

**COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS**

**Twenty-third Session**

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**CWP QUESTIONNAIRE**

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## IOTC Response to CWP-23 Questionnaire

### 1. Whether does your organization maintain IUU list? If yes, please describe the criteria to determine whether a certain vessels/activities to be included in the list.

Yes, the IOTC implemented provisions for the identification of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU activities in 2002 (IOTC Resolution 02/04) and those provisions were amended in 2006 (IOTC Resolution 06/01) and further amended in 2009 (IOTC Resolution 09/03 *On Establishing A List Of Vessels Presumed To Have Carried Out Illegal, Unregulated And Unreported Fishing In The IOTC Area*)

IOTC Resolution 09/03 states that “Fishing vessels are presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the IOTC Area, inter alia, when a Contracting Party or Co-operating non-Contracting Party presents evidence that such vessels:

- (a) Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the IOTC Area and are not registered on the IOTC Record of Vessels authorised to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area, in accordance with Resolution 07/02, or
- (b) Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the IOTC Area, when their flag state is without sufficient quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under IOTC conservation and management measures where applicable, or
- (c) Do not record or report their catches made in the IOTC Area in accordance with IOTC reporting requirements, or make false reports, or
- (d) Take or land undersized fish in contravention of IOTC conservation measures, or
- (e) Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of IOTC conservation measures, or
- (f) Use prohibited fishing gear in contravention of IOTC conservation measures, or
- (g) Tranship with, or participate in joint operations such as re-supplying or re-fuelling, vessels included in the IUU Vessels List, or
- (h) Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of a coastal State in the IOTC Area without authorisation and/or infringe the coastal state.s laws and regulations, (this is without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels), or
- (i) Are without nationality and harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the IOTC Area, or
- (j) Engage in fishing, including transhipping, re-supplying or re-fuelling, contrary to any other IOTC conservation and management measures.”

The complete text of the Resolution can be found in:

[http://www.iotc.org/files/proceedings/misc/ComReportsTexts/resolutions\\_E.pdf](http://www.iotc.org/files/proceedings/misc/ComReportsTexts/resolutions_E.pdf)

The IOTC List of Vessels Presumed to have conducted illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing can be found in:

[http://www.iotc.org/files/iuu/IOTC\\_iuu\\_list%5BE%5D.pdf](http://www.iotc.org/files/iuu/IOTC_iuu_list%5BE%5D.pdf)

### 2. Does your organization estimate the amount of catch taken by IUU activities? If so, please describe briefly the estimation procedures.

The IOTC Secretariat provides preliminary estimates concerning the amounts of catch taken by vessels involved in IUU activities. In addition, the IOTC Secretariat estimates catches for other fleets that operate under the flag of IOTC Members and Co-operating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC) or Non-Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties in the case that they are not reported by the flag countries (note that these catches are not assimilated to the catches of IUU vessels). These estimates are revised by the IOTC Scientific Committee, which agrees final estimates of catches for the species under consideration.

The IOTC uses as many data sources as possible in the estimation of catches of IUU vessels or other catches not reported officially to the Secretariat, including:

- 1) Vessels in the IOTC IUU List as adopted by the Commission.
- 2) Information on the activities of vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC Area, as provided by Third Parties, including:
  - Reports on the activities of foreign fishing vessels having a license to operate within the EEZ of coastal countries in the Indian Ocean: IOTC CPCs provide lists of foreign vessels to the Secretariat each year including vessel identification, dimensions, ownership and other information, as requested in paragraph 3 of IOTC Resolution 07/04 (*Concerning registration and exchange of information on vessels fishing for tunas and swordfish in the IOTC Area*). These provisions exist since 1998.
  - Reports on the activities of foreign fishing vessels putting in to ports within the territory of IOTC CPCs, including the catches unloaded, by species, as requested in paragraph 8 of IOTC Resolution 05/03 (*Relating to the establishment of an IOTC programme of inspection in port*). These provisions exist since 2005.
- 3) Information on the activities of vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC Area provided by the flag countries, as requested in IOTC Resolution 07/04.

The IOTC Secretariat uses the above lists to identify vessels or fleets whose catches have not been reported or are thought incomplete. The catches for this component, when they are not available (i.e. only vessel numbers are available) are estimated using the numbers available and average catches of proxy fleets. The main criteria used for the allocation of proxy fleets are vessel type, vessel ownership, and vessel size. The following categories apply at present:

- Deep-freezing longliners under Asian ownership
  - Fresh-tuna longliners under Asian ownership
  - Freezing longliners under European ownership
- 4) Information collected by the IOTC-OFCF Project through the implementation of field activities (sampling programmes) or compiled during missions to developing coastal states in the IOTC Region.
  - 5) Data from the FAO databases (FAO FishStat)
  - 6) Other data published by the countries concerned (e.g. in Web Pages) or other institutions or Projects in the region, that has not been reported officially to the Secretariat.
  - 7) Other information reported to the IOTC including data concerning the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme (IOTC Resolution 01/06) and, recently, the IOTC Observer Programme (transshipment data; IOTC Resolution 08/02) and reports from stakeholders (through ISSF).

The IOTC Secretariat revises the catches from the above sources and presents the information available to the Scientific Committee, including estimates derived from the above information. The estimation of catches involves in most cases the disaggregation of catches not reported by species or gear. The catches are broken by gear and species using information from the same fleet (when available by species for other periods) or information from proxy fleets (for the same or other years). More information about data availability and estimation procedures can be found in the document (*CWP-23/IOTC: IOTC-2009-WPDCS-04 Data Collection Report*).

- 3. Please list the data that the organization collected from member states (including cooperating non-members), their format (e.g. questionnaires) and a set of classifications/codes used.**

The IOTC Secretariat collects information from all fishing nations presumed to have caught IOTC species in the IOTC Area during the year concerned, including Non-Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. Requests for data are addressed to all coastal countries in the IOTC Region and other fishing nations presumed to have vessels fishing for IOTC species in the Area.

The standards for the reporting of fisheries statistics to the IOTC were adopted in 1998, amended in 2001 and further amended in 2008 (IOTC Resolution 08/01 *Mandatory Statistical Requirements For IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPC's)*). Following are the standards that apply at present:

- **Nominal catch data:** Estimates of the total annual catch by species and gear for all species under the IOTC mandate.
- **Catch and effort data:**
  - (a) **For surface fisheries:** catch weight by species and fishing effort shall be provided by 1° grid area and month strata. Purse seine fishery 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.
  - (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, subject to the approval of the data owners and IOTC Resolution 98/02 Data confidentiality policy and procedures (Resolution 98/02), and should be provided for scientific use in a timely fashion.
  - (c) **For coastal fisheries:** available 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.

These provisions, applicable to tuna and tuna-like species, shall also be applicable to the most commonly caught shark species and, 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.
- **Size data:**

Size data shall be provided for all gears and for all species covered by the IOTC mandate according to the guidelines set out by 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. 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).
- Given that the activities of **supply 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:
  - (a) The number and characteristics of supply 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 supply vessels by 1° grid area and month to be reported by the flag state of the supply vessel.
  - (c) The total number and type of FADs set by the supply vessel and purse seine fleet per quarter. Types of FADs are defined as 1) drifting log or debris, 2) drifting raft or fad with a

net, 3) drifting raft or fad without a net, 4) other (e.g. Payao, dead animal etc). All types monitored by a tracking system.

These data would be for the exclusive use of IOTC scientists, subject to the approval of the data owners and Resolution 98/02 *Data confidentiality policy and procedures*, and should be provided in a timely fashion.

In addition to the above, the following IOTC Resolutions call for IOTC CPCs to report levels of bycatch of sharks, seabirds and marine turtles to the IOTC Secretariat on a yearly basis:

- IOTC Resolution 05/05 *Concerning the conservation of **SHARKS** caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC*
  - *Paragraph 1: Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) shall annually **report data for catches of sharks, in accordance with IOTC data reporting procedures, including available historical data.***
  - *Paragraph 2: The **ratio of fin-to-body weight of sharks** shall be reviewed by the Scientific Committee and reported back to the Commission in 2006 for revision, if necessary.*
- IOTC Recommendation 05/09 *On incidental mortality of **SEABIRDS***
  - *Paragraph 2: CPCs should be encouraged to **collect and voluntarily provide** Scientific Committee with all available information on interactions with seabirds, including **incidental catches in all fisheries under the purview of IOTC.***
- IOTC Resolution 08/03 *On reducing the incidental bycatch of **SEABIRDS** in **longline fisheries***
  - *Paragraph 7: CPCs shall provide to the Commission, as part of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds, including **bycatch by fishing vessels carrying their flag or authorised to fish by them. This is to including details of species where available to enable the Scientific Committee to annually estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries within the IOTC area of competence.***
- IOTC Resolution 09/06 *On **MARINE TURTLES***
  - *Paragraph 2: CPCs shall collect (including through logbooks and observer programs) and provide to the Scientific Committee all data on their vessels' interactions with marine turtles in fisheries targeting the species covered by the IOTC Agreement. CPC shall also furnish available information to the Scientific Committee on successful mitigation measures and other impacts on marine turtles in the IOTC Area, such as the deterioration of nesting sites and swallowing of marine debris.*

The last meeting of the IOTC Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (December 2009) adopted new “Guidelines for the reporting of fisheries statistics to the IOTC” and new forms for the reporting of data, as presented by the IOTC Secretariat. The new forms and Guidelines incorporate the provisions adopted by the Secretariat in recent years, addressing also other recommendations concerning the compilation of fisheries or socio-economic data from IOTC CPCs and other parties fishing in the Indian Ocean. The Guidelines and new forms will be released in April 2010.

The new codes that will be used by the IOTC are included in the attached excel file (*IOTCcodes.xls*).

#### **4. Please provide the methodological description of national statistics, if available.**

More than 50 states have fishing vessels operating in the Indian Ocean. Although the IOTC Secretariat compiles information concerning the national statistical systems existing in the countries concerned, there are no standards in place for the collection of this information making it very difficult to put the existing data together. Summaries of the documents existing are available in the ASFA database.

In 2009 the IOTC Secretariat sent “Questionnaires on data collection, data management and data dissemination” to all fishing nations in the Indian Ocean (see attached *QuestionnaireStats.zip* file). The main purpose of the questionnaires is to gather more information concerning data collection and processing systems for IOTC fisheries in the countries involved. The information collected will be computerized and a report presented to the next meeting of the WPDCS (December 2010).

In addition, the IOTC has collected information through the IOTC-OFCF Project, compiling Country Reports for 12 coastal countries in the IOTC Region. These reports contain a description of the fisheries and national statistical systems existing at the time the study was carried out. Copies of the reports can be requested to the OFCF Project Manager, Mr. Shunji Fujiwara ( [shunji.fujiwara@iotc.org](mailto:shunji.fujiwara@iotc.org) ).

**5. Please indicate the sections of the CWP Handbook that you considered outdated as well as those issues missing.**

No suggestions at this time.