session of the Scientific Committee to evaluate the situation of this species and to assess then the need for convening a meeting of the Working Party on Temperate Tunas.

The Committee discussed on the need of *ad hoc* Working Parties on By-catch and Environment to be held in 2002. It was agreed that there is no justification for these Working Parties to be held unless enough participation is assured. The Committee noted that other organizations hold meetings on these subjects, and invited scientists who participate in these meetings to report on their outcome in future sessions of the Scientific Committee.

6. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

General Considerations

When long living species such as bigeye or swordfish, which have about 10 to 15 exploited year classes, are exploited with rapidly increasing fishing effort, trends which are clearly observed in the Indian Ocean for both stocks, the observed catches are always higher than the equilibrium catches that would be taken under stable fishing effort. Because of this disequilibrium, keeping the effort (and fishing mortality) constant will lead to decreasing catches, until the fisheries and stocks reach the equilibrium corresponding to that fishing mortality. In such situations of disequilibrium, trying to maintain constant catches would necessarily involve permanently increasing the fishing mortality, in order to compensate for the stock decline.

In the present context of increasing fishing effort in the Indian Ocean, keeping the fishing pressure constant would be theoretically safer than maintaining a constant catch, even if the effort is larger than the fishing mortality corresponding to the MSY. Conversely, if catches are permanently larger than the MSY, keeping catches constant would unavoidably lead to overfishing of the stock.

Bigeye tuna

Despite some unresolved uncertainties, the stock assessment of bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean indicates that fishing mortality is close to the level that produces MSY and that the population is currently above the MSY level. Bigeye catches in the past six years (1994-99) have been substantially above the estimated MSY level (90,000 t), but projections suggest that if the current catches continue at the 1999 level, the spawning stock biomass will fall to levels well below the one that produces MSY in five or six years. Therefore, the Committee recommends that a reduction in catches of bigeye tuna from all gears, eventually to the level of MSY, be started as soon as possible.

The reduction of catches can be achieved by direct control of the catches (establishing a total allowable catch); likewise, maintaining the fishing mortality rate (F) at its current level would result in a reduction of catches to the level of the MSY. Recognising that controlling fishing mortality rate would be very difficult in practice, the Scientific Committee recommended that the control of the catches or, alternatively, fishing effort would be technically more realistic and feasible.

To achieve this objective, and considering differences in characteristics of the longline and purse-seine fisheries for bigeye tuna, different approaches may be considered to reduce catches in each fishery; for example, a time-area closure and/or effort control for the purse seine fishery and a catch quota and/or effort control for the longline fishery.

The Committee noted that a control in fishing effort of purse seine and longline could be effective in reducing fishing mortality for other tuna or tuna-like stocks which may already be near to or below the biomass corresponding to the MSY (e.g., southern bluefin tuna, swordfish, yellowfin tuna).

Swordfish

The Committee took note that the catches of swordfish have increased seven-fold in the last ten years, and agreed with the conclusion of the WPB that if further increases in catch and effort occur, it is likely that they

will be unsustainable. Given the life history characteristics of swordfish, it is also likely that it will not be possible to detect over-fishing in time to correct serious damage to the stock.

The Committee recommends that, until the missing data are obtained and a stock assessment is achieved, and although a reduction of catch and effort is the preferable measure, at least no increases in catch and effort should be allowed.

7. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF DATA COLLECTION AND STATISTICS

Proposal for a joint IOTC-OFCF project to improve statistical systems in Indian Ocean coastal countries

The Secretariat presented document IOTC-SC-01-08, a proposal for a joint project between IOTC and the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF), from Japan. Contacts between the Secretariat and the OFCF early in 2001 led to a proposed project that would address the main needs regarding data collection and statistics in selected developing countries of the region. The activities under the project will follow the recommendations of the Commission and its relevant subsidiary bodies regarding the need to improve data collection and statistics, with no direct financial implications for IOTC Member countries. This project could be extended up to five years at an annual funding level of about \$500,000.

The plan of action for the first year includes fact-finding missions to developing countries from the region, followed by a workshop on data collection and processing systems in these countries and the provision of direct assistance as required to design and implement data collection and processing systems.

Several countries and/or fisheries in the Indian Ocean are identified as primary targets of the programme. Among these the Secretariat stressed the need for immediate action in Indonesia and in other coastal countries having important tuna fisheries, especially with gillnets which catch a size range of fish which is generally missing from other fisheries.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the OFCF for this initiative and strongly recommended that this project be executed following the plan of action presented in the proposal. The Committee recommended that a field manual including details about species identification, data collection methodology and other relevant information should also be produced under the auspices of this project.

Multilateral cooperation to improve data collection system in Indonesia

The Secretariat presented the document IOTC/SC/01/09, describing the proposed multilateral cooperative arrangements to improve the data collection and processing systems in Indonesia. The activities in Indonesia will be conducted under the framework of IOTC and would include both bilateral or multilateral components involving Indonesian institutions, the IOTC Secretariat, the OFCF (Japan) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) (with funding from Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Australia). To make effective use of the available resources, a Steering Committee including all participating parties will coordinate and monitor all relevant activities. The first meeting of this Steering Committee is expected to take place in early 2002.

The Committee welcomed this initiative, commending the assistance provided by Japan and Australia to the staff of the Secretariat in improving the national statistical system in Indonesia

8. PROGRESS ON A SURVEY OF PREDATION OF LONGLINE-CAUGHT FISH (IOTC/SC/01/10)

The Scientific Committee invited the countries involved in the survey of predation of longline-caught fish to report on the progress achieved during 2001.

Japan reported that, from September 2000 to September 2001 a total of 832 longline Japanese operations in the Indian Ocean reported predation-related catch losses. The average composition of damaged species was dominated by yellowfin, bigeye, albacore and swordfish; about 32% of the predators are false killer and killer whales, and 62% are sharks based on bite marks on damaged fish. Damage caused by whales can be easily differentiated from that caused by sharks. Because of a current limitation in the survey programme,

reports of predation are received only when predation occurs, which precludes the computation of overall predation rates. This is expected to be solved through changes in the predation survey form.

Seychelles indicated that they are highly concerned as predation by marine mammals represents a major economic loss for their semi-industrial longline fishery. Information about predation has been collected since the beginning of the domestic fishery in 1995 and the trends in the predation rates were presented at the last WPB. Since 1999, foreign longline fleets licensed in Seychelles have been supplied with modified logsheets so as to record the number of fish by set lost to predation.

La Réunion has been collecting predation information since 1992. A summary of this research has been written and will be published shortly. About 6% of longline sets are subject to predation, and currently there are preliminary experiments with the use of acoustic repellents with no positive results. The research focus includes obtaining a better understanding of the species involved and their distribution, as well as collecting more data.

Australia suggested that monitoring shark by-catch would be useful to determine if there is a relationship between shark abundance and the incidence of damage to longline-caught fish by sharks. A pilot study on the effectiveness of acoustic deterrents to prevent predation on longline-caught fish by marine mammals is underway in Australia.

Australia stated that it is not clear what is the impact of longline-caught fish predation on the stock assessment. It is likely that damaged fish are not recorded in logbooks and, with the high predation rates reported, this would have an important impact on the stock assessment. Several participants indicated that vessels do not record damaged fish and it was concluded that this issue requires further consideration.

Mauritius reported surveys that indicate that marine mammal predation rates reach about 20% during the summer months, and is lower during the winter.

India reported rates of predation of 15 to 16% of yellowfin, swordfish and other species. These results will be published soon in a more comprehensive report.

The Scientific Committee considers that these studies are of great importance and encouraged participating countries to continue with this work. It also recommended that the studies on prevention of predation be extended to other regions. The Committee also requested that countries involved in these studies report their findings to the appropriate Working Party, and in particular to the WPTT.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The use of marine protected areas

The European Community presented some consideration on the potential use of marine protected areas applied to tuna fisheries and offshore pelagic ecosystems. The implementation of such areas was introduced as potentially useful tool to reduce the catches of both by-catch and target species.

Concern was expressed that presenting a concrete model or map of marine protected areas prematurely may result in some groups citing it out of the context, and it may be harmful for the actual development of such a model in the future.

The Committee noted that it would be difficult to assess the political and socio-economic implications that the implementation of such a measure could have. The Committee further agreed that more research was needed on the consequences that these measures could have from both social and biological points of view.

Australia informed the Scientific Committee that an International Symposium on Marine Protected Areas will be held in Cairns in August next year, inviting all interested scientists to participate.

Research on tunas in relation with the environment and ecosystem

The European Community briefed the Scientific Committee on several meetings held last year regarding the interactions between fish populations and environment. The Committee agreed that such interactions should be studied globally rather than be limited to specific areas.

The Committee agreed that scientists participating in these meetings should continue to report to the relevant Working Parties and the Scientific Committee on the progress achieved to assess the implications that these studies could have in the Indian Ocean context.

Production of Executive Summaries on the status of the species

The Scientific Committee agreed on the need of an Executive Report for species of interest in the Commission's charter. This report should be a short summary of the major issues, relevant figures and tables and recommendations for the incumbent species.

The Committee further agreed that the preparation of such documents for all species would be beyond the expected tasks of the Secretariat. Therefore, the Committee recommended that each species Working Party designate a participant to be responsible for the production of such report for each of the species under the mandate of the Working Party. The Secretariat could probably prepare similar reports for species not covered by Working Parties.

Policy for the presentation of documents to the Scientific Committee

The Committee discussed several proposed changes to the editorial policy regarding the reception of papers for the meetings of the Scientific Committee. It was agreed that, as a general principle, the Committee should not accept papers that could have been assessed more thoroughly within the appropriate Working Party. However, the Committee is aware that such a strict policy would also hinder the presentation of information that might be relevant to their tasks.

It was agreed that a Selection Subcommittee, which would include the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, the Chairpersons of Working Parties and a staff member from the Secretariat should be formed and charged with the task of selecting papers to be admitted for presentation during the sessions of the Scientific Committee.

The task of this Selection Subcommittee is to decide on the most appropriate forum to review the documents submitted for consideration by the Scientific Committee. In general, documents dealing with stock assessment should not be reviewed during the Committee sessions unless they relate to species not covered by WP activities. Papers dealing with scientific issues of general interest would also be acceptable for presentation to the Committee.

The Scientific Committee agreed that papers should be made available before the start of the session and agreed to request the Commission that such documents be allowed to be presented in the original language, with interpretation, without the need for them to be translated.

In response to a query from the Secretariat on the editorial policies to be applied to the documents presented to the Working Parties, it was agreed that content is mainly the responsibility of the authors. The Committee requested the Secretariat to produce a set of simple format standards for submissions and encouraged the Secretariat to continue with the electronic publication and dissemination through CD-ROM of the documents presented to the Working Parties

Report on the activities of the ICCAT SCRS

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee reported on the current activities of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), highlighting the conclusions of the Methods Working Group, the completion of the work of the Working Group on the Precautionary Approach and the most recent decisions concerning the mode of operation of the SCRS.

National Reports

The Scientific Committee agreed to request from countries, whether they attend or not the next session, to present the Committee with a National Report which would provide general fisheries statistics, report on the implementation of Committee recommendations, national research programs currently in place and other relevant subjects. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a template with an outline of items that should be included in the report to guide in the preparation of such reports.

Fishing Capacity Research Programme (FAO)

The Scientific Committee was informed by the FAO representative that, next year, the organization may receive funds for a technical project on management of tuna fishing capacity at a global scale. The main objectives of the project are to provide technical information necessary for the management of tuna fishing capacity, and to consider and resolve technical problems associated with that management on a global scale, taking into account conservation and socio-economic issues. The preparatory work will include, among other activities, convening an Expert Consultation on the subject. It is desirable to invite the collaboration of bodies involved in the management of tuna fisheries such as IOTC, IATTC, ICCAT, CCSBT, FFA and SPC. It is envisaged that the project's Steering Committee would be composed of technical representatives of these organizations, donor countries and FAO.

The Scientific Committee supports the project as being relevant to one of the Commission's main areas of concern.

10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The Report of the Fourth Session of the Scientific Committee was adopted December 7th, 2001.

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APPENDIX II. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

1. *Opening of the Session*
2. *Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session (IOTC/SC/01/01)*
3. *Admission of observers*
4. *Progress Report of the Secretariat (IOTC/SC/01/02)*
5. *Report of the Working Parties*
 - Report of the Permanent Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS) (IOTC/SC/01/03)*
 - Report of the ad hoc Working Party on Methods (WPM) (IOTC-SC-01-04)*
 - Report of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT) (IOTC-SC-01-05)*
 - Report of the Working Party on Tagging (WPT) (IOTC/SC/01/06)*
 - Report of the Working Party on Billfishes (WPB) (IOTC/SC/01/07)*
 - Schedule of Working Party meetings in 2002*
6. *Management recommendations*
 - General Considerations*
 - Bigeye tuna*
 - Swordfish*
7. *Proposed activities for the improvement of data collection and statistics*
 - Proposal for a joint IOTC-OFCF project to improve statistical systems in Indian Ocean coastal countries*
 - Multilateral cooperation to improve data collection system in Indonesia*
8. *Progress on a survey of predation of longline-caught fish (IOTC/SC/01/10)*
9. *Any other business*
 - The use of marine protected areas*
 - Research on tunas in relation with the environment and ecosystem*
 - Production of Executive Summaries on the status of the species*
 - Policy for the presentation of documents to the Scientific Committee*
 - Report on the activities of the SCRS*
 - National Reports*
 - Fishing Capacity Research Programme (FAO)*
10. *Adoption of the Report*

APPENDIX III. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

IOTC-SC-01-01	Provisional Agenda.
IOTC-SC-01-02	Progress Report of the Secretariat.
IOTC-SC-01-03	Report of the Permanent Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS).
IOTC-SC-01-04	Report of the <i>ad hoc</i> Working Party on Methods (WPM).
IOTC-SC-01-05	Report of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT).
IOTC-SC-01-06	Report of the Working Party on Tagging (WPT).
IOTC-SC-01-07	Report of the Working Party on Billfish (WPB).
IOTC-SC-01-08	Proposal for a joint IOTC-OFCF project to improve statistical systems in Indian Ocean coastal countries
IOTC-SC-01-09	Multilateral cooperation to improve data collection system in Indonesia
IOTC-SC-01-10	Progress on a survey of predation of longline-caught fish.
IOTC-SC-01-11	Progress on a survey of predation of longline-caught fish (Japan). <i>National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Japan</i>
IOTC-SC-01-12	Meeting of the Standing Committee for the Research and Statistics of ICCAT Madrid, Spain, October 8-12 2001. <i>Pianet,R.</i>

**APPENDIX XII – BUDGET AND SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE
COMMISSION FOR 2002**

Budget for 2002 (US\$)

	Budget (US\$)
PROFESSIONAL STAFF	
Secretary - D-1	173 225
Deputy Secretary - P-5	156 825
Data Manager - P-3	141 450
Programmer - P-3	141 450
Translator/Editor P-2	115 000
SUB-TOTAL	727 950
ADMIN. SUPPORT	
Administrative Asst. - G-6	23 428
Database Assistant G-6	23 428
Bilingual Secretary - G-4	16 430
Publications Assistant G-4	16 172
Driver/Messenger - G-2	11 737
Messenger/Cleaner - G-1	8 881
Overtime	10 000
SUB-TOTAL	110 076
TOTAL STAFF	838 026
Consultants	25 000
Duty travel	50 000
Sampling	12 000
Meetings	50 000
Interpretation, translation & editing	40 000
Equipment	15 000
Operating expenses	36 000
Miscellaneous	20 000
SUB-TOTAL	1 086 026
Deductions (staff housing)	-22 000
TOTAL	1 064 026
FAO Servicing Costs	47 881
GRAND TOTAL	1 111 907

Scale of Contributions for 2002

Country	1999 WB economic classification	OECD	Average Catch 1997-1999	Contribution
Australia	HIGH	Yes	9 430	\$84 306
China	MEDIUM	No	110 645	\$52 918
Comoros	LOW	No	8 580	\$14 076
Eritrea	LOW	No	319	\$5 560
European Community	HIGH	Yes	211 238	\$316 687
France(IO Terr.)	HIGH	Yes	615	\$74 155
India	LOW	No	95 639	\$34 126
Iran, Islamic Republic of	MEDIUM	No	75 477	\$44 819
Japan	HIGH	Yes	48 451	\$129 238
Korea, Republic of	MEDIUM	Yes	10 119	\$39 090
Madagascar	LOW	No	11 333	\$14 710
Malaysia	MEDIUM	No	12 079	\$30 219
Mauritius	MEDIUM	No	4 050	\$28 370
Oman	MEDIUM	No	25 770	\$33 372
Pakistan	LOW	No	35 599	\$20 299
Seychelles	MEDIUM	No	19 741	\$31 983
Sri Lanka	LOW	No	85 658	\$47 164
Sudan	LOW	No	>1	\$5 560
Thailand	MEDIUM	No	47 386	\$38 350
United Kingdom(IO Terr.)	HIGH	Yes	0	\$66 906