



January 27th, 2012

IOTC CIRCULAR 2012/06

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION 10/01 – TIME AREA CLOSURE FOR LONGLINERS IN FEBRUARY 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Commission adopted at its 14th Session, held in March 2010 in the Republic of Korea, Resolution 10/01 *for the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence.*

This Resolution, applicable to vessels of 24 meters overall length and over and under 24 meters if they fish outside their EEZ, defines a closure area for longline vessels from 0000 hours on 1 February to 2400 hours on 1 March.

The closure area is defined by the following coordinates:

- 0° to 10° North
- 40° to 60° East

We would like to recall that all CPCs of the IOTC shall accordingly inform all interested parties and their longline fleet of the closure area for the month of February, and shall monitor the compliance of their vessels with this resolution. In addition, CPCs will provide a summary of VMS records related to their fleet operation for the consideration of the Compliance Committee during its next Session in April 2012.

Please find attached Resolution 10/01 for further reference.

Yours sincerely,

Alejandro Anganuzzi
Executive Secretary

Attachment: Resolution 10/01 *for the conservation and management of Tropical Tunas Stocks in the IOTC area of competence*

Distribution/Destinataires

IOTC Members/ Membres de la CTOI: Australia, Belize, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), Guinea, India, Indonesia, I.R. Iran, Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Rep. of Maldives, Mauritius, Sultanate of Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Rep. of Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vanuatu.

Chairperson IOTC / Président de la CTOI

Cooperating non-Contracting Parties/ Parties coopérantes non-contractantes: Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa.

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RESOLUTION 10/01
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL TUNAS STOCKS IN THE
IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNISING that based on past experience in the fishery, the potential production from the resource can be negatively impacted by excessive fishing effort;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the available scientific information and advice, in particular the IOTC Scientific Committee conclusions whereby the yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks might have been over or fully exploited in recent years;

RECOGNISING that during the 12th IOTC scientific meeting held in Seychelles from 30 November to 04 December 2009, the Scientific Committee recommended that yellowfin and bigeye tuna catches should not exceed the MSY levels which have been estimated at 300,000 tonnes for yellowfin and at 110,000 tonnes for bigeye tuna;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the implementation of a TAC without a quota allocation would result in an inequitable distribution of the catches and fishing opportunities among the IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) and non CPCs;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the tuna artisanal fisheries sector needs strengthening in terms of catch statistics reporting in order to more closely follow the catch situations and notwithstanding improvement in the industrial fishery catch statistics reporting requirements;

NOTING the importance of applying the precautionary approach for the management of the tropical tuna and swordfish stock, in particular yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean;

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

1. This resolution is applicable in 2011 and 2012 to all vessels of 24 meters overall length and over, and under 24 meters if they fish outside their EEZ, fishing within the IOTC area of competence.
2. With the view to decreasing the pressure on the main targeted stocks and in particular on the yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence for the years 2011 and 2012, the area defined by the following coordinates (Annex1) will be closed for longline vessels in each year from 0000 hours on 1 February to 2400 hours on 1 March, and for purse-seine vessels in each year from 0000 hours on 1 November to 2400 hours on 1 December:

0 ° - 10° North

40° and 60° East

3. All vessels fishing within the IOTC area of competence in 2011 and 2012, regardless of the flag under which they operate or whether they change flag during the year, shall observe the area and period closure.
4. CPCs flag states shall monitor the compliance of their vessels with this Resolution, notably through VMS, and will provide a summary of VMS records related to their fleet operation in the previous year for the consideration of the Compliance Committee.

5. Fishing vessels that do not comply with IOTC Resolution 06/03 "*On establishing a vessel monitoring system programme*" are not allowed to be active in the IOTC area of competence.
6. Landings, transshipments and commercial transactions of all species, and their products, that have been positively identified as originating from fishing activities that contravene this resolution, are prohibited.
7. Each CPC shall no later than 45 days before the date of entry into force of a closure:
 - a) take the necessary legal and administrative measures to implement the closure;
 - b) inform all interested parties and their national tuna and tuna-like species industries of the closure,
 - c) inform the IOTC Secretary that these steps have been taken.

8. In order to have a more extensive knowledge of the exploitation rate of these species and also the assessment of the feasibility of near real time reporting, the IOTC CPCs agree to implement as soon as possible a pilot project within the framework of the port sampling programme under Resolution 09/04, with a view to enhancing the gathering of catch data related to the activities of the artisanal fishery sector and to establishing a catch reporting system.

The pilot project shall be implemented for a 12 months period by the IOTC Secretariat in collaboration with the CPCs concerned.

The pilot project will contribute relevant information to the work of the Scientific Committee in future revision of stock estimates and in the assessment of the reporting requirements in respect of catch quota reporting, particularly in the artisanal fisheries.

The Scientific Committee will examine the results of the pilot project at its 2011 meeting and provide management advice to the Commission.

9. The Scientific Committee will provide at its 2010 plenary Session any appropriate management options based on the Kobe II matrix (Annex 2) for the consideration of the Commission.
10. The Scientific Committee will provide at its 2011 Plenary session:
 - a) an evaluation of the closure area, specifying in its advice if a modification is necessary, its basic scientific rationale with an assessment of the impact of such a closure on the tropical tuna stocks, notably yellowfin and bigeye;
 - b) an evaluation of the closure time periods, specifying in its advice if a modification is necessary, its basic scientific rationale with an assessment of the impact of such a closure on the tropical tuna stocks, notably yellowfin and bigeye;
 - c) an evaluation of the impact on yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks by catching juveniles and spawners taken by all fisheries. The Scientific Committee shall also recommend measures to mitigate the impacts on juvenile and spawners;
 - d) any other advice on possible different management measures based on the Kobe II matrix, on the main targeted species under the IOTC competence.

11. CPCs shall implement the following action plan:

1. establishment of an allocation system (Quota) or any other relevant measures based on the Scientific Committee recommendations for the main targeted species under the IOTC competence;
 2. advice on the best reporting requirement of the artisanal tuna fisheries and implementation of an appropriate data collection system;
 3. the pilot project as specified in paragraph 8.
12. A technical committee meeting shall be held prior to the Commission Plenary session in 2011 to discuss on allocation criteria for the management of the tuna resources of the Indian Ocean and recommend an allocation quota system or any other relevant measures. CPCs are encouraged to submit proposals one month prior to the meeting.
13. The Commission shall adopt an allocation quota system or any other relevant measure for the yellowfin and bigeye tunas at its plenary session in 2012.

