
**MANDATORY STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IOTC
MEMBERS AND COOPERATING NON CONTRACTING PARTIES**

Submitted by the EC

Explanatory Memorandum

EC AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 01/05

MANDATORY STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IOTC MEMBERS

Following the discussion which took place during the 11th IOTC Plenary held in Mauritius in May 2007 on the basis of a Draft Proposal tabled by the Delegation of Seychelles and aiming at amending and updating the IOTC Resolution 01/05 on Mandatory Statistical Requirement, this issue has been analysed by the IOTC Scientific Committee during its 10th Session held in Seychelles in November 2007.

On the basis of the conclusions of the IOTC Scientific Committee, the EC is tabling these sets of amendments to Resolution 01/05, aiming at improving the completeness of the fisheries data and the timeliness of data submissions by strengthening the requirements of the current resolution on mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC CPC's, including new obligations on data gathering related to sharks by-catch.

Proposed changes to IOTC Resolution 01/05 Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC members are indicated.

EC PROPOSAL AMENDING RESOLUTION 01/05
MANDATORY STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IOTC MEMBERS AND
COOPERATING NON CONTRACTING PARTIES

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.

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 5

2) **Catch and effort data**

Surface fisheries operating in the high seas and all industrial surface fisheries 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 1 5° grid area and month strata or finer, preferably in numbers or ~~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 longliners of less than 15 metres length can keep on providing catch and effort data by 5° area and month strata.

When provided, this data would be for the exclusive used by IOTC scientists, subject to the approval of the data owners and IOTC Resolution 98/02 on "Data confidentiality policy and procedure".

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.

These provisions applicable to tuna and tuna-like species shall be applicable also to all sharks catches.

3) 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.

4)3 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 data shall be provided ~~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:** Number of days at sea by supply vessels by 1° grid area and month reported by the flag State of the supply vessel~~**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) set by the supply vessels and purse seine fleet operated by the fleet by 5° square per quarter.**

Information required are date, time - geographical position – number of FADs set - types of FADs defined as 1)drifting log or debris; 2) drifting raft or fad with a net; 3) drifting raft or Fad without a net; 4) other (e.g. Payao, dead animal etc.). All types monitored by a tracking system. operated by the fleet by 5° grid area and month basis.

When provided, this data would be for the exclusive used by IOTC scientists, subject to the approval of the data owners and IOTC Resolution 98/02 on "Data confidentiality policy and procedure".

5)4) 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 30th of June April** 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 April 30th** (for the previous year data). They must provide the **final estimate** of their fishery data **before October December 30th 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~~

~~In case where the final statistics cannot be submitted by these dates, at least preliminary statistics should be provided. Beyond a delay of two years, all revisions of historical data should be formally reported and duly justified. These reports should be made on forms provided by the Secretariat and reviewed by the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee will advise the Secretariat if revision are then accepted for scientific use.~~