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**LIMITING FISHING CAPACITY IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE**

**SUBMITTED BY: EUROPEAN UNION, 13 APRIL 2016**

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*Explanatory Memorandum*

Despite the application of Resolution 15/11 on the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity (that superseded Resolution 12/11, which superseded Resolution 09/02) the global capacity in the IOTC continues to increase, currently reaching levels leading to clear overfishing of some IOTC stocks.

In the last few years the main tuna stocks in IOTC stayed in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot and piracy had an effect on fishing off the Somalian coast. However, with the significant decrease of piracy fishing effort is recovering to levels approaching that level before 2008, which risks to put some stocks in danger.

The recent stock assessment of yellowfin tuna (IOTC-2015-SC18-R), though subject to certain caveats, indicated that this species is overfished and subject to overfishing (red zone of the Kobe plot) and that therefore a catch reduction by 20% of the current level of catches should be undertaken without delay. In addition, several other IOTC species that have recently been assessed by the Scientific Committee show unsustainable levels of exploitation. This concerns notably striped marlin, black marlin, indo-pacific sailfish, longtail tuna and Spanish mackerel. The current level of catches of all these species should therefore also be reduced immediately to avoid the risk of their irreversible depletion.

Moreover, the IOTC Resolution 14/02 states the establishment of a quota allocation system, or any other relevant measure, for the management of the main targeted species falling under the IOTC competence. Three technical committees on allocation criteria - February 2011, February 2013 and February 2016 - were held to discuss proposals and to recommend a quota allocation system. The meetings could not conclude on a system agreeable to all parties. It is unlikely that an agreement on a quota allocation system can be reached soon.

In this context, it is paramount to contain the upsurge of the IOTC capacity in order to limit catches and maintain the sustainable exploitation of the stocks and therefore it is proposed to effectively limit the fishing capacity in the entire IOTC area of competence.

## RESOLUTION 16/XX

### INTERIM LIMITATION OF FISHING CAPACITY IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

**Keywords:** Yellowfin tuna; striped marlin; black marlin; Indo-Pacific sailfish; longtail tuna; Spanish mackerel; swordfish.

#### The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

RECOGNISING that based on past experience in the fishery, the potential production from the resource can be negatively impacted by excessive fishing effort;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the available scientific information and advice, in particular the IOTC Scientific Committee (IOTC-2015-SC18) conclusions whereby the yellowfin tuna, striped marlin, black marlin, Indo-Pacific sailfish, longtail tuna, Spanish mackerel and swordfish (in the southwest Indian Ocean) stocks have been over exploited in recent years and it is urgently needed to decrease their catches;

RECOGNISING that despite the Resolution 15/11 on the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity the global capacity in the IOTC continues to increase, currently reaching levels leading to a clear overfishing of some IOTC stocks.

FURTHER RECOGNISING that IOTC Resolution 14/02 requires the development of a quota allocation system or of any other relevant measure aiming the sustainable exploitation of the IOTC fishing resources and that of the same time IOTC has not been able to progress on any significant measure ensuring the sustainable exploitation of the IOTC stocks;

NOTING the importance of applying the precautionary approach for the management of the IOTC fishing resources;

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

1. This interim Resolution is applicable until 31 December 2018.
2. The IOTC freezes its fishing capacity according to the following principles:
  - a) The maximum fishing capacity per CPC will be fixed according to **Annex I**.
  - b) For vessels fishing in the high seas and vessels of 24 meters of length or above exclusively fishing the EEZ of their flag State:
    - i. Starting line:
      - a. Reference capacity according to Resolution 15/11 (i.e. reference capacity for vessels targeting tropical tunas in 2006 + reference capacity for vessels targeting swordfish and albacore in 2007), plus
      - b. Fleet Development Plans achieved, meaning new vessels put on water since the initial reference years leading to an increase of the reference capacity according to Resolution 15/11.
    - ii. Adjustments:
      - a. Long Distant Water Fleets CPC and Taiwan, Province of China: Starting line capacity will be reduced by 25%.
      - b. Coastal CPCs:

1. Starting Line/CPC exceeding 40.000 GT/GRT will be reduced by 25%.
  2. A minimal right of 2000 GT is attributed to each Coastal CPC. Any added capacity from this principle should be implemented in the next 10 years.
  3. A bonus capacity of 1000 GT will be attributed to Coastal Developing Small Islands and Coastal Least Developed Countries. Any added capacity should be implemented in the next 10 years.
- c. New Coastal CPCs joining IOTC will be accorded rights as described in b-2 and b-3 above.
- c) The current capacity of artisanal fleets (vessels only operating in the EEZ of their flag State with less than 24 meters of length) catching IOTC species shall be freeze at the current level. Coastal CPCs will transmit to the IOTC Executive Secretary before the 31 December 2017 their artisanal fleet capacity based on the national fleet registry or other means officially recognised by the CPC.
- d) Swaps of capacity are allowed between all CPCs and according to principles managed by CPCs involved. The IOTC Secretariat will be informed accordingly.
- e) Any changes in gear type should be authorised by the Commission after Scientific Committee assessment and recommendation.
3. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 15/11 *on the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties.*

**Annex I Capacity based on reference capacities declared in 2006 and 2007**

CPCs		A. Reference capacity - Vessels targeting preferentially Tropical Tunas - 2006	B. Reference capacity - Vessels targeting preferentially Swordfish/Albacore - 2007	C. FDP accomplished or adjusted to current capacity	Reference capacity (A+B+C)	DWFN CPC 25% reduction	Coastal States			TOTAL Capacity / CPC
							25% Reduction over 40000 GT/GRT	minimal basic right for Coastal CPC to be implemented in the next 10 years	Developing Small islands and LDC bonus to be implemented in the next 10 years	
<b>Coastal CPC</b>										
Australia	(GRT)	3,312	-	-	3,312					3,312
Bangladesh	?				-			2,000	1,000	3,000
Comoros	(GT)	0	-	-	-			2,000	1,000	3,000
Djibouti	?	0	-	-	-			2,000	1,000	3,000
Eritrea	?	0	-	-	-			2,000	1,000	3,000
European Union Coastal fleet	(GT)	4,638	-	11,540	16,178					16,178
France (IO Territories)	(GT)	0	-	-	-			2,000		2,000
India	(GRT)	32,950	-	-	32,950					32,950
Indonesia	(GT)	124,011	-	-	124,011		-21,003			103,008
Iran	(GT)	83,524	-	16,439	99,963		-14,991			84,972
Kenya	(GT)	0	-	-	-			2,000		2,000
Madagascar	(GT)	263	-	-	263			1,737	1,000	3,000
Malaysia	(GRT)	2,299	-	2,015	4,314					4,314
Maldives	(GT)	0	-	16,715	16,715				1,000	17,715
Mauritius	(GRT)	1,931	-	6,658	8,589				1,000	9,589
Mozambique	(GT)	0	-	520	520			1,480	1,000	3,000
Oman	(GT)	3,126	-	-	3,126					3,126
Pakistan	(GT)	0	-	1,130	1,130					1,130
Seychelles	(GT)	41,735	536	-	42,271		-568		1,000	42,703
Somalia	?	0	-	-	-			2,000	1,000	3,000
South Africa	(GT)	3,013	-	-	3,013					3,013

## IOTC–2016–S20–PropS[E]

Sri Lanka	(GT)	18,436	-	22,203	40,639		-160			40,479
Sudan	?	0	-	-	-			2,000	1,000	3,000
Tanzania	(GT)	0	-	1,535	1,535			465	1,000	2,535
Thailand	(GT)	13,771	-	-	13,771					13,771
Yemen	?	0	-	-	-			2,000	1,000	3,000
U. K. (I.O. Territories)	(GT)	0	-	-	-			2,000		2,000
<b>Long Distant Water fleets</b>										
China	(GT)	27,216	-	-	27,216	-6,804				20,412
European Union DW Fleet	(GT)	96,595	21,922	-	118,517	-29,629				88,888
Japan	(GT)	91,076	-		91,076	-22,769				68,307
Korea, Republic of	(GT)	15,274	-	-	15,274	-3,819				11,456
Philippines	(GRT)	10,304	-		10,304	-2,576				7,728
Senegal	(GRT)	1,250	-	-	1,250	-313				938
Taiwan, Province of China	?	84,373	-	-	84,373	-21,093				63,280
<b>Total</b>	<b>(GRT+GT)</b>	<b>659,097</b>	<b>22,458</b>	<b>78,755</b>	<b>760,310</b>	<b>-87,003</b>	<b>-36,721</b>	<b>23,217</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>672,804</b>