



SWIOFC/WPCCTF/19/6 E

SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

Ninth Working Party on Collaboration and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries

Maldives, 29 September 2019

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIONS CARRIED OUT BY MEMBER COUNTRIES IN REGARD TO SUSTAINABLE TUNA DEVELOPMENT IN THE SWIO REGION

Under this agenda item, Member Countries are invited to present and discuss actions carried out in regard to sustainable tuna development in the SWIO region during the intersessional period. Actions include updates of legislation and institutional framework, tuna fishing operations (i.e. fleet development, infrastructures, processing, trade, and value chain), Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) related activities, joint activities undertaken by Member Countries, best practices, etc.

In order to gather preparatory information and facilitate the discussions on this agenda item, the SWIOFC Secretariat sent to Member Countries a template (see Appendix 1) to be filled and returned before the meeting. To date, only three Members (France, Mozambique, and Seychelles) submitted their report of activities undertaken, both at national and regional level. Member Countries that have not yet returned their questionnaire are still invited to submit their information.

France reported that the new patrol vessel “*Osiris II*” will replace “*Osiris I*” and be operational by October 2019. With regards to MCS activities, the report also indicated the number of patrol days done by patrol vessels, transit declarations issued by the French Authorities, and the implementation of scientific observer program, which included both human and electronic observers. The report also listed the IOTC resolutions that were incorporated in the national legislation.

Mozambique reported the adoption of the regulation for granting fishing rights and licensing, which incorporated provisions from the MTC Guidelines, the revision by the Parliament of the Maritime Law, which included the establishment of a joint task force for maritime surveillance with members from the fisheries, customs, police, navy and other departments. With regards to MCS activities, two Mozambican MCS officials were trained and the country participated in regional patrols.

Regarding updates on legislation and institutional framework, Seychelles reported that SFA underwent a process to revise and modernize its establishment act namely the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act 1984. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the Bill in June 2019 which was then subsequently published in the official gazette the following month. The next step is for the Bill to be presented and debated in the National Assembly.

Revision of the Fisheries Act and Regulations is being carried out in 2 phases and under 2 different projects. Phase 1 is focussing on industrial fishing and involves the transposition of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission resolutions into Seychelles’ fisheries legislations. The consultant started her work in November 2018 and is expected to complete the project in December 2019. Phase 2 will focus on small scale fisheries. The project has been advertised but a consultant is yet to be chosen.

For what concerns MCS capacity, Seychelles reported the following actions:

- New FMC operational.
- Recruitment of additional staff to boost capacity
- Deployment of Electronic Reporting System.
- Monitoring System upgraded
- Signed agreement with Nelson Mandela University to undertake training of Fisheries Inspectors
- Review of NPOA-IUU
- New institutional arrangement to allow reorganization of MCS division + increasing of capacity of MCS division

APPENDIX 1

**Intersessional Country Report on actions carried out in regard to sustainable tuna development
in the SWIO region**

Country Name:	Period: <u>from September 2018 to date</u>
I. Updates on legislation and institutional framework	
II. MCS capacity	
III. Fleet, Infrastructures, value Chain	
IV. Others	