
**RESOLUTION ON THE LIMITATION OF FISHING CAPACITY, IN TERMS
OF NUMBER OF VESSELS, OF IOTC CONTRACTING PARTIES AND
CO-OPERATING NON CONTRACTING PARTIES**

Submitted by EC

THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION (IOTC),

RECOGNISING that the Scientific Committee has expressed concerns on the status of the main stocks in the IOTC Area;

TAKING NOTE in particular of the Scientific Committees recommendation that a reduction in catches of big-eye tuna from all gears, eventually to the level of MSY, be started as soon as possible and that fishing effort should be reduced or, at least, that it should not increase further;

CONSCIOUS of the further Scientific Committee recommendation that management measures focused on controlling and/or reducing effort in the fishery targeting swordfish in the south west Indian Ocean be implemented;

CONCERNED that the Scientific Committee considered that the total catches of yellowfin tuna were possibly above MSY, and that any further increase of fishing effort and catch should be avoided;

AWARE that the issue of excess fishing capacity is of worldwide concern and is the subject of an International Plan of Action developed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization;

NOTING that FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of the Fishing Capacity (IPOA) stipulates in its Objectives and Principles that States and Regional Fisheries Organisations confronted with an overcapacity problem which is undermining the achievement of long-term sustainability outcomes, should endeavour initially to limit at the present level and progressively reduce the fishing capacity applied to affected fisheries;

UNDERSTANDING that excess fishing capacity in a region makes it more difficult for Governments to agree on and implement effective conservation and management measures for the fisheries of that region;

RECALLING the *Resolution 01/04 on Limitation of Fishing Effort of non-Members of IOTC whose Vessels Fish Big-eye Tuna* adopted at the 2001 meeting;

RECALLING that the *Resolution 03/01 on the limitation of Fishing Capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties* adopted at the 2003 meeting;

RECALLING that the *Resolution 05/01 on conservation and management measures for big-eye tuna* was adopted at the 2005 meeting;

RECALLING that the *Resolution 05/04 concerning the registration and exchange of information on vessels, fishing for tropical tunas and swordfish in the IOTC area of competence* was adopted at the 2005 meeting;

BELIEVING that it is important to limit fishing capacity in the IOTC area in order to help ensure that the tuna fisheries in the region are conducted at a sustainable level;

SEEKING TO ADDRESS the problem of excess capacity in the tuna purse-seine and longliners fleet operating in the IOTC area by limiting such capacity to a level which, in harmony with other agreed management measures and projected and actual levels of catch, will ensure that tuna and swordfish fisheries in the region are conducted at a sustainable level,

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (hereafter named CPCs) shall limit the number of their vessels, by gear type, of over 24 m overall length, and under 24 metres if they fish outside their EEZ, fishing for tropical tunas in the IOTC area of competence, to the number of their vessels notified to IOTC for 2006 in accordance with IOTC Resolution 05/04 Concerning Registration And Exchange Of Information On Vessels, Including Flag Of Convenience Vessels, Fishing For Tropical Tunas and swordfish in the IOTC Area Of Competence.
2. In notifying their vessels fishing for tropical tunas in the area in 2006, the CPCs shall verify, through their VMS records, catch reports and port calls, or other means, the effective presence and fishing activities of their vessels in the IOTC area in 2006.
3. In relation to the foregoing, the Commission takes note of the interests of the Developing Coastal States, in particular small island Developing States and territories within the IOTC Convention Area whose economies depend largely on fisheries, and recognises their rights and obligations in accordance with paragraph 3 and 4 of IOTC Resolution 03/01 on the limitation of Fishing Capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties.
4. This Resolution is applicable during the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. The Commission shall review its implementation at the 2010 IOTC Plenary Session.
5. CPCs will take the commitment to adopt a similar capacity limitation for vessels of 24 metres overall length, and also vessels under 24 metres when they fish in international waters, fishing for swordfish in the IOTC area of competence at the 2007 IOTC Plenary Session.
6. To urge all non-Parties to provide the information required by this Resolution and comply with its provisions.