



**MANDATORY STATISTICAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC CONTRACTING PARTIES AND  
COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES (CPC'S)**

**SUBMITTED BY: EUROPEAN UNION, 26 MARCH 2015**

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*Explanatory Memorandum*

Despite the existing IOTC mandatory reporting requirements, fishery statistics data including by-catch data of IOTC managed species remain largely unreported by CPCs. The information on retained catches and discards of sharks as well as on other catches and by-catches that is supposed to be recorded in logbooks according to Resolution 13/03 *on the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence*, contained in the IOTC database remains very incomplete for most fleets despite their mandatory reporting status. This also applies to catch-and-effort as well as size data that are essential to assess the status of species managed by IOTC species and other species caught in IOTC fisheries.

In this context the Scientific Committee recommends that all CPCs collect and report catches of all IOTC species as well as all other species identified in the Resolution 13/03 *on the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence* (including historical data), catch-and-effort and biological data.

Moreover, taking into account the Scientific Committee's concern on the lack of data from CPC that undermines the IOTC capacity to assess the status of the stocks and species and also its capacity to respond to and manage adverse effects of IOTC fisheries on these species, it is also recommended to enhance data reporting beyond the currently existing mandatory statistical requirements data according to the existing mandatory statistical requirements.

This Resolution does not introduce any new obligations to CPCs. It aims to revise Resolution 10/02 in order to clarify existing statistical information requirements under the scope of Resolution 13/03 *on the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence* (or any subsequent superseding Resolution).



**RESOLUTION ~~15/XX~~10/02**

**MANDATORY STATISTICAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC MEMBERS-CONTRACTING PARTIES AND COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES (CPC'S)**

Keywords: Data reporting; total catch; catch and effort; size data; Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD); surface fisheries; longline fisheries; coastal fisheries

**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 Fish Stocks (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 organisations and provide them in a timely manner to the organization;

RECALLING the commitment made by Members-Contracting Parties 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-Contracting Parties 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;

GIVEN that the activities of supply-support vessels and the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet;

CONSIDERING the provisions set forth in Resolution 08/01 [superseded by Resolution 10/02] on *mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting parties (CPCs)*, adopted by the Commission in 201008;

NOTING the Scientific Committee's concern that the lack of data from CPC fisheries under the mandate of the IOTC on the mortality of marine turtles and marine mammals undermines the ability to estimate levels of marine turtle and marine mammals bycatch and consequently the IOTC's capacity to respond and prevent adverse effects of fishing on these marine species;

FURTHER NOTING the Scientific Committee's concern about the impossibility to undertake assessments on the status of seabirds in the Indian Ocean, while acknowledging that some species are currently critically endangered, and that the lack of reporting of seabird interactions by CPCs seriously undermines the ability of IOTC to respond and prevent adverse effects of fishing on seabirds;

CONSIDERING the deliberations-recommendations of the 17<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>-Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee held in Victoria, Seychelles from 30 November to 4 December 2009;

FURTHER CONSIDERING the call upon States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organisations and arrangements included in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/79 on



sustainable fisheries to collect the necessary data in order to evaluate and closely monitor the use of fish aggregating devices and their effects on tuna resources and tuna behaviour and associated and dependent species, to improve management procedures to monitor the number, type and use of such devices and to mitigate possible negative effects on the ecosystem, including on juveniles and the incidental bycatch of non-target species, particularly sharks and turtles;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) shall provide the following information to the IOTC Secretariat according to the timelines specified in paragraph 6:

2. **Nominal-Total catch data:**

Estimates of the total ~~quarterly~~annual catch by species and gear (separated by retained catches in live weight and by discards in live weight or numbers) for all species under the IOTC mandate as well as the most commonly caught elasmobranch species, marine turtles and seabirds according to records of catches and incidents as established in Resolution 13/03 (or any subsequent superseding Resolution).

3. **Catch and effort data:**

a) **For surface fisheries (purse seine, pole and line, gillnets):** catch weight by species and fishing effort shall be provided by 1° grid area and month strata. Purse seine and pole and line fisheries data shall be stratified by fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects). The data shall be extrapolated to the total national monthly catches for each gear. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely. Effort measures reported should be consistent with those effort requirements of Resolution 13/03 (or any subsequent superseding revision).

b) **Longline fisheries:** catch by species, in numbers or weight, and effort as the number of hooks deployed shall be provided by 5° grid area and month strata. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely. For the work of relevant working parties under the IOTC Scientific Committee, longline data should be of a resolution of 1° grid area and month or finer. These data would be for the exclusive use of IOTC ~~scientists~~Scientific Committee, subject to the approval of the data owners and IOTC ~~Resolution 98/02~~ [superseded by Resolution 12/02] Data confidentiality policy and procedures, and should be provided for scientific use only in a timely fashion. Effort measures reported should be consistent with those effort requirements of Resolution 13/03 or any subsequent revision of such resolution.

c) **For coastal fisheries:** ~~available-monthly~~ catch by species, fishing gear and fishing effort shall be submitted frequently and may be provided using an alternative geographical area if it better represents the fishery concerned. Effort measures reported should be consistent with those effort requirements of Resolution 13/03 (or any subsequent superseding revision).

~~These p~~Provisions on catch and effort data, applicable to tuna and tuna-like species, shall also be applicable to the most commonly caught ~~shark-elasmobranch~~ shark-elasmobranch species, marine turtles, marine mammals and seabirds according to records of catches and incidents as established in Resolution 13/03 on the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence (or any subsequent superseding Resolution), ~~where possible, to the less common shark species. CPC's are also encouraged to record and provide data on species other than sharks and tunas taken as bycatch.~~

4. **Size data:**

Size data shall be provided for all gears and for all species ~~covered by the IOTC mandate~~ according to paragraph 3 and following the guidelines set out by the procedures described in the IOTC Guidelines for the reporting of



~~fisheries statistics to the IOTC Scientific Committee.~~ Size sampling shall be run under strict and well described random sampling schemes which are necessary to provide unbiased figures of the sizes taken. Sampling coverage shall be set to at least one fish measured by ton caught, by species and type of fishery, with samples being representative of all the periods and areas fished. Alternatively, size data for longline fleets may be provided as part of the Regional Observer Scheme where such fleets have at least 5% observer coverage of all fishing operations. Length data by species, including the total number of fish measured, shall be submitted by a 5° grid area by month, by gear and fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects for the purse seiners). Documents covering sampling and raising procedures shall also be provided, by species and type of fishery.

5. Given that the activities of ~~supportly~~ 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 ~~by CPCs~~:

a) The number and characteristics of ~~supportly~~ 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;

b) Number of days at sea by ~~purse seine and support supply~~ vessels by 1° grid area and month to be reported by the flag state of the ~~supportly~~ vessel;

~~c) The total number and type of FADs set by the supply-purse seine and support vessels and purse seine fleet per quarter, as well as: Types of FADs are defined as~~

~~i. The positions, dates at the time of setting, FAD identifier and FAD type (i.e. drifting log or debris, 2) drifting raft or fad with a net, 3) drifting raft or fad-FAD without a net, 4) anchored FADs and other FADs (e.g. Payao, dead animal etc.). All types monitored by a tracking system;~~

~~ii. The FAD design characteristics of each FAD (consistent with Annex 1 to Resolution 13/08 Procedures on a fishing aggregating devices (FADs) management Plan, including more detailed specifications of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species).~~

These data would be for the exclusive use of IOTC ~~scientists~~ **Scientific Committee**, subject to the approval of the data owners and ~~Resolution 98/02 [superseded by in accordance with Resolution 12/02]~~ *Data confidentiality policy and procedures*, and should be provided in a timely fashion.

6. ~~All drifting FAD types should be monitored by a tracking system.~~

7. **Timeliness of data submission to the IOTC Secretariat:**

a) Longline fleets operating in the high seas shall provide provisional data for the previous year no later than 30 June. Final data shall be submitted no later than 30 December;

b) All other fleets (including ~~supportly~~ vessels) shall submit their final data for the previous year no later than 30 June;

c) In case where the final statistics cannot be submitted by that date, 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 IOTC Secretariat and reviewed by the IOTC Scientific Committee. The IOTC Scientific Committee will advise the IOTC Secretariat if revisions are then accepted for scientific use.

8. This Resolution supersedes Resolution ~~10/0208/01~~ on *mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*.