

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MANDATORY STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC.  
AS PROVIDED BY THE WPTT-2007 TO THE SC-2007**

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At its 11th Session, the Commission requested that the Scientific Committee examine the recent proposal on mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members (IOTC-2007-S11-PropE-rev1) and provide advice on which data are required for scientific purposes. In support of this, the WPTT examined the document and made the following technical-based recommendations for the Scientific Committees deliberations (IOTC-2007-WPTT-R).

Three versions of Resolution are given below:

Document 1.

with changes recommended by the WPTT-2007 to IOTC-2007-S11-Prop E –rev1

Document 2.

IOTC-2007-S11-Prop E –rev1 (revised Mandatory statistics resolution discussed by the Commission at its 11<sup>th</sup> session)

Document 3.

the original mandatory stats resolution 01/05

**RESOLUTION XX/XX**  
**MANDATORY STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC MEMBERS**

**The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)**

**GIVEN** that the Agreement for the implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fishstocks (UNFSA) encourages coastal States and fishing States on the high seas to collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, inter alia, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort.

**NOTING** that the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing provides that States should compile fishery-related and other supporting scientific data relating to fish stocks covered by subregional or regional fisheries management organizations and provide them in a timely manner to the organization.

**RECALLING** the commitment made by members under Article V of the IOTC Agreement to keep under review the conditions and trends of the stocks and to gather, analyse and disseminate scientific information, catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation and management of the stocks and to fisheries based on the stocks covered by the Agreement.

**COGNISANT** that the above commitment can only be achieved when members meet the requirements of Article XI of the IOTC Agreement i.e. to provide statistical and other data and information to minimum specifications and in a timely manner.

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the IOTC Scientific Committee has repeatedly stressed the importance of the timeliness of data submissions.

**GIVEN** 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.

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

1. CPC's shall provide the following information to the IOTC Secretariat according to the timelines specified in paragraph 6:
2. Nominal catch data:  
Estimates of the total annual catch by species and gear for all species under the IOTC mandate.

3. Catch and effort data:

- (a) For surface fisheries on the high seas ~~For Surface fisheries~~ (including purse seine, bait boat, troll and drift nets): catch weight by species and fishing effort shall be provided by 1° grid area and month strata. Purse seine fishery data shall be stratified by fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects). The data shall be extrapolated to the total national monthly catches for each gear. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely.
- (b) **Longline fisheries**: catch by species, in numbers and/or weight, and effort as the number of hooks deployed shall be provided by 5<sup>1</sup>° grid area and month strata. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely.
- (c) **For artisanal, small scale and sport coastal fisheries**: available catch by species, fishing gear and fishing effort shall be submitted frequently and may be provided using an alternative geographical area if it better represents the fishery concerned.

4. Size data:

Size data shall be provided for all gears and for all species covered by the IOTC mandate according to the guidelines set out by the IOTC Scientific Committee. Size sampling shall be run under strict and well described random sampling schemes which are necessary to provide unbiased figures of the sizes taken. Length data by species, including the total number of fish measured, shall be submitted by a 5° grid area by month, by gear and fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects for the purse seiners).

5. Given 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 data shall be provided:~~Data from fishing for tunas in association with floating objects including Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs):~~

- (a) The 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. NOTE: The WPTT agreed that given the complexities of the operations of the current fleets, more time was needed for consideration of the technical issues associated with this paragraph. To this end, the WPTT requested the Scientific Committee to examine this matter at its next meeting
- (b) Number of days at sea by supply vessels by 1° grid area and month.~~Levels of activity of supply vessels: including number of days at sea by 1° grid area and month.~~
- (c) The total number and type of FADs set by the fleet per quarter.~~The total number and type of FADs set by the fleet per month.~~

6. Timeliness of data submission to the IOTC Secretariat:

- (a) **Longline fleets operating in the high seas** shall provide provisional data for the previous year no later than 30 June. Final data shall be submitted no later than 30 December.
- (b) **All other fleets (including supply vessels)** shall submit their final data for the previous year no later than 30 June.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MANDATORY STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC. AS  
PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION IN DOCUMENT IOTC-2007-S11-PropE-rev1[E]**

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**RESOLUTION XX/XX  
MANDATORY STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC MEMBERS**

**The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)**

**GIVEN** that the Agreement for the implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fishstocks (UNFSA) encourages coastal States and fishing States on the high seas to collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, inter alia, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort.

**NOTING** that the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing provides that States should compile fishery-related and other supporting scientific data relating to fish stocks covered by subregional or regional fisheries management organizations and provide them in a timely manner to the organization.

**RECALLING** the commitment made by members under Article V of the IOTC Agreement to keep under review the conditions and trends of the stocks and to gather, analyse and disseminate scientific information, catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation and management of the stocks and to fisheries based on the stocks covered by the Agreement.

**COGNISANT** that the above commitment can only be achieved when members meet the requirements of Article XI of the IOTC Agreement i.e. to provide statistical and other data and information to minimum specifications and in a timely manner.

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the IOTC Scientific Committee has repeatedly stressed the importance of the timeliness of data submissions.

**GIVEN** 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.

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

2. CPC's shall provide the following information to the IOTC Secretariat according to the timelines specified in paragraph 6:

2. Nominal catch data:

Estimates of the total annual catch by species and gear for all species under the IOTC mandate.

3. Catch and effort data:

- (d) **For Surface fisheries (including purse seine, bait boat, troll and drift nets):** catch weight by species and fishing effort shall be provided by 1° grid area and month strata. Purse seine fishery data shall be stratified by fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects). The data shall be extrapolated to the total national monthly catches for each gear. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely.
- (e) **Longline fisheries:** catch by species, in numbers and weight, and effort as the number of hooks deployed shall be provided by 5° grid area and month strata. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely.
- (f) **For artisanal, small scale and sport fisheries:** available catch by species, fishing gear and fishing effort shall be submitted frequently and may be provided using an alternative geographical area if it better represents the fishery concerned.

4. Size data:

Size data shall be provided for all gears and for all species covered by the IOTC mandate according to the guidelines set out by the IOTC Scientific Committee. Size sampling shall be run under strict and well described random sampling schemes which are necessary to provide unbiased figures of the sizes taken. Length data by species, including the total number of fish measured, shall be submitted by a 5° grid area by month, by gear and fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects for the purse seiners).

5. Data from fishing for tunas in association with floating objects including Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs):

- (a) The 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.
- (b) Levels of activity of supply vessels: including number of days at sea by 1° grid area and month.
- (c) The total number and type of FADs set by the fleet per month.

6. Timeliness of data submission to the IOTC Secretariat:

- (a) **Longline fleets operating in the high seas** shall provide provisional data for the previous year no later than 30 June. Final data shall be submitted no later than 30 December.
- (b) **All other fleets (including supply vessels)** shall submit their final data for the previous year no later than 30 June.

## EXISTING

### *RESOLUTION 01/05<sup>1</sup>*

#### *MANDATORY STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC MEMBERS*

##### *Catch and effort data*

**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.

**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.

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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>** (for the previous year data). They must provide the **final estimate** of their fishery data **before December 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> In practice, this Resolution has superseded Resolution 98/01