



## ON ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME FOR TRANSHIPMENT BY LARGE-SCALE FISHING VESSELS

SUBMITTED BY: MALDIVES

### *Explanatory Memorandum*

~~Archipelagic states are a group of unique states that~~ Majority of Indian Ocean coastal States share similar characteristics and development challenges. Such countries are often heavily dependent on oceanic resources for food, employment and foreign income. Fisheries is often an important economic activity for ~~such those~~ countries and often fisheries in such countries ~~are characterized by unique features to overcome the disadvantages inherent due to the dispersed nature of such countries.~~

Pole and line fishing has been practiced in the Maldives for centuries and is the backbone of the Maldivian fisheries industry. Almost 20% of the total workforce of the Maldives is employed in the fisheries sector, of which more than half of the jobs are directly linked to the pole and line fishery. The fishery have grown over the years and is now a well established fishery that accounts for more than half of the total landings for the Maldives.

Due to the dispersed nature of the Maldives and the limited availability of land resources, shore-based processing and port facilities are limited. Furthermore, the vast 900,000 sqkm of EEZ of the Maldives is highly productive and fishing is prevalent in all parts of the ~~EEZ~~ archipelago. Thus, tuna fishing vessels are often active throughout the Maldives. In order to purchase tuna harvested by the fleet, “collector boats” have been used by fish processing facilities for over 50 years.

The boats referred to as “collector boats” in the Maldives are solely operated by one of the four licensed pole and line caught fish purchasing companies of the Maldives. Their sole purpose is to purchase tuna from regions afar from land based ports and deliver to the home port of the Companies and are not allowed to offload the catch anywhere else. Such boats are regarded as an extension of the port and are registered under the ownership of the fish purchasing company and falls under the license of the parent company. All reporting obligations and requirements when landing at shore-based facilities apply when fishermen land their catches to such boats. Typically, such a collector boat would have 40-60 tons brine freezing capacity and once full, they return to their respective shore-based facilities. Fishing vessels are paid at the collector boats upon offload of catches and this operation has to date been considered a “landing” for all intents and purposes in the Maldives. As such these collector boats are an integral part of the pole and line skipjack tuna fishery and they are extremely important to ensure profitability of the fishery.

A pole and line fishing trip would typically last 3-4 days, single day trips are common especially during good fishing seasons, and to fulfil the reporting requirements as specified by the current Resolution 17/06 is impossible for the Maldivian fleet. Furthermore, it is evident that the section on port transshipments of the current resolution is clearly seeking to outline a mechanism to conduct port transshipments by foreign flagged vessel within the port of a third country.

This proposal is seeking to revise the Resolution 17/06 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large scale fishing vessels to address such issues relating to the reporting requirements of the current Resolution.

**RESOLUTION [18/XX](#)**  
**ON ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME FOR TRANSHIPMENT BY LARGE-SCALE FISHING VESSELS**

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

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 the 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 transhipment activities by large-scale longline vessels in the IOTC area of competence, 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 IOTC Agreement, that:

**SECTION 1. GENERAL RULE**

1. Except under the programme to monitor transhipments at sea outlined below in Section 2, all transhipment operations of tuna and tuna-like species and sharks caught in association with tuna and tuna-like fisheries in the IOTC area of competence (hereinafter referred to as “tuna and tuna like species and sharks”) must take place in port<sup>1</sup>.

2. The flag [Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties \(collectively termed CPCs\)](#) ~~Contracting Party, Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CPCs)~~ shall take the necessary measures to ensure that large scale tuna vessels <sup>2</sup>(hereafter referred as the “LSTVs”) flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in Annex I when transhipping in port.

3. [3. In ports and harbours within Maldives, transfers of fish from pole and line catching vessels to collector vessels \(as defined in paragraph 4\), when conducted strictly as per the conditions set out in Annex II, shall be considered as landings rather than as in-port transhipments.](#)

4. The term ‘collector vessels’, as used in paragraph 3, shall mean, exclusively, vessels which:

- [are flagged to the Maldives; and](#)
- [are operated by a licensed pole-and-line-caught fish purchasing company of Maldives; and](#)
- [in the course of their activities throughout any given year, receive transfers of fish only from pole and line catching vessels; and](#)
- [in the course of their activities throughout any given year, receive transfers from such vessels only when in port and harbours within Maldives](#)

<sup>1</sup> Port includes offshore terminals and other installations for landing, transshipping, packaging, processing, refuelling or resupplying (as defined by FAO Port State Measures Agreement)

<sup>2</sup> Large Scale Tuna Vessel (LSTV) – fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna like species that are over 24m LoA and are on the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels.

## SECTION 2. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR TRANSHIPMENTS AT SEA

[2.5.](#) The Commission hereby establishes a programme to monitor transshipment at sea which applies only to largescale tuna longline fishing vessels (hereafter referred to as the “LSTLVs”) and to carrier vessels authorised to receive transshipments from these vessels at sea. No at-sea transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species and sharks by fishing vessels other than LSTLVs shall be allowed. The Commission shall review and, as appropriate, revise this Resolution.

[3.6.](#) The CPCs that flag LSTLVs shall determine whether or not to authorise their LSTLVs to tranship at sea. However, if the flag CPC authorises the at-sea transshipment by its flag LSTLVs, such transshipment shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures defined in Sections 3, 4 and 5, and [Annexes III](#) and [IV](#) below.

## SECTION 3. RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENTS-AT-SEA IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

[4.7.](#) The Commission shall establish and maintain an IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels authorised to receive tuna and tuna-like species and sharks at sea in the IOTC area of competence from LSTLVs. For the purposes of this Resolution, carrier vessels not entered on the record are deemed not to be authorised to receive tuna and tuna-like species and sharks in at-sea transshipment operations.

[5.8.](#) Each CPC shall submit, electronically where possible, to the IOTC Executive Secretary the list of the carrier vessels that are authorised to receive at-sea transshipments from its LSTLVs in the IOTC area of competence. This list shall include the following information:

- a. The flag of the vessel;
- b. Name of vessel, register number;
- c. Previous name (if any);
- d. Previous flag (if any);
- e. Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any);
- f. International radio call sign;
- g. Type of vessels, length, gross tonnage (GT) and carrying capacity;
- h. Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s);
- i. Time period authorised for transshipping.

[6.9.](#) Each CPC shall promptly notify the IOTC Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the initial IOTC Record, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the IOTC Record, at any time such changes occur.

[7.10.](#) The IOTC Executive Secretary shall maintain the IOTC Record and take measures to ensure publicity of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the IOTC website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements notified by CPCs for their vessels.

[8.11.](#) Carrier vessels authorised for at-sea transshipment shall be required to install and operate a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

## SECTION 4. AT-SEA TRANSHIPMENT

[9.12.](#) Transshipments by LSTLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of the CPCs are subject to prior authorisation from the Coastal State concerned. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSTLVs flying their flag comply with the following conditions:

## Flag State Authorization

~~10.13.~~ LSTLVs are not authorised to tranship at sea, unless they have obtained prior authorisation from their flag State.

## Notification obligations

### *Fishing vessel:*

~~11.14.~~ To receive the prior authorisation mentioned in paragraph [12](#) above, the master and/or owner of the LSTLV must notify the following information to its flag State authorities at least 24 hours in advance of an intended transhipment:

- a. The name of the LSTLV, its number in the IOTC Record of Vessels, and its IMO number, if issued;
- b. The name of the carrier vessel, its number in the IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels authorised to receive transshipments in the IOTC area of competence, and its IMO number, and the product to be transhipped;
- c. The tonnage by product to be transhipped;
- d. The date and location of transhipment;
- e. The geographic location of the catches.

~~12.15.~~ The LSTLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag State, not later than 15 days after the transhipment, the IOTC transhipment declaration, along with its number in the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels, in accordance with the format set out in Annex [III](#).

### *Receiving carrier vessel:*

~~13.16.~~ Before starting transhipment, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall confirm that the LSTLV concerned is participating in the IOTC programme to monitor transhipment at sea (which includes payment of the fee in paragraph [14](#) of Annex [IV](#)) and has obtained the prior authorisation from their flag State referred to in paragraph [12](#). The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall not start such transhipment without such confirmation.

~~14.17.~~ The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall complete and transmit the IOTC transhipment declaration to the IOTC Secretariat and the flag CPC of the LSTLV, along with its number in the IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels authorised to receive transhipment in the IOTC area of competence, within 24 hours of the completion of the transhipment.

~~15.18.~~ The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, transmit an IOTC transhipment declaration, along with its number in the IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels authorised to receive transhipment in the IOTC area of competence, to the competent authorities of the State where the landing takes place.

### *Regional Observer Programme:*

~~16.19.~~ Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transhipping at sea have on board an IOTC observer, in accordance with the IOTC Regional Observer Programme in Annex [IV](#). The IOTC observer shall observe the compliance with this Resolution, and notably that the transhipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the IOTC transhipment declaration.

~~17.20.~~ Vessels shall be prohibited from commencing or continuing at-sea transhipping in the IOTC area of competence without an IOTC regional observer on board, except in cases of “force majeure” duly notified to the IOTC Secretariat.

~~18.21.~~ In the case of the eight Indonesian wooden carrier vessels listed on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessel prior to 2015 and listed in Annex [V](#), a national observer programme may be used

in place of an observer from the regional observer programme. National observers shall be trained to at least one of tuna-RFMO regional observer programme standards and will carry out all of the functions of the regional observer, including provision of all data as required by the IOTC regional observer programme and the reports equivalent to those prepared by the ROP Contractor. This provision shall only apply to the eight specific wooden carrier vessels referenced in this paragraph as indicated in **Annex V**. Replacement of those wooden carrier vessels are only permitted if the material of substitute vessel shall remain wooden and the carrying capacity or fish hold volume not larger than the vessel (s) being replaced. In such case, the authorisation of the replaced wooden vessel shall be immediately revoked.

~~19.22.~~ The provision of Paragraph [20](#) will be implemented in consultation with the IOTC Secretariat as a two-year pilot project. The results of the project, including data collection, reports and the effectiveness of the project shall be examined in 2019 by the IOTC Compliance Committee on the basis of a report prepared by Indonesia and analysis by the IOTC Secretariat. This review shall include whether the programme offers the same level of assurances as those provided by ROP. It shall also explore the feasibility of obtaining an IMO number for the vessels concerned. The extension of the project or the integration of the project into ROP programme shall be subject to a new decision of the Commission.

## SECTION 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

~~20.23.~~ 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 LSTLVs shall ensure that transshipments are consistent with the reported catch amount by each LSTLV;
- b. The flag CPC of LSTLVs shall validate the Statistical Documents for the transhipped fish, after confirming that the transshipment was conducted in accordance with this Resolution. This confirmation shall be based on the information obtained through the IOTC Observer Programme;
- c. CPCs shall require that the species covered by the Statistical Document Programs caught by LSTLVs in the IOTC area of competence, 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.

~~21.24.~~ The CPCs shall report annually before 15 September to the IOTC Executive Secretary:

- a. The quantities by species transhipped during the previous year;
- b. The list of the LSTLVs registered in the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels which have transhipped during the previous year;
- c. A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received transshipment from their LSTLVs.

~~22.25.~~ All tuna and tuna-like species and sharks 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.

~~23.26.~~ Each year, the IOTC Executive Secretary shall present a report on the implementation of this Resolution to the annual meeting of the Commission which shall review compliance with this Resolution.

~~24.27.~~ The IOTC Secretariat shall, when providing CPCs with copies of all raw data, summaries and reports in accordance with paragraph 10 of Annex [IV](#) to this Resolution, also indicate evidence indicating possible infraction of IOTC regulations by LSTLVs/carrier vessels flagged to that CPC. Upon receiving such evidence, each CPC shall investigate the cases and report the results of the investigation back to the IOTC Secretariat three months prior to the IOTC Compliance Committee meeting. The IOTC Secretariat shall circulate among CPCs the list of names and flags of the LSTLVs/Carrier vessels that were involved in such possible infractions as well as the response of the flag CPCs 80 days prior to the IOTC Compliance Committee meeting.

~~25.28.~~ Resolution [17/06](#) On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels is superseded by this Resolution.

**ANNEX I**  
**CONDITIONS RELATING TO IN-PORT TRANSHIPMENT**

**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:
    - a) the name of the LSTV and its number in the IOTC record of fishing vessels;
    - b) the name of the carrier vessel, and the product to be transhipped;
    - c) The tonnage by product to be transhipped;
    - d) the date and location of transshipment;
    - e) the major fishing grounds of the tuna and tuna-like species and sharks catches.
  - 2.2. The Captain of a LSTV shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its Flag State of the following:
    - a) the products and quantities involved;
    - b) the date and place of the transshipment;
    - c) the name, registration number and flag of the receiving carrier vessel;
    - d) the geographic location of the tuna and tuna-like species and sharks catches.
  - 2.3. 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 II not later than 15 days after the transshipment.
3. Receiving vessel:

Not later than 24 hours before the beginning and at the end of the transshipment, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall inform the port State authorities of the quantities of tuna and tuna-like species and sharks transhipped to his vessel, and complete and transmit the IOTC transshipment declaration, 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 LSTVs shall include in its annual report each year to IOTC the details on the transshipments by its vessels.

**ANNEX II**

**CONDITIONS RELATING TO TRANSFERS OF FISH REFERRED IN PARAGRAPHS 3**

**AND 4**

1. The pole and line catching vessels referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 shall be flagged to Maldives.
2. The pole and line catching vessels referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 shall not be authorised to fish or engage in fisheries-related activities beyond waters subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Maldives.
3. The collector vessels referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 shall not be authorised to fish or engage in fisheries-related activities beyond waters subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Maldives.
4. During any transfer, both the pole and line catching vessel and the collector vessel involved must be equipped with, and tracked via, a functioning vessel monitoring system.
5. Maldives, as flag State, shall report to IOTC in its annual catch report each year the details of the transfers of fish referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4.
6. The data recording and reporting requirements shall not be inferior to shore-based reporting and recording requirements in place in Maldives.

**ANNEX III**  
**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, if available:	IOTC Register Number, if available:

Day Month Hour Year

Agent's name: Master's name of LSTV: Master's name of Carrier:

Departure

from

Return

to

Signature: Signature: Signature:

Transshipment

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 Port Sea Type of product

Whole Guttled Headed Filleted

If transshipment effected at sea, IOTC Observer Name and Signature:

**ANNEX [IV](#)**  
**IOTC REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

1. Each CPC shall require carrier vessels included in the IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels authorised to receive transshipments in the IOTC area of competence and which tranship at sea, to carry an IOTC observer during each transshipment operation in the IOTC area of competence.
2. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall appoint the observers and shall place them on board the carrier vessels authorised to receive transshipments in the IOTC area of competence from LSTLVs flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties that implement the IOTC observer program. Designation of the observers
3. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
  - a) sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
  - b) satisfactory knowledge of the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;
  - c) the ability to observe and record information accurately;
  - d) a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

**Obligations of the observer**

4. Observers shall:
  - a) Have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by IOTC;
  - b) not be, to the extent possible, nationals of the flag State of the receiving carrier vessel;
  - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 5 below;
  - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the IOTC Secretariat;
  - e) not be a crew member of an LSTLV or an employee of an LSTLV company.
5. The observer tasks shall be in particular to:
  - a) On the Fishing Vessel intending to tranship to the carrier vessel and before the transshipment takes place, the observer shall:
    - i. check the validity of the fishing vessel's authorisation or licence to fish tuna and tuna-like species and sharks in the IOTC area of competence;
    - ii. check and note the total quantity of catch on board, and the quantity to be transferred to the carrier vessel;
    - iii. check that the VMS is functioning and examine the logbook;
    - iv. verify whether any of the catch on board resulted from transfers from other vessels, and check documentation on such transfers;
    - v. in the case of an indication that there are any violations involving the fishing vessel, immediately report the violations to the carrier vessel's master,
    - vi. report the results of these duties on the fishing vessel in the observers report.
  - b) On the Carrier Vessel:
 Monitor the carrier vessel's compliance with the relevant Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
    - i. record and report upon the transshipment activities carried out;
    - ii. verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transshipping;
    - iii. observe and estimate products transhipped;
    - iv. verify and record the name of the LSTLV concerned and its IOTC number;
    - v. verify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;
    - vi. certify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;

- vii. countersign the transshipment declaration;
  - viii. issue a daily report of the carrier vessels transshipping activities;
  - ix. establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the captain the opportunity to include therein any relevant information;
  - x. submit to the IOTC Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation;
  - xi. exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
6. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the LSTLVs and of the LSTLVs owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
  7. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
  8. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in paragraph 9 of this program.

### **Obligations of the flag States of carrier vessels**

9. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the carrier vessels and their captains shall include the following, notably:
  - a) Observers shall be allowed access to the vessel personnel and to the gear and equipment;
  - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 5:
    - i. Satellite navigation equipment;
    - ii. Radar display viewing screens when in use;
    - iii. Electronic means of communication.
  - c) Observers shall be provided accommodation, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
  - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
  - e) The flag States shall ensure that captains, crew and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.
10. The IOTC Executive Secretary, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, shall provide to the flag State of the carrier vessel under whose jurisdiction the vessel transhipped and to the flag CPC of the LSTLV, copies of all available raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip four months prior to the IOTC Compliance Committee meeting.

### **Obligations of LSTLV during transshipment**

11. Observers shall be allowed to visit the fishing vessel, if weather conditions permit it, and access shall be granted to personnel and areas of the vessel necessary to carry out their duties set forth in paragraph 5.
12. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall submit the observer reports to the IOTC Compliance Committee and to the IOTC Scientific Committee.

### **Observer fees**

13. The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the flag CPCs of LSTLVs wishing to engage in transshipment operations. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the IOTC Secretariat and the IOTC Executive Secretary shall manage the account for implementing the program.
14. No LSTLV may participate in the at-sea transshipment program unless the fees, as required under paragraph 13, have been paid.

**ANNEX V**  
**INDONESIAN CARRIER VESSELS AUTHORISED TO TRANSHIP AT SEA**

No	Name of Wooden Carrier	Vessel Gross Tonnage
1	Hiroyoshi 2	142
2	Hiroyoshi 17	171
3	Mutiara 36	189
4	Abadi jaya 101	174
5	Mutiara 12	120
6	Mutiara 18	92
7	Mutiara 20	102
8	Gemini	110