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# OBSERVER PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT and OBSERVER LOGISTICAL COORDINATION WORKSHOP



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# IOTC Resolutions relevant to National Observer Programmes

*IOTC ROS OLC TR1.03*

Category: Mandate for Observer Deployment

*[IOTC ROS OLC TR1]*



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# The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

- Intergovernmental organization.
- Manages tuna and tuna-like species
- Membership open to FAO members that are:
  - Indian Ocean coastal States
  - States whose vessels engage in fishing in the IOTC area
  - Regional economic integration organizations (e.g. EU)
- Key functions and responsibilities (include)
  - Adoption of conservation and management measures (CMM) to ensure the conservation of the stocks and promote their optimum utilisation. CMMs are passed in the form of:
    - **Resolutions** - binding on the Commission Members;
    - **Recommendations** - not binding on the Members and rely on voluntary implementation.



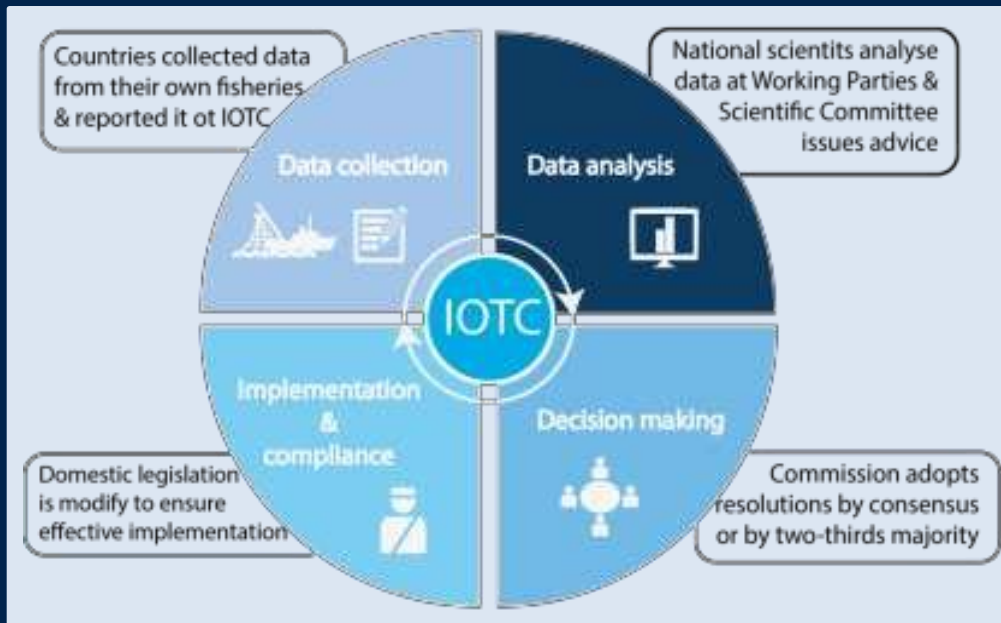
IOTC area of jurisdiction and member countries (FAO, 2014)



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# Establishment and implementation of IOTC Resolutions



- Resolutions are binding on the Commission Members.
- IOTC Members are to:
  - integrate Resolutions into domestic legislation
  - ensure Resolutions are effectively implemented
  - verify compliance with Resolutions.

- Resolutions can be searched here: <https://iotc.org/cmms>





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# IOTC Resolutions relevant to Observer Programmes

## — GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

## — RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO TUNA DISCARDS

## — SPECIES SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

- SEABIRDS
- TURTLES
- CETACEANS
- MARLINS
- SHARKS and RAYS



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# GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

- **11/04: On a Regional Observer Scheme**
- **15/02: Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties**
- **15/03: On the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Programme**
- **16/07: On the use of artificial lights to attract fish to drifting fish aggregating devices**
- **17/07: To prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC area**
- **18/03: On Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the IOTC Area of Competence.**
- **19/02: Procedures on a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Management Plan**
- **19/04: Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence.**
- **19/06: On Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels**
- **19/07: Vessel chartering in the IOTC area of competence**



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## RES 11/04-REGIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME

- ☐ To collect verified catch data and other scientific data related to the fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence.
- ☐ Each Country Member shall ensure a minimum of 5% observer coverage of the number of operations/sets for each gear type of its domestic fleet by observer programs :
  - ☐ flagged fleet of 24 meters overall length and over,
  - ☐ flagged fleet of under 24 meters if they fish outside their EEZ



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## RES 11/04-REGIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME

- **Each Member Country is responsible for:**
  - Hiring and training qualified observers;
  - Endeavour that the minimum level of coverage is met;
  - Take all necessary measures to ensure that observers are able to carry out their duties in a competent and safe manner;
  - Endeavour to ensure that the observers alternate vessels between their assignments;
  - Ensure that the vessel on which an observer is placed shall provide suitable food and lodging during the observer's deployment at the same level as the officers, where possible; and
  - To meet observer scheme costs.



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## RESOLUTION ON TUNA DISCARDS

- **Res 19/05: Ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna;**
  - **all purse seine vessels to retain on board and land all bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, and yellowfin tuna caught, except fish considered unfit for human consumption.**
  - **all purse seine vessels to retain on board and land, the following non-targeted species or species group; other tunas, rainbow runner, dolphinfish, triggerfish, billfish, wahoo, and barracuda, except fish considered unfit for human consumption.**
  - **other gear types encouraged to:**
    - a) **ensure the safe release of non-targeted species if taken alive;**
    - b) **retain on board and land all dead non-targeted species except those considered unfit for human consumption and those with landing prohibitions.**



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## RESOLUTION ON TUNA DISCARDS

- **Res 19/05: Ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna**

### **Procedures for the implementation of full retention requirements**

- **No bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, and/or yellowfin tuna caught by purse seine vessels may be discarded after the point in the set when the net is fully pursed and more than one half of the net has been retrieved.**
- **"unfit for human consumption" are fish**
  - **is meshed or crushed in the purse seine; or**
  - **is damaged due to depredation; or**
  - **died and spoiled in the net where a gear failure has prevented both the normal retrieval of the net and catch.**



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# SUMMARY RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING SHARKS

- **Res 17/05: On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC**
  - **all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins to be retained by the FV;**
  - **fins on-board are not to total > 5 % of the weight of sharks on-board;**
  - **sharks carcasses and fins should be offloaded together;**
  - **live sharks, especially juveniles and pregnant sharks should be released if possible without endangering the crew;**
  - **fishers should be aware of and use species identification guides and recommended handling practices.**



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# SUMMARY RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING SHARKS

- Res. 12/09: On the conservation of thresher sharks (family *Alopiidea*)
  - It is prohibited to retain on board, tranship, land, store, sell or offer for sale any shark from the *Alopiidea* family (thresher sharks).
- Res. 13/06: Scientific and management framework on the conservation of sharks
  - Vessels should release unharmed oceanic whitetip sharks and record incidental catches as well as live releases.
- Res. 18/02: On management measures for the conservation of blue shark
  - data collection programmes to ensure improved reporting of accurate blue shark catch, effort, size and discard data.



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# SUMMARY RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING SHARKS

- **Res. 13/05: On the conservation of whale sharks**
  - In the event that a whale shark is unintentionally encircled in the purse seine net, the master of the vessel shall take all reasonable steps to ensure its safe release;
  - The incident to be reported via logbook and/or Observer report (No. of individuals; description, location; steps taken to ensure safe release; animal condition before and after release).



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# SUMMARY RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING RAYS

- Res 19/03: On the conservation of mobulid rays
  - **It is prohibited for any vessels to intentionally set any gear type for targeted fishing of mobulid rays, including purse seines if the animal is sighted prior to the start of the set;**
  - **It is prohibited for any vessels to retain onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, any part or whole carcass of mobulid rays.**
  - **All fishing vessels, other than those carrying out subsistence fishery, to promptly release alive and unharmed, to the extent practicable, mobulid rays as soon as they are seen, and to do it in a manner that will result in the least possible harm to the individuals captured (i.e. using recommended handling procedures).**



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- **Res 19/03: On the conservation of mobulid rays (continued)**
  - **Mobulid rays unintentionally caught by and frozen as part of a purse seine vessel's operation, to be surrendered to the responsible governmental authorities, or other competent authority, or discarded at landing. Mobulid rays surrendered may not be sold or bartered but may be donated for purposes of human consumption;**
  - **information and data collected on interactions (i.e. number of discards and releases) with mobulid rays by vessels to be reported via logbook or Observer report;**
  - **fishers should be aware of and use proper mitigation, identification, handling and releasing techniques and keep on board all necessary equipment for the release of mobulid rays in accordance with the recommended handling guidelines.**
  - **Scientific observers shall be allowed to collect biological samples of mobulid rays that are dead at haul-back, provided that the samples are a part of a research project approved by the IOTC Scientific Committee.**



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# RESOLUTIONS ON SEABIRDS & SEA-TURTLES



• Res 12/06: On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries

- Data on seabird incidental bycatch by species to be recorded.
- Photographs of seabirds caught to be taken for ID confirmation.



• Res 13/06: On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with managed fisheries

- Interactions with marine turtles to be reported.
- Vessels to bring aboard, if practicable, any captured marine turtle that is comatose or inactive and foster its recovery, before safely returning it to the water.
- Vessels to use proper mitigation, identification, handling and de-hooking techniques and keep on board all necessary equipment for the release of marine turtles.



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# RESOLUTIONS ON CETACEANS



- **Res. 13/04: On the conservation of cetaceans**
  - **Purse-seiners prohibited to set a purse seine net around a cetacean if the animal is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.**
- **In the event that a cetacean is unintentionally encircled the master shall:**
  - **Take all reasonable steps to ensure the safe release of the cetacean following the best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of cetaceans.**
  - **Report the incident including: i. the species; No. of individuals; description of the interaction, position, steps taken to ensure safe release, release condition.**
  - **Data to be reported through logbooks, or through observer programs.**



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## RESOLUTIONS ON MARLINS

- **Res. 15/05: On conservation measures for striped marlin, black marlin and blue marlin**

**CPC(s) are encouraged to:**

- **make any possible effort to reduce the level of catches of their vessels for the following species: striped marlin, black marlin, and blue marlin.**
- **request their operators/fishing vessels to release marlin species brought alive on-board or alongside the vessel.**



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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION



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