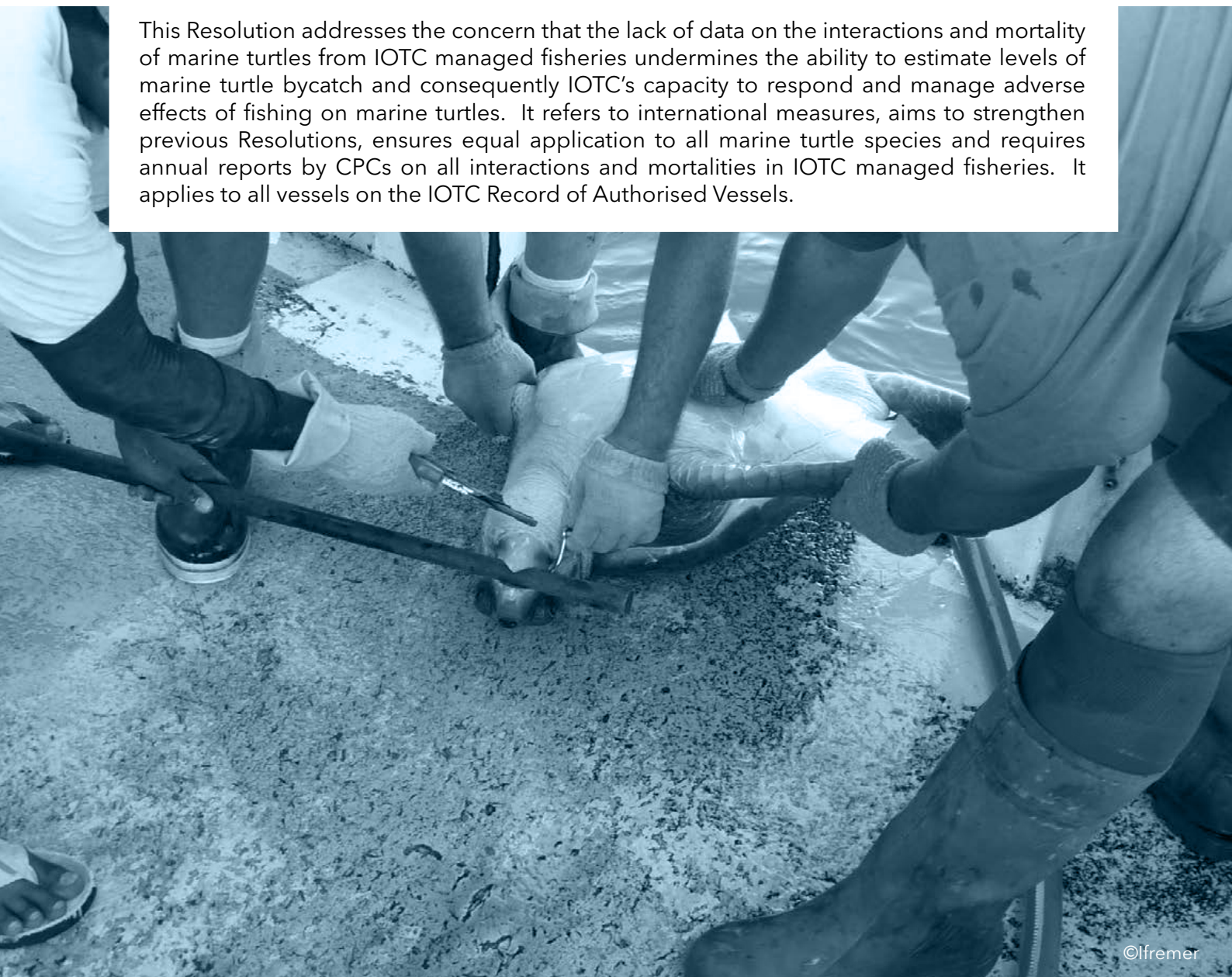


**RESOLUTION 12/04****ON THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE TURTLES**

APPLICABLE TO



This Resolution addresses the concern that the lack of data on the interactions and mortality of marine turtles from IOTC managed fisheries undermines the ability to estimate levels of marine turtle bycatch and consequently IOTC's capacity to respond and manage adverse effects of fishing on marine turtles. It refers to international measures, aims to strengthen previous Resolutions, ensures equal application to all marine turtle species and requires annual reports by CPCs on all interactions and mortalities in IOTC managed fisheries. It applies to all vessels on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.



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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

There are three reporting requirements for the flag State for this Resolution and one for all States. Flag States must report to the IOTC Secretariat of interactions, to the Scientific Committee on successful mitigation measures, and to the Commission on implementation of the FAO *Guidelines*. All CPCs are requested to undertake research on circle hooks, whole finfish bait, FADs designs, alternative handling practices, gillnet design and fishing practices, and to report the results to the Commission.

WHO

CPC FLAG STATE

ALL STATES

WHAT

Collect data on flag vessel interactions with marine turtles and report to the IOTC Secretariat

Report to the Commission - Article X on implementation of FAO Guidelines and this Resolution

Report to the Scientific Committee on successful mitigation measures and impacts on marine turtles

Report results of research trials on mitigation methods to the Scientific Committee

WHEN

DEADLINE

30 June for data from the previous year annually

DEADLINE

Attached to the Implementation Report, part C, 60 days before the Session of the Commission

DEADLINE

In the National Scientific Report 30 days before Scientific Committee meeting annually

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: FORMAT AND CONTENT

There are different templates for the reporting requirements on this Resolution depending on to whom the data and information must be provided.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT 1:

ALL DATA ON INTERACTIONS WITH MARINE TURTLES BY 30 JUNE EACH YEAR TO THE IOTC SECRETARIAT (PARA 3)

IMPLEMENTATION

- How to report: The flag State CPC should use the data report template related to discards.
- Reporting format: Data must be submitted in specified file format. The template spread-sheet forms can be accessed under <http://www.iotc.org/data/requested-statistics-and-submission-forms> (form 1DI)
- Where to send the information: The report should be sent to iotc-secretariat@fao.org

REPORTING REQUIREMENT 2:

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ATTACHED TO THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNEX X OF THE AGREEMENT, THEIR PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO GUIDELINES AND THIS RESOLUTION (PARA 5)

IMPLEMENTATION

- How to report: The flag State should report in the Implementation Report, part C, wherein it details the progress in the implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution.
- Reporting format: Template report on FAO Guidelines and Implementation Report are available at <http://www.iotc.org/compliance/reporting-templates>
- Where to send the information: The report should be sent to iotc-secretariat@fao.org

REPORTING REQUIREMENT 3:

REPORT TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANY SUCCESSFUL MITIGATION MEASURES AND OTHER IMPACTS ON MARINE TURTLES IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE, SUCH AS THE DETERIORATION OF NESTING SITES AND SWALLOWING OF MARINE DEBRIS. (PARA 4)

IMPLEMENTATION

- How to report: The flag State should report in the National Scientific Report, wherein it details any new mitigation measures that were successful, or any other impacts on marine turtles.
- Reporting format: In the National Scientific Report.
- Where to send the information: The report should be sent to iotc-secretariat@fao.org

REPORTING REQUIREMENT 4:

REPORT RESULTS OF RESEARCH TRIALS ON MITIGATION METHODS TO THE COMMISSION INCLUDING TRIALS OF CIRCLE HOOKS, USE OF WHOLEFISH FOR BAIT, ALTERNATIVE FAD DESIGNS, ALTERNATIVE HANDLING TECHNIQUES, GILLNET DESIGN AND FISHING PRACTICES AND ANY OTHER MITIGATION METHODS WHICH IMPROVE THE MITIGATION OF ADVERSE EFFECTS ON MARINE TURTLES. (PARA 10)

IMPLEMENTATION

- How to report: The flag State should report in the National Scientific Report details of any new mitigation measures that were successful, or any other impacts on marine turtles.
- Reporting format: In the National Scientific Report.
- Where to send: The report should be sent to iotc-secretariat@fao.org

TRANSPPOSITION INTO NATIONAL LAW

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

TO PROVIDE FOR CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF MARINE TURTLES (PARAS 8, 9)

- 1) The operator of any fishing vessel in Seychelles waters, or of any Seychelles registered vessel within areas beyond national jurisdiction shall:
 - a. ensure that any captured marine turtle that is comatose or inactive is brought aboard, if practicable, as soon as possible and foster its recovery, including aiding in its resuscitation, before safely returning it to the water;
 - b. where such fishing vessel is equipped with gillnet gear, record or caused to be recorded all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks and report such incidents to the [relevant Official/Authority];
 - c. where such fishing vessel is equipped with longline gear:
 - (i) carry line cutters and de-hookers on board the fishing vessel in order to facilitate the appropriate handling and prompt release of marine turtles caught or entangled, which shall be done in accordance with any Guidelines that may be provided by the [relevant Official/Authority];
 - (ii) where appropriate, encourage the use of whole finfish bait; and
 - (iii) record all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks, including the species of the marine turtle(s), and report such incidents to the [relevant Official/Authority];
 - d. where such fishing vessel is equipped with purse seine gear:
 - (i) to the extent practicable, avoid encirclement of marine turtles, and if a marine turtle is encircled or entangled, take practicable measures to safely release the turtle in accordance with such guidelines as may be provided by the [relevant Official/Authority];
 - (ii) to the extent practicable, release all marine turtles observed entangled in fish aggregating devices or other fishing gear;
 - (iii) if a marine turtle is entangled in the net, stop net roll as soon as the turtle comes out of the water, disentangle the turtle without injuring it before resuming the net roll and, to the extent practicable, assist the recovery of the turtle before returning it to the water;
 - (iv) carry and employ dip nets, when appropriate, to handle marine turtles; and
 - (v) record all incidents involving marine turtles during fishing operations in their logbooks and report such incidents to the [relevant Official/Authority].



COOPERATION REQUIREMENTS

CPCs are encouraged to collaborate with the IOSEA and take into account the IOSEA MoU including the provisions of the Conservation and Management Plan in the implementation of bycatch mitigation measures for marine turtles. (The IOSEA MoU is the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia.)

OBLIGATIONS OF THE INDUSTRY

Industry are required to report details on interactions with marine turtles to their flag State authorities through the logbook programme.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT

The IOTC and IOSEA Secretariats are to intensify their collaboration and information exchange on marine turtles in accordance with protocols agreed by the Commission. The IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU is coordinated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE COMMISSION & BODIES

The Scientific Committee must:

- task the working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch to:
 - (a) Develop recommendations on appropriate mitigation measures for gillnet, longline and purse seine fisheries in the IOTC area;
 - (b) Develop regional standards covering data collection, data exchange and training;
 - (c) Develop improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of marine turtles, including the use of biodegradable materials.
- review CPC reports and provide recommendations to the Commission to strengthen efforts to reduce turtle interactions in the IOTC fisheries.



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