
**A RESOLUTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
THE SWORDFISH STOCK IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE**

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Explanatory Memorandum

EC PROPOSAL FOR

**A RESOLUTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE
SWORDFISH STOCK IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE**

The available scientific information and advice, in particular the 2008 IOTC Scientific Committee conclusions indicate that the swordfish stocks might have been overexploited in the recent past.

The results of the 2008 stock assessment of the swordfish stock point out a possibility of localised depletion in the area of South-West Indian Ocean. The Scientific Committee recommends that that catches should not increase from the 2007 levels and some management measures focused on controlling and /or reducing effort should be taken.

Taking account of these evaluations of the stock status of the swordfish in the IOTC area and the advice of the IOTC Scientific Committee, the EC opinion is that further measures to ensure the conservation and the long term sustainability of IOTC swordfish fisheries are needed, in line with the internationally recognised application of the precautionary approach. This is despite the adoption of the IOTC Resolution 07/05, freezing the fishing effort in terms of number of vessels and corresponding GT on highly migratory species in international waters.

In order to ensure coherence with the practice already implemented in other RFMOs, and with the view of protecting the resources as well as to ensure the long stand profitability of the industrial fishing activities in the Indian Ocean, the EC is proposing catch restrictions at 2006 level for Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non Contracting Parties as recommended by the Scientific Committee, on the basis of the CPCs catch figures indicated in the IOTC Scientific Committee report 2008.

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The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the available scientific information and advice, in particular the IOTC Scientific Committee conclusions whereby the swordfish stocks might have been overexploited in the recent past;

CONSIDERING that there is scientific evidence of a localised depletion of the swordfish stock;

RECOGNISING the importance of applying the precautionary approach for the management of the swordfish stock in the Indian Ocean;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations of the IOTC Scientific Committee on the management of swordfish stocks;

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

1. The Contracting Party and Co-operating Non-contracting Party (hereinafter CPCs) catches of Swordfish shall not increase above the 2006 levels.
2. The catch limit per CPC is indicated in annex I on the basis of the catch figures indicated in the 2008 Scientific Committee report for the year 2006.
3. CPCs shall report, at end of each quarter, their swordfish catch (whole weight in kilograms) for the quarter, to the IOTC Secretariat. If any previously reported catch has been revised, the revised figures should also be provided to the Secretariat. CPCs shall also report the total annual catch at the end of each calendar year.
4. All unused portion or excess of the annual quota/catch limit shall be deducted from/may be added to, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2009	2011
2010	2012
2011	2013

5. This resolution shall enter into force immediately and will be revised, as appropriate, according to the forthcoming advice of the IOTC Scientific Committee on the status of the swordfish stock.

Annex I

CPCs	2006 CATCHES (in thousands of tonnes)
China (including Taiwan, Province of China)	7.6
EC (Spain – Portugal – France – United Kingdom)	9.4
Indonesia	1.3
Japan	1.8
Seychelles	0.8
Australia	0.3
Guinea	0.8
Mauritius	0.7
South África	0.2
Korea, Republic of	0.2
Sri Lanka	1.6
Other Fleets	1.1
Total	25.8