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**ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME FOR TRANSHIPMENT BY LARGE-SCALE FISHING VESSELS**  
Submitted to the Tenth Session (2006) by Comoros, EC, France, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles

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**Background:**

Tuna regional fisheries organizations, including IOTC, have been considering in recent years how to regulate transshipment operations within their area of competence.

The reasons for such regulation are threefold;

Firstly, the current situation of non regulation is an encouragement to IUU activities, with tuna being transferred at sea from IUU vessels to cargo vessels or vessels on the IOTC Record – the so-called laundering of catches. This lack of regulation constitutes a major weakness in the current conservation and management measures. The IUU operators, particularly longliners, use such operations.

Secondly, there is currently little provision for scientific sampling at sea of catch on tuna vessels. This is especially the case for tuna longliners. With the obligation to land in port, there would be greater possibility for sampling operations to take place - the sampling is of course a key component in the scientific assessments of the stocks.

Thirdly, using ports to undertake transshipments would add considerably to the economic activity in the island states in the region in particular.

**Content of the Proposed Resolution**

The draft resolution foresees that transshipments of fish should obligatorily take place in port.

There are no costs for the IOTC Budget

## **The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission,**

*TAKING ACCOUNT* of the need to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities because they undermine the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures already adopted by IOTC;

*EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN* that organized tuna laundering operations have been conducted and a significant amount of catches by IUU fishing vessels have been transhipped under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

*IN VIEW THEREFORE OF THE NEED* to ensure the monitoring of the transshipment activities by large-scale longline vessels in the Convention area, including the control of their landings;

*TAKING ACCOUNT* of the need to collect catch data of such large scale long-line tuna to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

ADOPTS, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article IX of the Agreement, the following Resolution:

### **SECTION 1. GENERAL RULE**

- 1 All transshipment operations of tuna and tuna like species in the IOTC Convention Area must take place in port.
- 2 The Flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non Contracting Party (CPCs) shall take the necessary measures to ensure that large scale tuna vessels (hereafter referred as the “LSTVs”) flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in Annex 1 when transshipping in port.
- 3 Port State CPCs shall ensure that all transshipments comply with this Resolution, and notably that the transshipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the IOTC transshipment declaration.

### **SECTION 2 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 4 To ensure the effectiveness of the IOTC conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:
  - a) In validating the Statistical Document, Flag CPCs of LSTVs shall ensure that transshipments are consistent with the reported catch amount by each LSTV.
  - b) The Flag CPC of LSTVs shall validate the Statistical Documents for the transhipped fish, after confirming that the transshipment was conducted in accordance with this Resolution.
  - c) CPCs shall require that the species covered by the Statistical Document Programs caught by LSTVs in the Convention area, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party, be accompanied by statistical documents validated for the vessels on the IOTC record and a copy of the IOTC transshipment declaration.
- 5 The CPCs shall report annually before 15 September to the Secretary:
  - a) The quantities by species transhipped during the previous year.
  - b) The list of the LSTVs registered in the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels which have transhipped during the previous year.
- 6 All tuna and tuna-like species landed or imported into the CPCs either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transhipped, shall be accompanied by the IOTC transshipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.
- 7 Each year, the Secretary of IOTC shall present a report on the implementation of this Resolution to the annual meeting of the Commission which shall review compliance with this Resolution.

**CONDITIONS RELATING TO IN-PORT TRANSHIPMENT BY LSTVs****General**

1 Transshipment operations in port may only be undertaken in accordance with the procedures detailed below:

**Notification obligations****2 Fishing vessel:**

2.1 Prior to transshipping, the captain of the LSTV must notify the following information to the Port State authorities, at least 48 hours in advance:

- the name of the LSTV and its number in the IOTC record of fishing vessels,
- the name of the carrier vessel, and the product to be transshipped,
- the tonnage by product to be transshipped,
- the date and location of transshipment,
- the location of the tuna catches (ocean).

2.2 The captain of the LSTV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag State the IOTC transshipment declaration, along with its number in the IOTC record of fishing vessels, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 2** not later than 15 days after the transshipment.

**Receiving vessel:**

3 At the end of the transshipment, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall inform the authorities of the Port State in which the transshipment takes place of the quantities of catches of tuna and tuna-like species transshipped to his vessel, and complete and transmit the IOTC transshipment declaration, in conformity with the format presented in to the competent authorities within 24 hours.

**Landing State:**

4 The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, complete and transmit an IOTC transshipment declaration, to the competent authorities of the landing State where the landing takes place.

5 The port State and the landing State referred to in the above paragraphs shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate with the flag CPC of the LSTV to ensure that landings are consistent with the reported catches amount of each vessel. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.

6 Each flag CPC of the LSTV shall include in its annual report each year to IOTC the details on the transshipments by its vessels.

**IOTC TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATION**

Carrier Vessel	Fishing Vessel
Name of the Vessel and Radio Call Sign:	Name of the Vessel and Radio Call Sign:
Flag:	Flag:
Flag state license number:	Flag state license number:
National Register Number, if available:	National Register Number, if available:
IOTC Register Number:	IOTC Register Number:

Port of transshipment:

Day    Month    Hour    Year    |2\_|0\_|\_|\_|

Agent's name:

Master's name of LSTV:

Master's name of Carrier:

Signature:

Signature:

Signature :

Transshipment date    |\_|\_|    |\_|\_|    |\_|\_|    |\_\_\_\_\_|

Indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: |\_|\_| kilograms

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT.....

Species	Sea	Type of product												
		Whole	Gutted	Headed	Filleted									

*Note: one form must be submitted of each transshipment.*