

01 September 2021

IOTC CIRCULAR 2021-46

Dear Madam / Sir

OBJECTION FROM SOMALIA TO IOTC RESOLUTION 21/01

Please find attached a communication from Somalia regarding its objection, in accordance to Article IX (5) of the IOTC Agreement, to [IOTC Resolution 21/01](#) *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence*, which was adopted at the 25th Session of the IOTC.

Given a previous objection, an extension period of 60 days has already been applied to the date when Resolution 21/01 comes into force. Thus, Resolution 21/01 will come into force on 17 December 2021, unless a total of more than one-third of the members also object, before this time. Somalia's objection is the fourth to be received.

The relevant paragraphs (5, 6 and 7) of Article IX on the ensuing process are reproduced herein for your reference.

5. Any Member of the Commission may, within 120 days from the date specified or within such other period as may be specified by the Commission under paragraph 4, object to a conservation and management measure adopted under paragraph 1. A Member of the Commission which has objected to a measure shall not be bound thereby. Any other Member of the Commission may similarly object within a further period of 60 days from the expiry of the 120-day period. A Member of the Commission may also withdraw its objection at any time and become bound by the measure immediately if the measure is already in effect or at such time as it may come into effect under this article.

6. If objections to a measure adopted under paragraph 1 are made by more than one-third of the Members of the Commission, the other Members shall not be bound by that measure; but this shall not preclude any or all of them from giving effect thereto.

7. The Secretary shall notify each Member of the Commission immediately upon receipt of each objection or withdrawal of objection.

Yours sincerely



Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Letter from Somalia

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** Chairperson IOTC. **Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

REF: MFMR/DG/121/21.

DATE: -23/08/2021

To: INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION (IOTC)
Mr. Dr. Christopher O'Brine
The Executive Secretary
Le Chantler Mall (2nd Floor)
PO Box 1011
Vitoria Mahe- SEYCHELLES

Subject: Objection to Resolution 21/01 under article IX (5) of the IOTC Agreement (IOTC Circular 2021-31)

Dear Dr. O' Brien,

The purpose of this official letter is to refer to IOTC Circular 2021-31 disclosure of the Conservation of management measures that was endorsed by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

We all recognize that there has to be a change if the tuna fisheries on which Somalia depend on are to return to sustainability, business as usual in the Indian Ocean has not been kind to Somalia. Our Somalia EEZ is home to the biggest upwelling in the Indian Ocean, a fact recognized by the European Fleets who started fishing our waters since 1980s without referee to the Somali nation.

The large-scale industrial fishing of the developed and distant water nation Pure Seine fishing fleets that targeted fishing of yellowfin tuna (YFT) is the biggest responsible factor in the depleted stock of Yellowfin tuna we experience today. The proposed allocation of catch structure over seen by IOTC must be based on the needs of the fishery by the coastal states, who have the sovereign rights for the management of tuna fishery stocks in their EEZ, and not on historical catch by industrialized states which have no border and have the luxury to move operations to the current fishing locations that is lucrative for their fisheries campaign.

Therefore, we support the largest reduction in catch by industrial fishing fleets of the developed and distant water nations that are engaged in a targeted fishing of yellowfin tuna (YFT) fisheries as we reiterate adequate fish stocks for the future of Somali people is the top priority of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Therefore, in the view of the article IX (5) of the agreement, Somalia hereby submits its objection to the IOTC Resolution 21/01, with the request that the decision with Somalia to be circulated by all concerned parties.

Best Regards,

Mohamoud Sh. Abdullahi
Director General

