



## Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

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Held by videoconference, 2-6 November 2020

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Contact details:

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission  
Le Chantier Mall  
PO Box 1011  
Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles  
Ph: +248 4225 494  
Fax: +248 4224 364  
Email: [iotc-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:iotc-secretariat@fao.org)  
Website: <http://www.iotc.org>

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## ACRONYMS

AFAD	Anchored fish aggregating device
BIOT	British Indian Ocean Territory
BMSY	Biomass which produces MSY
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CNCP	Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, of the IOTC
CoC	Compliance Committee of the IOTC
CPs	Contracting Parties
CPCs	Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
DFAD	Drifting fish aggregating device
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAD	Fish aggregating device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMSY	Fishing mortality at MSY
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HCR	Harvest control rule
ICRU	Improved Cost Recovery Uplift
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPNLF	International Pole and Line Foundation
ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
LRP	Limit reference point
LSTLV	Large-scale tuna longline vessel
MPF	Meeting participation fund, of the IOTC
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OFCF	Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OPRT	Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries
OT	Overseas Territories
PEW	PEW Charitable Trust
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SC	Scientific Committee of the IOTC
SCAF	Standing Committee on Administration and Finance of the IOTC
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SBMSY	Spawning or 'adult' equilibrium biomass at MSY
SWIOFC	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
TCAC	Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria of the IOTC
TCMP	Technical Committee on Management Procedures
TCPR	Technical Committee on Performance Review
TRP	Target referent point
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WPEB	Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch of the IOTC
WPICMM	Working party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures
WPM	Working Party on Methods of the IOTC
WPTmT	Working Party on Temperate tunas of the IOTC
WPTT	Working Party on Tropical Tunas of the IOTC
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (a.k.a World Wildlife Fund)

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## HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report uses the following terms and associated definitions.

Level 1: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:

**RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION:** Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

Level 2: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a CPC, the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:

**REQUESTED:** This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a Committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalise the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

Level 3: General terms to be used for consistency:

**AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 or level 2 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be considered/adopted by the next level in the Commission's structure.

**NOTED/NOTING:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference.

**Any other term:** Any other term may be used in addition to the Level 3 terms to highlight to the reader of an IOTC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. However, other terms used are considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3, described above (e.g. **CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED**).

**CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION****THIRTY-ONE, AS OF 6 NOVEMBER 2020**

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**AUSTRALIA**  
**BANGLADESH**  
**CHINA**  
**COMOROS**  
**ERITREA**  
**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**FRANCE (OT)**  
**INDIA**  
**INDONESIA**  
**IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF**  
**JAPAN**  
**KENYA**  
**KOREA, REPUBLIC OF**  
**MADAGASCAR**  
**MALAYSIA**  
**MALDIVES**  
**MAURITIUS**  
**MOZAMBIQUE**  
**OMAN**  
**PAKISTAN**  
**PHILIPPINES**  
**SEYCHELLES**  
**SIERRA LEONE**  
**SOMALIA**  
**SOUTH AFRICA, REP. OF**  
**SRI LANKA**  
**SUDAN**  
**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**THAILAND**  
**UNITED KINGDOM ("BIOT")**  
**YEMEN**

**COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION****TWO, AS OF 6 NOVEMBER 2020**

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**LIBERIA**  
**SENEGAL**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 24th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held from 2 to 6 November 2020 and chaired by Ms Susan Imende (Kenya).

Credentials were received for 235 delegates, comprising of 192 delegates from 24 Contracting Parties (Members), 2 delegates from 2 Cooperating Non-contracting Parties, 29 delegates from 15 observer organisations including 6 invited experts and 6 delegates from the FAO.

The Session was convened virtually, on an exceptional basis, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health concerns. In doing so, the Commission agreed to avoid matters which are typically complex and time consuming and, overall, incompatible with the framework and available time of a virtual meeting, including new Conservation and Management Measures.

The Commission adopted a procedure for the recruitment of the IOTC Executive Secretary to be submitted to the FAO Council for approval.

The Commission endorsed a work plan for the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria that included the use of the thematic structure as a basis for framing future discussions and agreed that the TCAC would meet on three occasions in 2021.

The Commission granted the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party to Liberia and Senegal until the close of the 25th Session in 2021.

The IOTC IUU Vessels List was updated but no new vessels were added by the Commission in 2020. The adopted list is accessible from [Appendix 7](#).

The Commission adopted a programme of work and budget ([Appendix 8](#)) and a corresponding scheme of contributions ([Appendix 9](#)) amounting to USD 4,221,458 for the 2021 calendar year.

The Commission agreed to enter collaborative arrangements with the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels and the Indian Ocean MOU on Port State Control (IOMOU), respectively, through letters of intent.

The Commission noted with concern the current status of yellowfin tuna. The Commission agreed to hold a Special Session by videoconference from 8 to 12 March 2021. This meeting will focus on the sustainability of the yellowfin tuna fishery and addressing deficiencies relating to the harvest control rule for skipjack tuna.

The Commission adopted a full schedule of meetings for 2021 ([Appendix 10](#)) but acknowledged the possibility that some meetings may not be in-person events due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



## 1. Opening of the session

1. The 24th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was opened by the IOTC Chairperson Ms Susan Imende (Kenya).
2. The meeting was originally scheduled for 8-12 June 2020; however due to the COVID-19 pandemic the in-person meeting was changed to one by video-conference and rescheduled to 2 hours per day from 2 to 6 November (refer to [IOTC Circulars](#) 2020-17,2020-20, 2020-37, 2020-43).

## 2. Letters of credentials

3. The Commission **NOTED** that 24 Members, 2 Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, and 17 Observers submitted credentials. The list of participants is provided in [Appendix 1](#).
4. The Commission **NOTED** the statements made by Mauritius and the United Kingdom("BIOT") ([Appendix 2](#)).

## 3. Admission of observers

5. Pursuant to Article VII of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, the Commission admitted the following observers, in accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014):

*Members and Associate Members of the FAO that are not Members of the Commission.*

- —

*Intergovernmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission.*

- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
- Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- Indian Ocean MOU on Port State Control
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

*Non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission.*

- Blue Marine Foundation
- Global Tuna Alliance
- International Pole and Line Foundation
- International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
- Key Traceability
- Marine Stewardship Council
- PEW Charitable Trusts
- SHARKPROJECT International
- Stop Illegal Fishing
- Sustainable Fisheries Partnership
- Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

*Invited consultants and experts.*

- Taiwan, Province of China

## 4. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session

6. In August 2020, the Heads of Delegations met to discuss S24 meeting procedures and the handling of agenda items. The Heads of Delegations agreed to avoid matters which are typically complex and time consuming and, overall, incompatible with the framework and available time of the proposed virtual meeting. This included posting comments on agenda items prior to the meeting; and not including agenda items on amendments to the IOTC Basic texts and new Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

7. An agenda (IOTC-2020-S24-01b) was agreed by the Heads of Delegations 30 days in advance of the meeting and credentialed participants were invited to submit comments or ask questions on the meeting documents in a pre-meeting discussion document (IOTC-2020-S24-01c). The aim of this exercise was to reduce meeting time and assist the Chairperson to identify and plan for important matters ahead of time.
8. The final agenda used for the meeting (IOTC-2020-S24-01d) is provided in [Appendix 3](#). The documents presented to the Commission are listed in [Appendix 4](#).

## 5. Update on the implementation of decisions of the Commission in 2019 (S23)

9. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2020-S24-03 which provided the Commission with information on the progress made during the inter-sessional period on the requests for action made at its 23rd Session in 2019.

## 6. Items referred to IOTC by the Conference, Council or the Director General

### 6.1 Regarding the development of a proposal for a permanent procedure to select the IOTC Executive Secretary

10. The Commission **RECALLED** its ongoing deliberations with FAO regarding the development of a revised procedure for the recruitment of the IOTC Executive Secretary being negotiated by the Commission and the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and **NOTED** document IOTC-2020-S24-04\_Rev3 which summarised the most recent discussions.
11. The Commission **NOTED** the clarifications and additional information on the procedure provided by the Independent Chairperson of Council and the FAO Legal Counsel and **THANKED** them for participating in the discussion.
12. In accordance with Rule XVIII of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, the Commission **ADOPTED** a procedure for the recruitment of the IOTC Executive Secretary ([Appendix 5](#)).
13. The Commission **ACKNOWLEDGED** that, given the IOTC Executive Secretary is appointed by the Director General FAO (IOTC Agreement VIII.1) the proposed procedure must be consistent with the FAO's Basic Texts and therefore **REQUESTED** the chairperson to forward the proposed procedure to the Independent Chairperson of the Council for his concurrence before it is submitted to the FAO Council for approval.
14. The Commission **REQUESTED** that, if required, the IOTC Chairperson and the Chairperson of the Small Drafting Group liaise between the FAO and the Commission's Heads of Delegations on any further amendments that might be proposed from FAO's consideration of the procedure.
15. The Commission **THANKED** the Small Drafting Group for its intersessional work.

## 7. Report of the Scientific Committee

### 7.1 Overview of the 2019 SC22 Report and status of the stocks

16. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2019-SC22-R) which was presented by the Scientific Committee Chair, Dr Toshihide Kitakado (Japan). A total of 34 delegates from 15 Contracting Parties and 9 participants from 2 observer organisations attended the 2019 Scientific Committee meeting.
17. The Commission **NOTED** that 9 Contracting Parties and 1 Cooperating Non-Contracting Party did not submit a National Report to the Scientific Committee in 2019, and issues with lack of data and poor-quality data persist. The Commission **REITERATED** its concerns about the lack and poor quality of data, and again, strongly **ENCOURAGED** CPCs to take immediate steps to review, and where necessary, improve their performance with respect to the provision of data through improved compliance with Resolutions 15/01 *On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence*, and 15/02 *Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties*.

18. Indonesia raised an issue that there are differences between official data reported by Indonesia and data used by the Scientific Committee. Consequently, the Commission **REQUESTED** that the matter be taken up by the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics and the Scientific Committee in 2020, and the Chair of the Scientific Committee report back to the Commission on this matter in 2021.
19. The Commission **NOTED** that the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund supported 77 CPC scientists to participate in IOTC scientific working parties and the Scientific Committee in 2019 and **AGREED** that this fund should be continued to enable CPC scientists to participate more fully in IOTC scientific processes.
20. The Commission **SUPPORTED** the ongoing Management Strategy Evaluation work and **NOTED** the revised workplan endorsed by the Scientific Committee in Appendix 6 of the 2019 Scientific Committee Report. The Commission particularly **NOTED** the importance of the work to specify the skipjack tuna harvest control rule as a full Management Procedure (MP) as well as the need to finalise the MP development for yellowfin tuna to provide sound management advice for this species.
21. The Commission **NOTED** the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Reference Point Working Group and **REQUESTED** that the outcomes of this group are presented to the TCMP for its consideration in 2021.
22. The Commission **NOTED** the stock status summaries for species of tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as other species impacted by IOTC fisheries ([Appendix 6](#)).
23. The Commission **NOTED** with concern the current status of yellowfin tuna. The Commission also **ACKNOWLEDGED** that six other IOTC species are also listed as being overfished and subject to overfishing and that measures should be taken to address this problem.

### The status of tropical and temperate tunas

24. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of tropical and temperate tunas is as follows (full details are provided in [Appendix 6](#)):

<p><b>Bigeye tuna</b></p> <p>In 2019 a new stock assessment was carried out for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence to update the stock status undertaken in 2016. The stock status determination changed qualitatively in 2019 to not overfished but subject to overfishing.</p>
<p><b>Yellowfin tuna</b></p> <p>No new stock assessment was carried out for yellowfin tuna in 2019, thus, stock status is determined on the basis of the 2018 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2018 and 2019, the yellowfin tuna stock is determined to remain overfished and subject to overfishing.</p>
<p><b>Skipjack tuna</b></p> <p>No new stock assessment was carried out for skipjack tuna in 2019, thus, stock status is determined on the basis of the 2016 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2019, the skipjack tuna stock is determined to be not overfished and is not subject to overfishing.</p>
<p><b>Albacore tuna</b></p> <p>A new stock assessment was carried out for albacore in 2019 to update the assessment undertaken in 2016. The stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY target reference points indicates that the stock is not overfished but is subject to overfishing.</p>

25. Due to its strong concern regarding the status of the yellowfin tuna stock, the Commission **REITERATED** the urgency for the Scientific Committee to produce an assessment of the yellowfin tuna stock as a priority in 2021.
26. The Commission **NOTED** the considerable use of estimated data in the yellowfin tuna assessment due to the unavailability of data from CPCs, as is the case for all species. The Commission **URGED** all CPCs to improve their data collection and reporting.

27. The Commission **NOTED** that total catches of skipjack in 2018 (607,701 t) were 30% higher than the catch limit generated by the Harvest Control Rule (470,029 t) which applies to the years 2018–2020, and that catches have increased over the past 3 years. The Commission further **NOTED** that a new catch limit for skipjack will be calculated by the Scientific Committee in 2020 using the Harvest Control Rule (in accordance with Resolution 16/02).

### The status of neritic tunas

28. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of neritic tunas is as follows (full details are provided in [Appendix 6](#)):

#### **Kawakawa**

A stock assessment was not undertaken for kawakawa in 2019 and the status is determined on the basis of the last assessment conducted in 2015, which used catch data from 1950 to 2013. Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the kawakawa stock for the Indian Ocean is classified as not overfished and not subject to overfishing.

#### **Longtail tuna**

No new stock assessment for Longtail tuna was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2017 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. Based on the weight-of-evidence currently available, the stock is considered to be both overfished and subject to overfishing.

#### **Indo-Pacific king mackerel**

No new stock assessment for Indo-Pacific king mackerel was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2016 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. Given that no new assessment was undertaken in 2019, the WPNT considered that stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY target reference points remains unknown.

#### **Narrowed-Barred Spanish mackerel**

No new stock assessment for Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2017 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the stock appears to be overfished and subject to overfishing.

#### **Bullet tuna**

No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for bullet tuna in the Indian Ocean, and due to a lack of fishery data for several gears, only preliminary stock status indicators can be used. Stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY reference points remains unknown.

#### **Frigate tuna**

No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for frigate tuna in the Indian Ocean, and due to a lack of fishery data for several gears, only preliminary stock status indicators can be used. Stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY reference points remains unknown.

### The status of billfish

29. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of billfish is as follows (full details are provided in [Appendix 6](#)):

#### **Swordfish**

No new stock assessment was carried out for swordfish in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2017 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2019, the stock is determined to be not overfished and not subject to overfishing.

#### **Striped Marlin**

No new stock assessment for striped marlin was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2018 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2019, the stock status of striped marlin is determined to be overfished and subject to overfishing.

#### **Blue Marlin**

Stock status based on the Bayesian State-Space Surplus Production model JABBA suggests that there is an 87% probability that the Indian Ocean blue marlin stock in 2017 is in the red zone of the Kobe plot, indicating the stock is overfished and subject to overfishing.

#### **Black Marlin**

No new stock assessment for black marlin was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2018 assessment based on JABBA and other indicators presented in 2019. The Kobe plot from the JABBA model indicated that the stock is not subject to overfishing and is currently not overfished, however these status estimates are subject to a high degree of uncertainty.

#### **Indo-Pacific sailfish**

A new stock assessment was carried out for Indo-Pacific sailfish in 2019 using the C-MSY model. The data poor stock assessment techniques indicated that  $F$  was above  $F_{MSY}$  ( $F/F_{MSY}=1.22$ ) and  $B$  above  $B_{MSY}$  ( $B/B_{MSY}=1.14$ ). On the weight-of-evidence available in 2019, the stock status cannot be assessed and is determined to be uncertain.

30. The Commission **EXPRESSED** concern that catches for several billfish species in both 2017 and 2018 were higher than the limits outlined in Resolution 18/05. The Commission further **NOTED** that several billfish species are assessed to be overfished and subject to overfishing and that measures should be taken to address this problem.

### **Matters related to ecosystems, bycatch and the status of sharks**

31. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of sharks is as follows (full details are provided in [Appendix 6](#)):

#### **Blue shark**

No new stock assessment for blue sharks was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2017 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. On the weight-of-evidence currently available, the stock status is determined to be not overfished and not subject to overfishing.

#### **Oceanic whitetip shark**

There is no quantitative stock assessment and limited basic fishery indicators currently available. Therefore the stock status is highly uncertain.

## **7.2 Scientific Committee Recommendations**

32. The Commission **ENDORSED** the Scientific Committee's 2019 list of recommendations as its own. The Commission **AGREED** to interpret Recommendation 22.22 as a request and **NOTED** that any purse seine fleets

reporting effort as fishing hours or fishing days should begin to submit this information as ‘number of sets’, in accordance with the reporting requirements of Resolutions 15/01 and 15/02.

33. Japan stated that it would not oppose the endorsement of the recommendations on the understanding that many of the recommendations require the Commission to note the advice provided by the Scientific Committee and endorsement of the recommendations would not imply that the Commission shall strictly follow them.
34. The Commission **NOTED** that new Chairperson (Dr Toshihide Kitakado, Japan) and Vice-Chairperson (Dr Denham Parker, South Africa) were elected intersessionally after the 2019 Scientific Committee and **ENDORSED** their election. The Commission **THANKED** the out-going Chairperson (Dr Hilario Murua (EU) and vice-Chairperson (Dr Shiham Adam, Maldives) for their four years of contribution.
35. The Commission **ENDORSED** the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons for the subsidiary bodies of the Scientific Committee for the coming years, as listed in Appendix 7 of the 2019 Scientific Committee Report.

## 8. Report of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria

### 8.1 Overview of the TCAC06 report

36. The Executive Secretary presented a summary of the TCAC Chairperson’s report of TCAC06 which was held by videoconference, on 15-16 September 2020 (IOTC-2020-TCAC06-R). The meeting was chaired by the independent chairperson, Ms Nadia Bouffard. Credentials for the meeting were received for 182 delegates, comprising of 161 delegates from 25 Contracting Parties (Members), 14 delegates from 6 observer organisations and 7 invited experts.
37. The Commission **NOTED** that the Chair’s proposed way forward and work plan for framing the future discussions of the TCAC is based on 9 themes: General Principles; Eligibility; Scope; Allocation Structure; Adjustments; Weighting; Implementation; Transition; and, Final Clauses.
38. The Commission **ENDORSED** the TCAC Chair’s work plan that included the use of the thematic structure as a basis for framing future discussions of the TCAC; and for the TCAC chair to propose a new text to help bridge gaps between the two current allocation proposals, while proponents continue their parallel efforts to improve their proposal through dialogue.
39. The Commission **NOTED** that the adoption of CMMs should not be delayed by the ongoing process on allocation criteria.
40. The Commission **AGREED** that in 2021 the TCAC should meet on two occasions by video-conference (22-25 March and 21-24 June) and in-person 22-26 November (if possible) to progress its work ([Appendix 10](#)).
41. The Commission **NOTED** the statement made by Mauritius and in response the United Kingdom’s reference to its statement on 28 September 2020 ([Appendix 2](#)).

## 9. Report of the Compliance Committee

### 9.1 Overview of the CoC17 report

42. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 17th Session of the Compliance Committee (IOTC-2020-CoC17-R), which was presented by the Compliance Committee Chairperson, Ms. Anne-France Mattlet (France (OT)). CoC17 was held by correspondence and a total of 23 Contracting Parties (Members), 1 Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, 5 Observers and 1 Invited Expert submitted credentials for the meeting.
43. The Commission **NOTED** the objection of Mauritius to references made in the report of the Compliance Committee to “UK (“BIOT”)”, “United Kingdom (“BIOT”)” and “UK “BIOT”” and to “waters of UK (“BIOT”)”. The statement made by Mauritius is at Appendix 2. The Commission also NOTED in response the United Kingdom’s reference to its statement on 28 September 2020 (also [Appendix 2](#)).
44. The delegation of Mauritius referred to its earlier request for a legal opinion from the Legal Counsel on how the FAO was implementing UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 and further requested the Legal Counsel to

advise whether, in the light of UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295, the use of the term “BIOT” in official documents of the IOTC was in order.

45. The Commission **NOTED** the concerns of CPCs with regards to the format of CoC17 and **AGREED** that if conditions next year still does not permit for the conduct of a physical meeting, the next Compliance Committee meeting should be by video conference.
46. The Commission **ENDORSED** the amendments made by the Compliance Committee to the consolidated set of recommendations of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM03).
47. Recognising that recommendation CoC17.10 and CoC17.11 had been addressed during the Commission meeting, the Commission **ENDORSED** 39 out of the 41 recommendations from the consolidated set of recommendations from CoC17, noting that two of the recommendations were resolved during the meeting. The Commission also **NOTED** the objection of Mauritius to its endorsement of CoC17.20 (Para 83).

***Recommendations arising from the review of compliance status***

48. The Commission **ENDORSED** the 16 recommendations arising from the review of the country-based Compliance Reports and the summary report on the levels of compliance (CoC17.01 to 16).
49. The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs are still failing to submit mandatory information and data in accordance to Resolution 15/02 and **URGED** those CPCs to provide the missing information and data as soon as possible.
50. The Commission **ENCOURAGED** CPCs to work closer with the IOTC Secretariat and, if necessary, request support for capacity development if they are encountering challenges to submit mandatory information and data.
51. The Commission **NOTED** that Oman had submitted its response to two possible infractions recorded under the regional observer programme to monitor at sea transshipments. The response will be provided to the WPICMM in 2021.
52. The Commission **EXPRESSED** concern about the recent change in data collection methods implemented by the Spanish (EU) fleet which may affect the continuity of the catch data time series.
53. The Commission **NOTED** the commitment of the European Union to keep CPCs informed on progress relating to an internal review of the data collection method and to analyse, on this basis, whether this data collection method results in a significant difference in data collection and reporting used in the past.
54. The Commission **NOTED** the Compliance Committee’s concern about Sierra Leone’s lack of reporting and participation in Commission proceedings. The Chairperson informed the meeting Sierra Leone joined the Commission in 2008 and since then has not attended any meeting of the Commission or Compliance Committee, has not submitted data in accordance with IOTC CMMs, or responded to requests to do so; and has not paid its contributions. The Commission **NOTED** that the chairperson wrote to Sierra Leone in September 2020, and this was the third letter sent to Sierra Leone on this matter.
55. The Commission **REQUESTED** the Chairperson to write again to Sierra Leone informing the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources that from Friday 5 February 2021 the Commission will (in accordance with Article IV of the IOTC Agreement) determine that Sierra Leone has withdrawn from the IOTC Agreement due to it defaulting on its Agreement obligations for (more than) two consecutive calendar years.

***Recommendation relating to the harvest control rule for skipjack tuna (Resolution 16/02)***

56. The Commission **NOTED** that Resolution 16/02 does not contain any clear rules for allocation of skipjack tuna nor any clear mechanism for individual CPCs to limit their skipjack tuna catch when the total allowable catch is reached.
57. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that CPCs meet during the intersessional period to address the deficiencies in Resolution 16/02, especially paragraph 11 b.

### **Recommendations relating to the implementation of vessel monitoring system**

58. **NOTING** that the vessel monitoring system (VMS) is a mandatory measure adopted by the Commission since 2006, the Commission **REQUESTED** that Iran and India submit their respective VMS implementation plans in 2021 to the CoC18 and to implement a VMS for their applicable vessels operating in the IOTC Area.
59. The Commission **NOTED** that the four Indian vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels are government research vessels that are not engaged in commercial fishing and are subject to the government's own monitoring mechanisms.

### **9.2 Adoption of the List of IUU Vessels**

60. The Commission **ENDORSED** the three recommendations (CoC17.22, CoC17.25 and CoC17.26) of the CoC to update the names of three vessels on the IUU Vessels List.
61. The Commission **ENDORSED** the recommendation that the carrier vessel, UTHAIWAN (ex-WISDOM SEA REEFER), be deleted from the IOTC IUU Vessels List upon receipt of proof that the vessel has been scrapped.
62. The Commission **NOTED** the statement made by Mauritius (Appendix 2) and in response the United Kingdom's reference to its statement on 28 September 2020 (also Appendix 2).
63. The Commission **NOTED** the information provided by Sri Lanka on the vessel, IMULA 0811 GLE, and that the fine imposed on the owner of the vessel was of adequate severity and **RECOMMENDED** that the vessel not be included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List.
64. The Commission **ADOPTED** the IOTC IUU Vessels List ([Appendix 7](#)). All CPCs shall be required to take the necessary measures regarding the IUU Vessels List in accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution 18/03.

### **9.3 Requests for the accession to the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party**

65. The Commission **NOTED** the applications for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) status from Liberia, and Senegal, which were received within the deadline, prior to the commencement of the session.
66. The Commission **NOTED** the explanation from Liberia as to why it failed to submit its credential and participate in the 17th Session of the Compliance Committee.
67. The Commission **GRANTED** CNCP status to Liberia and Senegal, up to the start of the 25th Session of the Commission.

## **10. Report of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance**

### **10.1 Overview of the SCAF17 report**

68. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 17th Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) (IOTC-2020-SCAF17-R), which was presented by the SCAF Chairperson, Mr Hussain Sinan (Maldives). SCAF17 was held by correspondence and a total of 89 delegates from 19 contracting parties and 9 invited experts participated.
69. The Commission **NOTED** that relatively few of the Credentialed Members made comments on the SCAF meeting response document and **AGREED** that if an in-person meeting is not possible in 2021, the SCAF18 should be held by video conference.
70. The Commission **ADOPTED** the SCAF report and **ENDORSED** the list of recommendations made by the SCAF17.

### **10.2 Programme of work and budget of the Commission**

71. The Commission **ADOPTED** the programme of work and budget for 2021, the indicative budget for 2022 ([Appendix 8](#)), and the schedule of contributions for 2021 as provided in [Appendix 9](#).



72. The Commission **NOTED** with concern that some Members have long histories of non-payment of contributions and this results in the annual budget being effectively reduced by around \$350,000 per year and **INVITED** CPCs with outstanding contributions to provide explanations to the Commission.
73. The Commission also **ACKNOWLEDGED** the difficulties being faced by some Members regarding payment of their contributions. However, the Commission stressed the importance of timely payment of contributions to ensure the effective functioning of the Commission and encouraged Members to work with the FAO and Secretariat to pay the outstanding contributions on a pre-arranged schedule.
74. The Commission **NOTED** that the FAO employer contribution costs are rapidly increasing in addition to overhead payments to FAO and **REQUESTED** the Secretariat to provide more information on how employer contributions are derived by the FAO for the SCAFs review.

### 10.3 Finalisation of the amendments to the IOTC Financial regulations

75. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the various dates to be included in Annex Reg 5 of the [Financial Regulations](#) and **DEFERRED** further discussion to SCAF18.
76. The Commission **REQUESTED** the SCAF to provide its advice on the matter in 2021, and to assist the SCAF's deliberations the Commission **REQUESTED** the Secretariat to provide the SCAF with information on the financial year of each IOTC Member.
77. The Commission **NOTED** that until this matter is resolved, the previous interpretation of the regulations (as per paragraph 22 of the S23 Report) will continue to be applied.

### 10.4 Schedule of meetings for 2021-2022

78. The Commission **ADOPTED** the schedule of meetings for its subsidiary bodies for 2021 as detailed in [Appendix 10](#).
79. The Commission **NOTED** the possibility that most meetings in 2021 will not be in-person meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 11. Conservation and Management Measures Proposals

### 11.1 Future conservation and management proposals

80. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2020-S24-PropA and the progress being made to develop a management procedure for the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock and **ENCOURAGED** Members to engage with the proponents to continue its development.
81. The Commission **AGREED** that a meeting of the TCMP should be held in 2021 to continue its work on the development of management procedures. The Commission **NOTED** that the Scientific Committee in 2020 will address the previous requests of the Commission on this work and provide advice for the TCMP to discuss in 2021. The Commission also **NOTED** the MSE Task force (a subgroup of the WPM) would be meeting in March to continue its highly technical discussions on MPs. The Commission further **NOTED** that the TCMP should be held back to back with the Commission to facilitate the participation of managers at the meeting.
82. The Commission **AGREED** to a proposal from Mauritius that the IOTC issue a statement expressing its concern at the declared intention of certain European retail chains to boycott processed yellowfin tuna from the Indian Ocean, and reassuring the international community that necessary action would be taken at the appropriate time and with the appropriate scientific advice to ensure the continued sustainability of fish stocks. No draft statement or process to develop a statement was discussed by the Commission.

### 11.2 Current Conservation and Management Measures that include a reference to the year 2020

83. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2020-S24-05.

84. Some CPCs referred to paragraph 10 of Res 19/01 *“Exceptionally for 2019 and 2020, Small Island Developing States CPCs that contributed less than 4% of the total yellowfin catch of the Indian Ocean in 2017, shall reduce their purse seine catch by 7.5% of 2018 levels”*.
85. Mauritius recalled that, at the meeting of Heads of Delegation held in August 2020, it was agreed that Conservation and Management Measures that include a reference to the year 2020 would be automatically rolled over to 2021, as communicated in IOTC Circular 2020-36. In this regard, Mauritius considered that if discussions were to be reopened on paragraph 10 of Resolution 19/01, there should also be discussions on other paragraphs of the resolution.
86. The European Union **EXPRESSED** its disagreement with extending the date in paragraph 10 from 2020 to 2021 reasoning that it was an ‘exceptional’ provision that was not intended to be extended beyond 2020, as clearly indicated by the formulation of the paragraph.
87. The Commission **AGREED** that Resolution 19/01 be considered at the Special Session of the Commission proposed for March 2021.

### 11.3 Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement

88. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2020-S24-06 which informs the Commission about the current ‘Objections’ to IOTC Conservation and Management Measures that have been received in accordance with Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement.

## 12. Any Other Business

### 12.1 Cooperation with other organisations and institutions

89. The Commission **NOTED** a proposal for a Letter of Understanding between IOTC and the Secretariat of the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (IOMOU) for the Indian Ocean region. The Commission **AGREED** to relabel the document as a Letter of Intent and **REQUESTED** the Chairperson of the Commission to sign the letter on behalf of the Commission and send it to IOMOU for signature.
90. The Commission **NOTED** a proposal for a Letter of Understanding to reconfirm the collaboration between IOTC and the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) which has been ongoing since 2009. The Commission **AGREED IN PRINCIPLE** to continue a collaborative arrangement with ACAP and **REQUESTED** that the document be relabelled as a Letter of Intent with some other editorial revisions and maintain the text from the 2015 agreement. The Commission **REQUESTED** Executive Secretary to confirm the acceptability of the revised ACAP Letter of Intent with Heads of Delegation before the Chairperson of the Commission signs the letter on behalf of the Commission and sends it to ACAP for signature.
91. Given the management area of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (which covers fishery resources including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and other sedentary species, but excludes highly migratory species), overlaps considerably with the IOTC Area of Competence, the Commission **REQUESTED** the Executive Secretary to work with the Secretariat of SIOFA and present a draft Letter of Intent for a future collaborative arrangement between IOTC and SIOFA on areas of common understanding and interest for its consideration at S25.

### 12.2 Date and place of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies for 2021

92. In accordance with Article VI.5 of the IOTC Agreement, the Commission **AGREED** to hold a Special Session (SS4) by video-conference from 8 to 12 March 2021 ([Appendix 10](#)). This meeting will be held for 4 hours per day and focus on the sustainability of the yellowfin tuna fishery and addressing deficiencies relating to the harvest control rule for skipjack tuna, in particular, paragraph 11 of Resolution 16/02.
93. The Commission **NOTED** the need to agree on what scientific benchmarks will be used to inform any new CMMs relating to yellowfin tuna. The Commission further **NOTED** the 2019 advice from the Scientific Committee that the Kobe II Strategy Matrix developed in 2018 does not adequately reflect known sources of uncertainty due to a series of issues with data and model performance, and should be taken with caution given the issues identified

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by the Committee. The Commission was informed by the Scientific Committee Chairperson that no new advice on yellowfin tuna will be available until after the Scientific Committee meeting in December 2021.

94. The Commission **AGREED** to hold its 25th Session from 7 to 11 June 2021 by video-conference, unless the constraints of the COVID-19 allow otherwise ([Appendix 10](#)).
95. The Commission **NOTED** a proposal from one CPC to hold the Sessions of the Commission earlier during the year in order to be closer to the Scientific Committee meeting, but there was no consensus on this proposal.

### **12.3 Regarding the Tenure of the Executive Secretary**

96. The Commission unanimously **AGREED** to renew the tenure of the current Executive Secretary, Dr Christopher O'Brien, until the end of 2022.

### **13. Adoption of the report of the 24th Session of the Commission**

97. The report of the 24th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC–2020–S24–R) was **ADOPTED** by correspondence on 11 December 2020.

## APPENDIX 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Chairperson**

Ms. Susan Imende (Kenya)  
[susanimende@yahoo.com](mailto:susanimende@yahoo.com)

**AUSTRALIA****Head of Delegation**

Mr. George Day  
Department of Agriculture and  
Water Resources  
[George.Day@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:George.Day@agriculture.gov.au)

**Alternate**

Ms. Kerrie Robertson  
Department of Agriculture, Water  
and the Environment  
[Kerrie.Robertson@awe.gov.au](mailto:Kerrie.Robertson@awe.gov.au)

**Advisor(s)**

Mr. Patrick Sachs  
Department of Agriculture  
Water and the Environment  
[patrick.sachs@awe.gov.au](mailto:patrick.sachs@awe.gov.au)

Ms. Alex Edgar  
Department of Agriculture, Water  
and the Environment  
[alex.edgar@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:alex.edgar@agriculture.gov.au)

Ms. Lauren Burke  
Office of International Law  
[Lauren.Burke@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:Lauren.Burke@agriculture.gov.au)

Mr. Trent Timmiss  
Australian Fisheries Management  
Authority  
[trent.timmiss@afma.gov.au](mailto:trent.timmiss@afma.gov.au)

Mr. Don Bromhead  
Australian Fisheries Management  
Authority  
[don.bromhead@afma.gov.au](mailto:don.bromhead@afma.gov.au)

Ms. Kerry Smith  
Australian Fisheries Management  
Authority  
[kerry.smith@afma.gov.au](mailto:kerry.smith@afma.gov.au)

Ms. Stephanie Martin  
Australian Fisheries Management  
Authority  
[stephanie.martin@afma.gov.au](mailto:stephanie.martin@afma.gov.au)

Mr. James Larcombe  
Australian Bureau of Agricultural  
and Resource Economics and  
Sciences  
[James.Larcombe@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:James.Larcombe@agriculture.gov.au)

Ms. Stephanie Blake  
Australian Bureau of Agricultural  
and Resource Economics and  
Sciences  
[Steph.Blake@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:Steph.Blake@agriculture.gov.au)

Mr. Ashley Williams  
Commonwealth Scientific and  
Industrial Research Organisation  
[Ashley.Williams.@csiro.au](mailto:Ashley.Williams.@csiro.au)

Mr. Terry Romaro  
Ship Agencies Australia  
[terry@saa.com.au](mailto:terry@saa.com.au)

Mr. Kim Newbold  
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery  
[knewbold@wn.com.au](mailto:knewbold@wn.com.au)

Mr. Rajiv Dheer  
LFonds Ship Management  
[rajiv.dheer@lfonds-shipmanagement.com](mailto:rajiv.dheer@lfonds-shipmanagement.com)

Mr. Saiful Karim  
Australian National Centre for  
Oceans Resources and Security  
[mdsaiful.karim@qut.edu.au](mailto:mdsaiful.karim@qut.edu.au)

Mr. Kamal Azmi  
Australian National Centre for  
Oceans Resources and Security  
[kamalyazmi@gmail.com](mailto:kamalyazmi@gmail.com)

Mr. Quentin Hanich  
Australian National Centre for  
Oceans Resources and Security  
[hanich@uow.edu.au](mailto:hanich@uow.edu.au)

**BANGLADESH  
Head of Delegation****Alternate**

Mr. Shoukot Chowdhury  
Department of Fisheries,  
[shoukot2014@gmail.com](mailto:shoukot2014@gmail.com)

**CHINA  
Head of Delegation**

Mr. Jiangfeng Zhu  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural  
Affairs  
[bofdwf@126.com](mailto:bofdwf@126.com)

**Alternate**

Mr. Jian Wang  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
[wang\\_jian1@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:wang_jian1@mfa.gov.cn)

**Advisor(s)**

Mr. Xiaopan Jia  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
[jia\\_xiaopan@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:jia_xiaopan@mfa.gov.cn)

Mr. Xiaobing Liu  
Shanghai Ocean University  
[xiaobing.liu@hotmail.com](mailto:xiaobing.liu@hotmail.com)

Mr. Gang Zhao  
China Overseas Fisheries  
Association  
[admin1@tuna.org.cn](mailto:admin1@tuna.org.cn)

Mr. Xuejian Chen  
China Overseas Fisheries  
Association  
[admin1@tuna.org.cn](mailto:admin1@tuna.org.cn)

Ms. Mengjie Xiao  
China Overseas Fisheries  
Association  
[xiaomengjie1128@126.com](mailto:xiaomengjie1128@126.com)

Mr. Chong Sun  
China Overseas Fisheries  
Association  
[admin1@tuna.org.cn](mailto:admin1@tuna.org.cn)

Mr. Yan Li  
China Overseas Fisheries  
Association  
[admin1@tuna.org.cn](mailto:admin1@tuna.org.cn)

Mr. Liuxiong Xu  
Shanghai Ocean University  
[lxu@shou.edu.cn](mailto:lxu@shou.edu.cn)

Mr. Xiaojie Dai  
Shanghai Ocean University  
[xjdai@shou.edu.cn](mailto:xjdai@shou.edu.cn)

Mr. Xuefang Wang  
Shanghai Ocean University  
[xfwang@shou.edu.cn](mailto:xfwang@shou.edu.cn)

**COMOROS****Head of Delegation**

Mr. Said Boina  
Direction Générale des Ressources  
Halieutiques  
[dalaili@live.fr](mailto:dalaili@live.fr)

**ERITREA**

Absent

**EUROPEAN UNION****Head of Delegation**

Mr. Marco Valletta

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission

[marco.valletta@ec.europa.eu](mailto:marco.valletta@ec.europa.eu)**Alternate**

Mr. Luis Molledo

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission

[luis.molledo@gmail.com](mailto:luis.molledo@gmail.com)**Advisor(s)**

Ms. Laura Marot

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission

[laura.marot@ec.europa.eu](mailto:laura.marot@ec.europa.eu)

Mr. Franco Biagi

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission

[franco.biagi@ec.europa.eu](mailto:franco.biagi@ec.europa.eu)

Mr. Adrien de Chomereau

[adechomereau@sapmer.com](mailto:adechomereau@sapmer.com)

Mr. Anertz Muniategi

[anertz@anabac.org](mailto:anertz@anabac.org)

Mr. Anthony Signour

[assignour@sapmer.com](mailto:assignour@sapmer.com)

Mr. Borja Alonso Olano

[borja.alonso@albacora.es](mailto:borja.alonso@albacora.es)

Ms. Elena Consuegra

Secretaría General de Pesca, Spain

[econsuegra@mapa.es](mailto:econsuegra@mapa.es)

Ms. Gloria del Cerro

Secretaría General de Pesca, Spain

[gcerro@mapa.es](mailto:gcerro@mapa.es)

Mr. Gorka Merino

AZTI

[gmerino@azti.es](mailto:gmerino@azti.es)

Ms. Isabel Teixeira

Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos, Portugal

[iteixeira@dgrm.mm.gov.pt](mailto:iteixeira@dgrm.mm.gov.pt)

Mr. Jon Ander Etxebarria

[cubyper@inpesca.com](mailto:cubyper@inpesca.com)

Mr. José Carlos Baez

[josecarlos.baez@ieo.es](mailto:josecarlos.baez@ieo.es)

Mr. Jose Luis Jauregui

[jljauregui@echebstar.com](mailto:jljauregui@echebstar.com)

Mr. Laurent Pinault

[lpinault@sapmer.com](mailto:lpinault@sapmer.com)

Ms. Lucía Sarricolea

Secretaría General de Pesca, Spain

[lsarricolea@mapa.es](mailto:lsarricolea@mapa.es)

Ms. Maria Ferrara

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission

[maria.ferrara@ec.europa.eu](mailto:maria.ferrara@ec.europa.eu)

Mr. Michel Goujon

[mgoujon@orthongel.fr](mailto:mgoujon@orthongel.fr)

Ms. Teresa Molina

Secretaría General de Pesca, Spain

[tmolina@mapa.es](mailto:tmolina@mapa.es)

Ms. Anaïs Mélard

Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture, France

[anaïs.melard@agriculture.gouv.fr](mailto:anaïs.melard@agriculture.gouv.fr)

Mr. Armelle Denoize

[adenoize@sapmer.com](mailto:adenoize@sapmer.com)

Mr. Edelmiro Ulloa

[edelmiro@arvi.org](mailto:edelmiro@arvi.org)

Mr. Herve Delsol

Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius and to the Republic of Seychelles

[herve.delsol@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:herve.delsol@eeas.europa.eu)

Mr. Kepa Echevarria

[kepa@echebstar.com](mailto:kepa@echebstar.com)

Mr. Moisés de Sá

Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos, Portugal

[mfsa@dgrm.mm.gov.pt](mailto:mfsa@dgrm.mm.gov.pt)

Mr. Pierre-Alain Carre

[pierrealain.carre@cfto.fr](mailto:pierrealain.carre@cfto.fr)

Mr. Julien Marques

[julen@echebstar.com](mailto:julen@echebstar.com)

Mr. Julio Moron

[julio.moron@opagac.org](mailto:julio.moron@opagac.org)**FRANCE(OT)****Head of Delegation**

Ms. Alice Boiffin

Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture

[alice.boiffin@agriculture.gouv.fr](mailto:alice.boiffin@agriculture.gouv.fr)**Advisor(s)**

Ms. Camille Servetto

Direction générale des outre mer

[camille.servetto@outre-mer.gouv.fr](mailto:camille.servetto@outre-mer.gouv.fr)**Compliance Committee****Chairperson**

Ms Anne-France MATTLET

Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture

[anne-france.mattlet@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:anne-france.mattlet@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)**INDIA****Head of Delegation**

Mr. J. Balaji

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

[jsfy@nic.in](mailto:jsfy@nic.in)**Alternate**

Mr. R. Ramalingam

Fisheries Survey of India

[ramalingam.1961@yahoo.com](mailto:ramalingam.1961@yahoo.com)

Mr. Paul Pandian

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

[ramalingam.1961@yahoo.com](mailto:ramalingam.1961@yahoo.com)

Ms. Prathibha Rohit  
Central Marine Fisheries Research  
Institute  
[prathizoom2020@gmail.com](mailto:prathizoom2020@gmail.com)

Mr. I. A. Siddiqui  
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal  
Husbandry and Dairying  
[ia.siddiqui@gov.in](mailto:ia.siddiqui@gov.in)

Mr. Sijo P Varghese  
Fisheries Survey of India  
[varghesefsi@gmail.com](mailto:varghesefsi@gmail.com)

Mr. Sanjay Pandey  
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal  
Husbandry and Dairying  
[sanjay\\_rpandey@yahoo.co.in](mailto:sanjay_rpandey@yahoo.co.in)

#### **INDONESIA**

##### **Head of Delegation**

Mr. Trian Yunanda  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[tryand\\_fish@yahoo.com](mailto:tryand_fish@yahoo.com)

##### **Alternate**

Ms. Putuh Suadela  
Fish Resources Management in  
IEEZ and High Seas  
[putuhsuadela@gmail.com](mailto:putuhsuadela@gmail.com)

##### **Advisor(s)**

Mr. Indra Jaya  
National Committee on Fish Stock  
Assessment Indonesia  
[indrajaya@apps.ipb.ac.id](mailto:indrajaya@apps.ipb.ac.id)

Mr. Wudianto  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[wudianto59@gmail.com](mailto:wudianto59@gmail.com)

Mr. Nilanto Perbowo  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[perbowon@me.com](mailto:perbowon@me.com)

Mr. Syahril Abd. Raup  
Fish Resources Management  
Monitoring and Analysis  
[chaliarrauf@yahoo.com](mailto:chaliarrauf@yahoo.com)

Mr. Zulkarnaen Fahmi  
Research Institute for Tuna  
Fisheries  
[fahmi.p4ksi@gmail.com](mailto:fahmi.p4ksi@gmail.com)

Ms. Rennisca Ray Damanti  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[rennisca@kpk.go.id](mailto:rennisca@kpk.go.id)

Ms. Sitti Hamdiyah  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[sh\\_diyah@yahoo.com](mailto:sh_diyah@yahoo.com)

Ms. Susiyanti  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[santiarifin@gmail.com](mailto:santiarifin@gmail.com)

Ms. Riana Handayani  
Fish Resources Governance in IEEZ  
and High Seas  
[daya139.rh@gmail.com](mailto:daya139.rh@gmail.com)

Ms. Mumpuni Pratiwi  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[mumpuni.cpratiwi@gmail.com](mailto:mumpuni.cpratiwi@gmail.com)

Mr. Muhammad Anas  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[mykalambe@yahoo.com](mailto:mykalambe@yahoo.com)

Mr. Yayan Hernuryadin  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[yhernuryadin@gmail.com](mailto:yhernuryadin@gmail.com)

Ms. Saraswati  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[cacasaras@gmail.com](mailto:cacasaras@gmail.com)

Ms. Rosna Malika  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[alka.rosna@gmail.com](mailto:alka.rosna@gmail.com)

Ms. Alza Rendian  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries [alzarendian@gmail.com](mailto:alzarendian@gmail.com)

Mr. Edwison Firmana  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[edwisonsf@gmail.com](mailto:edwisonsf@gmail.com)

Mr. Firdaus Agung  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[firda\\_ku@yahoo.com](mailto:firda_ku@yahoo.com)

Mr. Muhammad Febrianoer  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries  
[mfebrianoer@gmail.com](mailto:mfebrianoer@gmail.com)

**IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF**  
Absent

#### **JAPAN**

##### **Head of Delegation**

Mr. Shingo Ota  
Fisheries Agency  
[shingo\\_ota810@maff.go.jp](mailto:shingo_ota810@maff.go.jp)

##### **Alternate**

Mr. Yuki Morita  
Fisheries Agency  
[yuki\\_morita470@maff.go.jp](mailto:yuki_morita470@maff.go.jp)

##### **Advisor(s)**

Mr. Riki Kishimoto  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
[riki.kishimoto@mofa.go.jp](mailto:riki.kishimoto@mofa.go.jp)

Ms. Iioka Mako  
Fisheries Agency  
[mako\\_iioka540@maff.go.jp](mailto:mako_iioka540@maff.go.jp)

Mr. Kudoh Takatsugu  
Fisheries Resources Institute  
[takatsugu\\_kudo250@maff.go.jp](mailto:takatsugu_kudo250@maff.go.jp)

Mr. Takayuki Matsumoto  
Fisheries Resources Institute  
[matumot@affrc.go.jp](mailto:matumot@affrc.go.jp)

Mr. Tsutomu Nishida  
Fisheries Resources Institute  
[aco20320@par.odn.ne.jp](mailto:aco20320@par.odn.ne.jp)

Mr. Toshihide Kitakado  
Tokyo University of Marine  
Science and Technology  
[kitakado@kaiyodai.ac.jp](mailto:kitakado@kaiyodai.ac.jp)

Mr. Kiyoshi Katsuyama  
Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative  
Association  
[katsuyama@japantuna.or.jp](mailto:katsuyama@japantuna.or.jp)

Mr. Hiroyuki Yoshida  
Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative  
Association  
[yoshida@japantuna.or.jp](mailto:yoshida@japantuna.or.jp)

Mr. Nozomu Miura  
Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative  
Association  
[miura@japantuna.or.jp](mailto:miura@japantuna.or.jp)

Mr. Hiroyuki Izumi  
Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative  
Association  
[izumi@japantuna.or.jp](mailto:izumi@japantuna.or.jp)

Mr. Nagai Daisaku  
Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative  
Association  
[nagai@japantuna.or.jp](mailto:nagai@japantuna.or.jp)

Mr. Shimizu Michio  
National Ocean Tuna Fishery  
Association  
[mic-shimizu@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp](mailto:mic-shimizu@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp)

Mr. Akihiro Fukuyama  
Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing  
Association  
[japan@kaimaki.or.jp](mailto:japan@kaimaki.or.jp)

Mr. Toshihiro Hasegawa  
Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing  
Association  
[japan@kaimaki.or.jp](mailto:japan@kaimaki.or.jp)

Ms. Yuka Murayama  
JAPAN NUS CO., LTD.  
[murayama-yk@janus.co.jp](mailto:murayama-yk@janus.co.jp)

Ms. Yumi Okochi  
JAPAN NUS CO., LTD.  
[okochi-y@janus.co.jp](mailto:okochi-y@janus.co.jp)

Mr. Shunji Fujiwara  
Oversea Fishery Cooperation  
Foundation  
[roku.pacific@gmail.com](mailto:roku.pacific@gmail.com)

Mr. Eiich Arisato  
Oversea Fishery Cooperation  
Foundation

[ofcfarisato@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:ofcfarisato@yahoo.co.jp)

Mr. Taku Kitazawa  
Oversea Fishery Cooperation  
Foundation  
[kitazawa@ofcf.or.jp](mailto:kitazawa@ofcf.or.jp)

Mr. Takeda Ryuji  
Oversea Fishery Cooperation  
Foundation  
[takeda@ofcf.or.jp](mailto:takeda@ofcf.or.jp)

#### Scientific Committee Chairperson

Mr. Toshihide Kitakado  
Tokyo University of Marine  
Science and Technology  
[kitakado@kaiyodai.ac.jp](mailto:kitakado@kaiyodai.ac.jp)

#### KENYA

##### Head of Delegation

Ms. Lucy Obungu  
State Department for Fisheries,  
Aquaculture and the Blue  
Economy  
[lucyobungu@yahoo.com](mailto:lucyobungu@yahoo.com)

##### Alternate

Mr. Stephen Ndegwa  
State Department for Fisheries,  
Aquaculture and the Blue  
Economy  
[ndegwafish@yahoo.com](mailto:ndegwafish@yahoo.com)

##### Advisor(s)

Mr. Benedict Kiilu  
State Department for Fisheries,  
Aquaculture and the Blue  
Economy  
[kiilubk@gmail.com](mailto:kiilubk@gmail.com)

Ms. Elizabeth Mueni  
State Department for Fisheries,  
Aquaculture and the Blue  
Economy  
[emueni@gmail.com](mailto:emueni@gmail.com)

#### KOREA, REPUBLIC OF

##### Head of Delegation

Ms. Riley Kim Jung-re  
Korea Overseas Fisheries  
Association  
[riley1126@korea.kr](mailto:riley1126@korea.kr)

##### Alternate

Ms. Minju Jang  
Korea Overseas Fisheries  
Association  
[minju122122@korea.kr](mailto:minju122122@korea.kr)

##### Advisor(s)

Mr. Sung Il Lee  
National Institute of Fisheries  
Science  
[k.sungillee@gmail.com](mailto:k.sungillee@gmail.com)

Ms. Suyeon Kim  
Fisheries Monitoring Centre  
[shararak@korea.kr](mailto:shararak@korea.kr)

Ms. Eun Hye Lee  
National Fishery Products Quality  
Management Service  
[leh0508@korea.kr](mailto:leh0508@korea.kr)

Mr. Ho Jeong Jin  
Korea Overseas Fisheries  
Association  
[jackiejin@kosfa.org](mailto:jackiejin@kosfa.org)

Mr. Bongjun Choi  
Korea Overseas Fisheries  
Association  
[bj@kosfa.org](mailto:bj@kosfa.org)

Mr. Sangjin Baek  
Korea Overseas Fisheries  
Association  
[sjbaek@kosfa.org](mailto:sjbaek@kosfa.org)

Mr. Jae Hwa (Jay) Lee  
Dongwon Industries Co., Ltd.  
[jaylee798@hotmail.com](mailto:jaylee798@hotmail.com)

#### MADAGASCAR

Absent

#### MALAYSIA

##### Head of Delegation

##### Alternate

##### Advisor(s)

Mr. Sallehudin Jamon  
Fisheries Research institute  
[dinjamon68@gmail.com](mailto:dinjamon68@gmail.com)

Mr. Arthur Sujang  
Department of Fisheries  
[arthur@dof.gov.mv](mailto:arthur@dof.gov.mv)

Ms. Norazlin Mokhtar  
Department of Fisheries  
[azlinmmj@gmail.com](mailto:azlinmmj@gmail.com)

## **MALDIVES**

### **Head of Delegation**

Mr. Adam Ziyad  
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine  
Resources and Agriculture  
[adam.ziyad@fishagri.gov.mv](mailto:adam.ziyad@fishagri.gov.mv)

### **Alternate**

Mr. Hussain Sinan  
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine  
Resources and Agriculture  
[hsinan@gmail.com](mailto:hsinan@gmail.com)

### **Advisor(s)**

Mr. Ahmed Shifaz  
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine  
Resources and Agriculture  
[ahmed.shifaz@fishagri.gov.mv](mailto:ahmed.shifaz@fishagri.gov.mv)

Ms. Aminath Lubna  
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine  
Resources and Agriculture  
[aminath.lubna@fishagri.gov.mv](mailto:aminath.lubna@fishagri.gov.mv)

Mr. Munshidha Ibrahim  
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine  
Resources and Agriculture  
[munshidha.ibrahim@fishagri.gov.mv](mailto:munshidha.ibrahim@fishagri.gov.mv)

Mr. Mohamed Ahusan  
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine  
Resources and Agriculture  
[mohamed.ahusan@gmail.com](mailto:mohamed.ahusan@gmail.com)

Ms. Hawwa Nizar  
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine  
Resources and Agriculture  
[raufath.nizar@fishagri.gov.mv](mailto:raufath.nizar@fishagri.gov.mv)

## **MAURITIUS**

### **Head of Delegation**

Mr. Jagdish Koonjul  
Permanent Mission of Mauritius to  
the UN, New York  
[jkoonjul@gmail.com](mailto:jkoonjul@gmail.com)

### **Alternate**

Mr. Bojrazsingh Boyramboli  
Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine  
Resources, Fisheries and Shipping  
[boyramboli@govmu.org](mailto:boyramboli@govmu.org)

### **Advisor(s)**

Mr. D. Norungee  
Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine  
Resources, Fisheries and Shipping  
[dnorungee@gmail.com](mailto:dnorungee@gmail.com)

Ms. Meera Koonjul  
Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine  
Resources, Fisheries and Shipping  
[mkoonjul@govmu.org](mailto:mkoonjul@govmu.org)

### **Mr. S.C.Bauljeewon**

Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine  
Resources, Fisheries and Shipping  
[sbauljeewon@govmu.org](mailto:sbauljeewon@govmu.org)

Ms. C.Lim Shung  
Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine  
Resources, Fisheries and Shipping  
clivilim@yahoo.com

Ms. T. Sooklall  
Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine  
Resources, Fisheries and Shipping  
tsooklall@govmu.org

Ms. S.C. Young Kim Fat  
Prime Minister's Office  
[syoung-kim-fat@govmu.org](mailto:syoung-kim-fat@govmu.org)

Mr. R.A.Sewtohul  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Regional Integration and  
International Trade  
rsewtohul@govmu.org

Mr. H.Unnuth  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Regional Integration and  
International Trade  
[hunnuth@govmu.org](mailto:hunnuth@govmu.org)

Mr. Drishty Ramdenee  
Economic Development Board  
[drishty@edbmauriti.us.org](mailto:drishty@edbmauriti.us.org)

Ms. Annabelle Ombrasine  
Attorney General's Office  
[aombrasine@govmu.org](mailto:aombrasine@govmu.org)

Ms. Lilowtee Rajmun- Jooseery  
MEXA  
lilowtee@mexa.intnet.mu

Ms. Vero Garrioch  
IBL Seafood  
[vero.garrioch@gmail.com](mailto:vero.garrioch@gmail.com)

Mr. Andrew Conway  
Princes Group UK  
Andrew,conway@princes.co.uk

## **MOZAMBIQUE**

Mr. Galhardo Xavier Naiene  
National Fisheries Administration  
[gnaene@gmail.com](mailto:gnaene@gmail.com)

## **OMAN**

### **Head of Delegation**

Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Marzuqi  
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries  
[aa.almarzouqi@ymail.com](mailto:aa.almarzouqi@ymail.com)

### **Alternate**

Mr. Al Muatasim Al Habsi  
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries  
[muatasim4@hotmail.com](mailto:muatasim4@hotmail.com)

## **PAKISTAN**

### **Head of Delegation**

Mr. Zahid Masood  
Ministry of Maritime Affairs  
[zahidmasood786@gmail.com](mailto:zahidmasood786@gmail.com)

### **Alternate**

Mr. Muhammad Farhan Khan  
Ministry of Marine Affairs  
[farhankhan704@gmail.com](mailto:farhankhan704@gmail.com)

## **PHILIPPINES**

### **Head of Delegation**

Mr. Benjamin F Tabios  
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic  
Resources  
[benjotabios@gmail.com](mailto:benjotabios@gmail.com)

### **Alternate**

Mr. Rafael Ramiscal  
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic  
Resources  
[rv\\_ram55@yahoo.com](mailto:rv_ram55@yahoo.com)

### **Advisor(s)**

Mr. Francisco Torres Jr  
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic  
Resources  
[torres.franciscojr@gmail.com](mailto:torres.franciscojr@gmail.com)



Ms. Jennifer Viron Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources <a href="mailto:jennyviron@gmail.com">jennyviron@gmail.com</a>	Mr. Anthony Savy De St. Maurice Aquarius shipping <a href="mailto:anthony.savy@aquarius.sc">anthony.savy@aquarius.sc</a>	Mr. Sean Walker Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries <a href="mailto:swalker@breakwaterproducts.com">swalker@breakwaterproducts.com</a>
Mr. Isidro Tanangonan Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources <a href="mailto:sidtango.bfar@gmail.com">sidtango.bfar@gmail.com</a>	Mr. Miguel Herrera Armas OPAGAC <a href="mailto:miguel.herrera@opagac.org">miguel.herrera@opagac.org</a>	<b>SRI LANKA</b> <b>Head of Delegation</b> Ms. Kalyani Hewapathirana Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources <a href="mailto:hewakal2012@gmail.com">hewakal2012@gmail.com</a>
Ms. Maria Joy Mabanglo Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources <a href="mailto:mj.mabanglo@gmail.com">mj.mabanglo@gmail.com</a>	Mr. Imanol Loinaz ALBACORA <a href="mailto:imanol.loinaz@albacora.es">imanol.loinaz@albacora.es</a>	<b>Alternate</b>
Ms. Rosanna Bernadette Contreras Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources <a href="mailto:fishing.federation@gmail.com">fishing.federation@gmail.com</a>	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b> Absent	<b>Advisor(s)</b> Mr. Dhammika Ranatunga Ministry of Fisheries <a href="mailto:dhammikadsr@yahoo.com">dhammikadsr@yahoo.com</a>
<b>SEYCHELLES</b> <b>Head of Delegation</b> Mr. Jude Talma Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture <a href="mailto:jtalma@gov.sc">jtalma@gov.sc</a>	<b>SOMALIA</b> Absent	<b>SUDAN</b> Absent
<b>Alternate</b> Mr. Roy Clarisse Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture <a href="mailto:rclarisse@gov.sc">rclarisse@gov.sc</a>	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b> <b>Head of Delegation</b> Mr. Saasa Pheeha Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries <a href="mailto:saasap@daff.gov.za">saasap@daff.gov.za</a>	<b>TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF</b> <b>Head of Delegation</b> Mr. Omar Amir Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, Zanzibar <a href="mailto:omar.amir@smz.go.tz">omar.amir@smz.go.tz</a>
<b>Advisor(s)</b> Mr. Vincent Lucas Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture <a href="mailto:vlucas@sfa.sc">vlucas@sfa.sc</a>	<b>Alternate</b> Mr. Qayiso Mketsu Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries <a href="mailto:qayisomk@daff.gov.za">qayisomk@daff.gov.za</a>	<b>Alternate</b> Mr. Emmanuel Sweke Deep Sea Fishing Authority <a href="mailto:emmanueluweke@tafiri.go.tz">emmanueluweke@tafiri.go.tz</a>
Ms. Sheriffa Morel Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture <a href="mailto:sheriffamorel@gov.sc">sheriffamorel@gov.sc</a>	<b>Advisor(s)</b> Mr. Mandisile Mqoqi Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries <a href="mailto:mandisilem@daff.gov.za">mandisilem@daff.gov.za</a>	<b>THAILAND</b> <b>Head of Delegation</b> <b>Alternate</b> Mr. Buncha Sukkaew Department of Fisheries <a href="mailto:banchas@fisheries.go.th">banchas@fisheries.go.th</a>
Mr. Tony Lazazzara Thai Union/IOT <a href="mailto:tony.lazazzara@thaiunion.com">tony.lazazzara@thaiunion.com</a>	Mr. David Wilson Advisor to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries <a href="mailto:davetroywilson@gmail.com">davetroywilson@gmail.com</a>	<b>Advisor(s)</b> Ms. Sampan Panjarat Department of Fisheries <a href="mailto:chonticha_khamyu@hotmail.com">chonticha_khamyu@hotmail.com</a>
Mr. Jose Luis Jauregui ECHEBASTAR <a href="mailto:jljauregui@echebostar.com">jljauregui@echebostar.com</a>	Mr. Don Lucas Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries <a href="mailto:don@comfish.co.za">don@comfish.co.za</a>	Ms. Chonticha Kumyoo Department of Fisheries <a href="mailto:chonticha_khamyu@hotmail.com">chonticha_khamyu@hotmail.com</a>
Mr. Selwyn Edmond INPESCA <a href="mailto:selwyn.edmond@seawardcoltd.com">selwyn.edmond@seawardcoltd.com</a>	Mr. Jose de Oliveira Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries <a href="mailto:oliveijx@gmail.com">oliveijx@gmail.com</a>	<b>UNITED KINGDOM (OT) Head of Delegation</b> Ms. Jessica Keedy Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs <a href="mailto:jess.keedy@defra.gov.uk">jess.keedy@defra.gov.uk</a>

**Alternate**

Mr. Chris Mees  
Mrag  
[c.mees@mrag.co.uk](mailto:c.mees@mrag.co.uk)

Foreign, Commonwealth and  
Development Office  
[stephen.hilton@fco.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.hilton@fco.gov.uk)

Ms. Alice Brown  
Department for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs  
[alice.brown1@defra.gov.uk](mailto:alice.brown1@defra.gov.uk)

**Advisor(s)**

Mr. Steve Hilton  
Ms. Vanessa Brown  
Marine Scotland  
[vanessa.brown@gov.scot](mailto:vanessa.brown@gov.scot)

Mr. Ziya Hakki  
Foreign, Commonwealth and  
Development Office  
[ziya.hakki@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:ziya.hakki@fcdo.gov.uk)

**COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY****LIBERIA**

Mr. Francisco Boimah  
National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority  
[fboimah@nafaa.gov.lr](mailto:fboimah@nafaa.gov.lr)

**SENEGAL**

Mr. Mamadou Seye  
Direction des Pêches Maritimes  
[mdseye@gmail.com](mailto:mdseye@gmail.com)

**AGREEMENT ON THE  
CONSERVATION OF  
ALBATROSS AND PETRELS  
(ACAP)**

Ms. Christine Bogle  
[christine.bogle@acap.aq](mailto:christine.bogle@acap.aq)

Mr. Anton Wolfaardt  
[acwolfaardt@gmail.com](mailto:acwolfaardt@gmail.com)

**BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION**

Ms. Jessica Rattle  
[jess@bluemarinefoundation.com](mailto:jess@bluemarinefoundation.com)

**FOOD AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
(FAO)**

Mr. Alejandro Anganuzzi  
[alejandro.anganuzzi@fao.org](mailto:alejandro.anganuzzi@fao.org)

Mr. Khalid Mehboob  
FAO - Independent  
Chairperson of the Council  
[khalid.mehboob@fao.org](mailto:khalid.mehboob@fao.org)

Mr. Ilja Betlem  
Governing and Statutory  
Bodies of FAO  
[ilja.betlem@fao.org](mailto:ilja.betlem@fao.org)

Ms. Lauren Hales  
Governing and Statutory  
Bodies of FAO

**OBSERVERS**

[lauren.hales@fao.org](mailto:lauren.hales@fao.org)

Ms. Donata Rugarabamu  
FAO Legal Counsel  
[donata.rugarabamu@fao.org](mailto:donata.rugarabamu@fao.org)

Ms. Annick  
[vanhoutteannick.vanhoutte@fao.org](mailto:vanhoutteannick.vanhoutte@fao.org)

**GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE  
(GTA)**

Mr. Tom Pickerell  
[tom@tomolamolaconsulting.com](mailto:tom@tomolamolaconsulting.com)

Ms. Jeanne Delor  
[j.delor@earthworm.org](mailto:j.delor@earthworm.org)

**INDIAN OCEAN MOU  
(IOMOU)**

Mr. Achintya Bikash Dutta  
[achingemini@yahoo.co.in](mailto:achingemini@yahoo.co.in)

**INTERNATIONAL POLE AND  
LINE FOUNDATION (IPNLF)**

Mr. Shiham Adam  
[shiham.adam@ipnlf.org](mailto:shiham.adam@ipnlf.org)

Mr. Martin Purves  
[martin.purves@ipnlf.org](mailto:martin.purves@ipnlf.org)

Mr. Roy Bealey  
[roybealey@gmail.com](mailto:roybealey@gmail.com)

Mr. John Burton  
[john.burton@ipnlf.org](mailto:john.burton@ipnlf.org)

**INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD  
SUSTAINABILITY  
FOUNDATION (ISSF)**

Mr. Hilario Murua  
[hmurua@iss-foundation.org](mailto:hmurua@iss-foundation.org)

**INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION  
(IOC)**

Daroomalingum Mauree  
[d.mauree@coi-ioc.org](mailto:d.mauree@coi-ioc.org)

**KEY TRACEABILITY**

Mr. Tom Evans  
[t.evans@keytraceability.com](mailto:t.evans@keytraceability.com)

**MARINE STEWARDSHIP  
COUNCIL (MS.C)**

Mr. Andrew Gordon  
[andrew.gordon@Ms.c.org](mailto:andrew.gordon@Ms.c.org)

Mr. Alberto Martin  
[alberto.martin@Ms.c.org](mailto:alberto.martin@Ms.c.org)

**THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS  
(PEW)**

Mr. Glen Holmes  
[gholmes@pewtrusts.org](mailto:gholmes@pewtrusts.org)

Ms. Kristine Beran  
[kberan@pewtrusts.org](mailto:kberan@pewtrusts.org)

Ms. Shana Miller  
[smiller@oceanfdn.org](mailto:smiller@oceanfdn.org)

**SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES  
 PARTNERSHIP (SFP)**

Mr. Geoff Tingley  
[geoff.tingley@sustainablefish.org](mailto:geoff.tingley@sustainablefish.org)

Ms. Alexia Morgan  
[alexia.morgan@sustainablefish.org](mailto:alexia.morgan@sustainablefish.org)

**SHARKPROJECT  
 INTERNATIONAL**

Mr. Iris Ziegler  
[i.ziegler@sharkproject.org](mailto:i.ziegler@sharkproject.org)

**STOP ILLEGAL FISHING (SIF)**

Mr. Per Erik Bergh  
[pebergh@nfds.info](mailto:pebergh@nfds.info)

**SUSTAINABLE INDIAN OCEAN  
 TUNA INITIATIVE (SIOTI)**

Mr. Jan Robinson  
[janrobinson71@gmail.com](mailto:janrobinson71@gmail.com)

Mr. Chris Shearlock  
[chris.shearlock@princes.co.uk](mailto:chris.shearlock@princes.co.uk)

**WORLDWIDE FUND FOR  
 NATURE (WWF)**

Mr. Umair Shahid  
[ushahid@wwf.org.pk](mailto:ushahid@wwf.org.pk)

Ms. Dora Dabizzi  
[d.dabizzi@wwf.it](mailto:d.dabizzi@wwf.it)

Ms. Antonia LEROY  
[aleroy@wwf.eu](mailto:aleroy@wwf.eu)

Mr. Marcel Kroese  
[mkroese@wwf.org.za](mailto:mkroese@wwf.org.za)

Mr. Raúl Garcia Rodríguez  
[pesca@wwf.es](mailto:pesca@wwf.es)

**INVITED EXPERTS**

Ms. Ilu Lai  
[ilu@Ms.1.fa.gov.tw](mailto:ilu@Ms.1.fa.gov.tw)

Mr. Chia-Chun Wu  
[jiachun@Ms.1.fa.gov.tw](mailto:jiachun@Ms.1.fa.gov.tw)

Mr. Shih-Ming Kao  
[kaosm@udel.edu](mailto:kaosm@udel.edu)

Mr. Tsung Yueh Tang  
[tangty@ofdc.org.tw](mailto:tangty@ofdc.org.tw)

Mr. Kuan-Ting Lee  
[simon@tuna.org.tw](mailto:simon@tuna.org.tw)

Ms. Hsiu Wan Chen  
[ann@tuna.org.tw](mailto:ann@tuna.org.tw)

**INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION SECRETARIAT**

Mr. Chris OBrien  
 Executive Secretary  
[chris.obrien@fao.org](mailto:chris.obrien@fao.org)

Mr Paul deBruyn  
 Science Manager  
[pauldebruyn@fao.org](mailto:pauldebruyn@fao.org)

Mr. Gerard Domingue  
 Compliance Manager  
[gerard.domingue@fao.org](mailto:gerard.domingue@fao.org)

Mr. Howard Whalley  
 Administration Officer  
[howard.whalley@fao.org](mailto:howard.whalley@fao.org)

Mr. Olivier ROUX  
 Consultant  
[olivier@otolithe.com](mailto:olivier@otolithe.com)

Ms. Claudette Matombé  
 Office Assistant  
[Claudette.Matombe@fao.org](mailto:Claudette.Matombe@fao.org)

Ms. Mirose Govinden  
 Secretary  
[Mirose.Govinden@fao.org](mailto:Mirose.Govinden@fao.org)

**INTERPRETERS**

Ms. Suzanne Korbine-Roy  
[s.korbine@aiic.net](mailto:s.korbine@aiic.net)

Mr. Olivier Bonifacio  
[bonifacio@aiic.net](mailto:bonifacio@aiic.net)

Ms. Annie Troittier  
[a.troittier@aiic.net](mailto:a.troittier@aiic.net)

Mr. Guillaume Fleury  
[g.fleury@aiic.net](mailto:g.fleury@aiic.net)

**APPENDIX 2.**  
**STATEMENTS OF MAURITIUS AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (“BIOT”)**

**Mauritius**

**24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission**  
**2-6 November 2020**

**Agenda Item 2: Letters of Credentials**

**Statement by the Republic of Mauritius**

Madam Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Mauritius wishes to place on record its objection to the participation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a coastal State purporting to represent the Chagos Archipelago in this Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

As we are all aware, the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of 25 February 2019 on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 and UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 of 22 May 2019 have made it clear that the Chagos Archipelago is and has always been an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius.

In Resolution 73/295, the General Assembly also demanded the United Kingdom to withdraw its colonial administration unconditionally from the Chagos Archipelago within a period of no more than six months, that is, by 22 November 2019. It further called upon the United Nations and all its specialized agencies as well as all other international, regional and intergovernmental organizations to recognize that the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius.

It follows that under international law, the Republic of Mauritius is the sole State lawfully entitled to exercise sovereignty and sovereign rights over the Chagos Archipelago and its maritime zones. As such, the United Kingdom is not and cannot be the coastal State in relation to the Chagos Archipelago. The United Kingdom is therefore not entitled to be a member of the IOTC as a coastal State.

The Republic of Mauritius wishes to recall that at the last Session of the Commission, it had asked for the inclusion on the agenda of that meeting of an item relating to the termination of the United Kingdom's membership of the IOTC as a coastal State. Since Members required time to seek instructions from their capitals, it was decided to postpone the item to the current session. Subsequently, the Republic of Mauritius formally requested on 4 March 2020 that an item entitled "Termination of United Kingdom's membership in the IOTC as a coastal State" be inscribed on the agenda of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOTC. However, in view of the current situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and the conduct of the 24th Session of the IOTC as a virtual meeting that will consider only essential matters requiring urgent attention, the Republic of Mauritius indicated in a letter dated 8 July 2020 addressed to the Chairperson that it has no objection to the consideration of that item being postponed to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission. A statement to that effect was also made at the Heads of Delegation consultations held on 18 August 2020.

In the light of the foregoing, the Republic of Mauritius strongly objects to the participation of the UK delegation in the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOTC and to the 'Letter of Credentials' which it has purportedly submitted to the Executive Secretary.

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be included in the report of this meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

***Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade***

**No. (04/2020) 18570/46/142T**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and with reference to the Note Verbale (No. OTD/002/2020) dated 28 September 2020 from the Overseas Territories Directorate of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, has the honour to state as follows:

The Republic of Mauritius is deeply disappointed that the United Kingdom has chosen to ignore the determinations of international law made by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its Advisory Opinion of 25 February 2019, and the provisions of Resolution 73/295 of the UN General Assembly in recognition of and in conformity with the Court's legal determinations. The United Kingdom's claim, notwithstanding the determination to the contrary made by the ICJ, that it is "sovereign" over the Chagos Archipelago – which the Court expressly found to be an integral part of the Republic of Mauritius' territory – is unsustainable as a matter of law, disrespectful of the Court, and ignores the decision of the United Nations.

The ICJ carefully examined all the arguments presented by the United Kingdom and other UN Member States as well as the African Union before reaching the conclusion that the questions put to it by the General Assembly relate to the decolonization of Mauritius and not to a territorial dispute between two States. The purpose of the request for an Advisory Opinion, as has been pointed out by the ICJ, "is for the General Assembly to receive the Court's assistance so that it may be guided in the discharge of its functions relating to the decolonization of Mauritius". The ICJ also concluded that:

- (a) the Chagos Archipelago is and has always been part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius;
- (b) the process of decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius was not lawfully completed when that country acceded to independence in 1968, following the separation of the Chagos Archipelago;
- (c) the United Kingdom's continued administration of the Chagos Archipelago constitutes a wrongful act entailing the international responsibility of the United Kingdom and is an unlawful act of a continuing character which arose as a result of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius;
- (d) the United Kingdom is under an obligation to bring an end to its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible, thereby enabling the Republic of Mauritius to complete the decolonization of its territory in a manner consistent with the right of peoples to self-determination;
- (e) since respect for the right to self-determination is an obligation *erga omnes*, all States have a legal interest in protecting that right; and
- (f) all Member States are under an obligation to co-operate with the United Nations in order to complete the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius.

Furthermore, the United Kingdom misstates the law and sows confusion when it insists that the Court's Opinion is not binding. While Advisory Opinions are not themselves legally binding in the same sense as Judgments in contentious cases, the Court's determinations of questions of law in its Advisory Opinions are authoritative. When the Court determines, in resolving those questions, that States have "obligations" under international law to perform or refrain from certain acts, those "obligations" are binding on the States concerned. This is universally accepted and well documented.

The Republic of Mauritius therefore considers it of paramount significance that the Court determined that "the United Kingdom is under an obligation to bring an end to its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible, thereby enabling Mauritius to complete the decolonization of its (that is, Mauritius) territory in a manner consistent with the right of peoples to self-determination"; and that the Court further determined that "all Member States are under an obligation to co-operate with the United Nations in order to complete the decolonization of Mauritius". This obligation applies, of course, to the UN Member States which are members of the IOTC.

The Republic of Mauritius further wishes to point out that the conclusions of law reached by the ICJ were upheld in their entirety by UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295. That Resolution, which was adopted by an overwhelming majority of votes, *inter alia*, called upon the United Nations and all its specialized agencies as well as all other international, regional and intergovernmental organizations, including those established by treaty, to recognize that the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius, to support the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius as rapidly as possible, and to refrain from impeding that process by recognizing, or giving effect to any measure taken by or on behalf of, the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory". It follows that Resolution 73/295 is binding on all United Nations bodies and entities, including the FAO, under which the IOTC falls. In this regard, at the direction of the UN Secretary-General, since February this year, the new, official United Nations map depicts the Chagos Archipelago as an integral part of the Republic of Mauritius. A copy of the map is attached herewith.

In these circumstances, the United Kingdom's position with regard to the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ and General Assembly Resolution 73/295 constitutes, in the view of the Republic of Mauritius, a flagrant disregard of the rule of law. Moreover, it challenges the highest court of the world and the very institution that the United Kingdom helped to create 75 years ago.

The Republic of Mauritius reiterates that in the light of the foregoing, the United Kingdom is not and cannot be the coastal State in relation to the Chagos Archipelago and is therefore not entitled to be a member of the IOTC as a coastal State.

The Republic of Mauritius would be grateful if a copy of this Note Verbale could be annexed to the report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOTC scheduled for 2-6 November 2020.

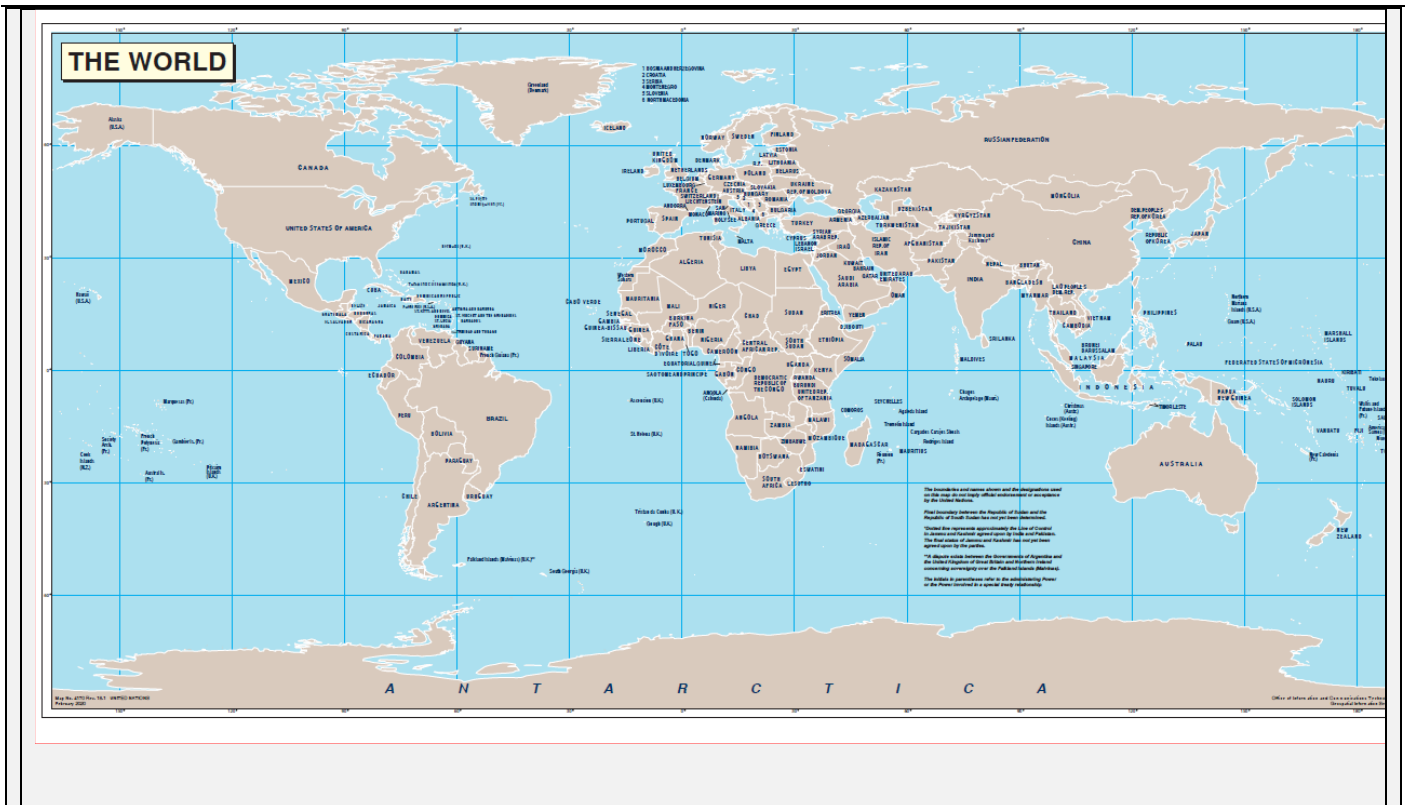
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission the assurances of its highest consideration.



Port Louis, 09 October 2020

Secretariat  
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission  
Victoria  
Seychelles

10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newton Tower, Sir William Newton Street, Port Louis  
Tel: (230) 405 2500 Fax: (230) 208 8087. (230) 212 6764 Email: [mfa@govmu.org](mailto:mfa@govmu.org)







PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES

30 October 2020

Dear Chairperson,

In anticipation of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) to be held from 2 to 6 November 2020, I wish to inform you that the delegation of Mauritius intends to make a short statement under agenda item 4 relating to item 9.1 – Overview of the CoC Report and CoC recommendation and agenda item 9.2 – Adoption of the List of IUU Vessels.

We have noted that in some of the documents circulated under the above items for consideration by the forthcoming session of the Commission, reference has been made to "UK ("BIOT")" or "United Kingdom ("BIOT")" and "UK "BIOT"". In view of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 25 February 2019 and UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295, Mauritius considers that it would not be appropriate to have such references in IOTC documents.

In this regard I am pleased to enclose for your information an advance copy of the statement, that we propose to make.

Please accept, Dear Chairperson, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Jagdish D. Koonjul G.O.S.K.**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative**  
**Head of the Mauritius Delegation**  
**to the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOTC**

**Ms Susan Imende**  
**Ag. Director General**  
**Kenya Fisheries Service**  
**Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation**  
**State Department of Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy**  
**Maji House – Ngong Road**  
**P.O. Box 48511-00100**  
**Nairobi**  
**Kenya**

**24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission**

**2-6 November 2020**

**Statement by the Republic of Mauritius (Advance Copy)**

**Agenda Item 4: Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session**

Madam Chairperson,

The Delegation of Mauritius wishes to register its objection to the references made in the various documents circulated for this meeting to “UK (“BIOT”)” or “United Kingdom (“BIOT”)” or “UK “BIOT””.

We are referring specifically to the documents relating to Agenda Item 9.1: Overview of the CoC17 Report and CoC recommendations and Agenda Item 9.2: Adoption of the List of IUU Vessels where these wordings have been used.

As the Commission will be aware, in its Advisory Opinion of 25 February 2019, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has made clear that the Chagos Archipelago is, and has always formed, an integral part of the territory of Mauritius and that the UK’s continued administration of the Chagos Archipelago is an unlawful act of a continuing character. The Court accordingly concluded that the UK is under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible and that all Member States are under an obligation to cooperate with the United Nations in order to complete the decolonization of Mauritius.

The UN General Assembly which affirmed and endorsed the findings of the ICJ has in Resolution 73/295, *inter alia*, called upon the UN and all its specialized agencies as well as all other international, regional and intergovernmental organizations to recognize that the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of Mauritius, to support the decolonization of Mauritius as rapidly as possible, and to refrain from impeding that process by recognizing, or giving effect to any measure taken by or on behalf of, the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory”.

Since the UK is not and cannot, under international law, be the coastal State in relation to the Chagos Archipelago, my delegation considers that it would be inappropriate to use the wordings in question in the official documents of the IOTC pending a formal decision on the termination of the membership of the UK in the Commission as a coastal State purporting to represent the Chagos Archipelago.

Similarly and for the same reasons, my delegation does not agree to the references made in the report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Compliance Committee (IOTC-2020-CoC17-R) to “waters of UK (“BIOT”)” and to the endorsement by the Commission of the recommendation contained in paragraph 83 of that report as well as to the recommendation for the inclusion of vessels reported by the UK or the so-called “BIOT” on the 2020 IOTC IUU Vessels List.

Thank you.

**United Kingdom (“BIOT”)**



Note Number: OTD/002/2020

The Overseas Territories Directorate of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and Chair of the IOTC's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Session. In advance of this Session, the United Kingdom wishes to restate its position on the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, which has been under continuous British sovereignty since 1814. Mauritius has never held sovereignty over the Archipelago and we do not recognise its claim. However, we have a long-standing commitment, first made in 1965, to cede sovereignty of the territory to Mauritius when it is no longer required for defence purposes. We stand by that commitment.

The United Kingdom was disappointed that this matter was referred to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), contrary to the principle that the Court should not consider bilateral disputes without the consent of both States concerned. Nevertheless, the United Kingdom respects the ICJ and participated fully in the ICJ process at every stage and in good faith. An Advisory Opinion is advice provided to the United Nations General Assembly at its request; it is not a legally binding judgment. The UK Government has considered the content of the Opinion carefully, however we do not share the Court's approach.

UN Resolution 73/295, adopted following the ICJ's Advisory Opinion, does not and cannot create any legal obligations for UN Member States. Neither the non-binding Advisory Opinion nor the non-binding General Assembly resolution alter the legal situation, that of a sovereignty dispute between the United Kingdom and Mauritius. The General Assembly is not the appropriate forum to resolve such a bilateral dispute.

The United Kingdom, in respect of the British Indian Ocean Territory, is a full member of the IOTC. The United Kingdom deposited instrument of acceptance to the IOTC Agreement on 31st March 1995 and have been a party to the Agreement since it entered into force. The Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission provides that IOTC membership shall be open, inter alia, to FAO members that are situated wholly or partly within the IOTC's Area of Competence. As the British Indian Ocean Territory is situated wholly within the IOTC's Area of Competence, there can therefore be no doubt that the United Kingdom, as the State with sovereignty over BIOT as aforementioned, is entitled to be a member of IOTC.

The Overseas Territories Directorate of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission the assurances of its highest consideration.

FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE  
LONDON

28 September 2020



**APPENDIX 3.****AGENDA OF THE 24TH SESSION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION**

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
- 2. LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS**
- 3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**
- 4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**
- 5. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION IN 2019 (S23)**
- 6. ITEMS REFERRED TO IOTC BY THE FAO CONFERENCE, COUNCIL OR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL**
  - 6.1. Regarding the development of a proposal for a permanent procedure to select the IOTC Executive Secretary
- 7. REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**
  - 7.1. Review of the SC22 Report and status of the stocks
  - 7.2. Scientific Committee Recommendations
- 8. REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA**
  - 8.1. Overview of the TCAC Chairpersons Report on TCAC06
- 9. REPORT OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**
  - 9.1. Overview of the CoC17 Report and CoC recommendations
  - 9.2. Adoption of the List of IUU Vessels
  - 9.3. Requests for accession to the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party
- 10. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
  - 10.1. Overview of the SCAF17 Report
  - 10.2. 2021 Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission
  - 10.3. Finalisation of the amendments to the IOTC Financial Regulations
  - 10.4. Schedule of meetings for 2021-2022
- 11. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**
  - 11.1. Future CMM proposals (updates only)
  - 11.2. Report on current IOTC Conservation and Management Measures that include a reference to the year 2020
  - 11.3. Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement
- 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
  - 12.1. Cooperation with other organisations and institutions
  - 12.2. Regarding the tenure of the Executive Secretary
  - 12.3. Date and place of the Sessions of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies in 2021 and 2022
- 13. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

**APPENDIX 4.**  
**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Document	Title
IOTC–2020–S24–01a	Draft agenda for S24 (v3Sep).
IOTC–2020–S24–01b	Draft agenda for S24 (v3Oct).
IOTC–2020–S24–01c	S24 pre-meeting discussion document.
IOTC–2020–S24–01d	Annotated agenda (v30Oct).
IOTC–2020–S24–02	List of documents (v20May).
IOTC–2020–S24–03	Progress on requests for action made by the Commission in 2019.
IOTC–2020–S24–04_rev3	Consultation towards the development of a proposal for a permanent procedure to select the Executive Secretary.
IOTC–2020–S24–05	Conservation and management measures that include a reference to the year 2020.
IOTC–2020–S24–06	Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement.
IOTC–2020–S24–07	Replacement of the existing memorandum of understanding between the IOTC and the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).
IOTC–2020–S24–08	Proposed Letter of Understanding between the Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (IOMOU) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
IOTC–2020–S24–PropA	Proposal on a management procedure for yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (Australia, Indonesia, Maldives, South Africa, European Union).
<b>Reference documents</b>	
IOTC-2020-S24-INF08	Statement of the EU at the 24th session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOTC-2020-S24-INF10_Rev1	Scientific Committee Chair’s presentation
Statement	Statement 1 on the matter of Credentials from Mauritius
Statement	Statement 2 from Mauritius Note Verbale to IOTC 9Oct2020
Statement	Statement 3 from Mauritius re. agenda Item 9 of the IOTC 24th Session
Statement	Statement on the matter of Credentials from the United Kingdom ("BIOT")
<b>Relevant reports from other meetings</b>	
IOTC–2020–CoC17–R	Report of the 17 <sup>th</sup> session of the IOTC Compliance Committee.
IOTC–2020–SCAF17–R	Report of the 17 <sup>th</sup> session of the IOTC Standing Committee on Administration and Finance.
IOTC–2020–SCAF17–10	Finalising the IOTC Financial Regulations (2019).

Document	Title
IOTC-2020-TCAC06-R	Chairpersons Report of the 6th session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria.
IOTC-2019-SC22-R	Report of the 22nd Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee
<b>NGO Statements</b>	
IOTC-2020-S24-INF01	Failure to manage yellowfin tuna by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOTC-2020-S24-INF02	WWF Position for the 24 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
IOTC-2020-S24-INF03	The Pew Charitable Trusts' Statement to the 24th Regular Session Indian Ocean Tuna Commission November 2-6, 2020
IOTC-2020-S24-INF04	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation position statement
IOTC-2020-S24-INF05	IPNLF Position Statement
IOTC-2020-S24-INF06	Indian Ocean Tuna longline FIP Position Statement for IOTC in 2020
IOTC-2020-S24-INF07	Indian Ocean tuna and large pelagics - longline (Afrifitex) FIP Position Statement for IOTC in 2020
IOTC-2020-S24-INF09	Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative Position Paper for the 24th Session of the IOTC



## APPENDIX 5.

### ADOPTED PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF THE IOTC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- 1) Within 30 days following a request from the IOTC Chairperson to commence a recruitment process, a Vacancy Announcement will be drafted by FAO technical departments in consultation with the IOTC Chairperson, with support of the Office for Human Resources (CSH).
- 2) The Vacancy Announcement will be issued and posted for at least 46 days unless the IOTC requests longer. The FAO will publish the Vacancy Announcement on the FAO website and the IOTC will publish it on its website and by Circular, and share the advertisement with other RFMOs and relevant organisations.
- 3) A first review and screening of candidates is undertaken by CSH based on the minimum criteria and qualifications set out in the Vacancy Announcement.
- 4) A second review will be undertaken by the offices of the relevant Deputy Director-General and the relevant Director (D2) and three representatives of the Members of the IOTC to establish a shortlist of candidates for interview<sup>1</sup>. The interview shortlist must contain at least seven candidates including at least one female candidate. If there is no female candidate in the shortlist, the Panel Report must contain a justification. If the interview shortlist does not contain seven candidates, the Report must contain a justification.
- 5) An Interview Panel will be established, and composed of:
  - a) The relevant Deputy Director-General or Director (D2);
  - b) Two Senior FAO officers;
  - c) Three representatives of the Members of the IOTC<sup>2</sup>; and
  - d) One representative of CSH. The role of the CSH representative is to offer administrative support to the panel. He/She will not be involved in interviewing or assessing the candidates.
- 6) Interviews of shortlisted candidates will be conducted by the Interview Panel which will prepare a report. The Panel Report will identify a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 qualified candidates. If there is no female candidate selected at this stage, the Panel Report must contain a justification.
- 7) Both the shortlist of candidates for interview as well as the three to five candidates submitted to the Director-General will be compiled with due regard to gender and geographic balance in line with the policy of the Organization. If this balance is not achieved, the Panel Report must contain a justification.
- 8) The Panel Report will be submitted for consideration by the Director-General.
- 9) Reference checks will be undertaken by CSH. A summary of the reference checks will be provided to the three representatives of the IOTC who will keep the information confidential.
- 10) The Director-General will identify one proposed candidate for appointment, whose name and curriculum vitae will be referred to the IOTC for approval in accordance with the provisions of the IOTC Agreement. The name and curriculum vitae will be transmitted to the IOTC Chairperson, who will keep the information confidential, within ten weeks of the closure of the Vacancy Announcement.
- 11) Upon approval of the Body, an offer will be issued to the candidate. Should there be non-approval, the Director-General will propose to the Body another candidate recommended for appointment.
- 12) Upon acceptance, the Director-General will appoint the candidate.

<sup>1</sup>The representatives of the IOTC Commission shall be the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission unless otherwise decided by the IOTC Commission.

<sup>2</sup>As above.

**APPENDIX 6.**  
**STOCK STATUS SUMMARIES FOR THE IOTC SPECIES: 2019**

**Temperate and tropical tuna stocks:** main stocks being targeted by industrial, and to a lesser extent, artisanal fisheries throughout the Indian Ocean, both on the high seas and in the EEZ of coastal states.

Stock	Indicators	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Advice to the Commission
Albacore <i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Catch 2018: 41,603 t Average catch 2014–2018: 38,030 t MSY (1000 t) (95% CI): 35.7 (27.3–44.4) F <sub>MSY</sub> (95% CI): 0.21 (0.195–0.237) SB <sub>MSY</sub> (1000 t) (95% CI): 23.2 (17.6–29.2) F <sub>2017</sub> /F <sub>MSY</sub> (95% CI): 1.346 (0.588–2.171) SB <sub>2017</sub> /SB <sub>MSY</sub> (95% CI): 1.281 (0.574–2.071) SB <sub>2017</sub> /SB <sub>1950</sub> (95% CI): 0.262 (-)						<p>A new stock assessment was carried out for albacore in 2019 to update the assessment undertaken in 2016.</p> <p>Although considerable uncertainty remains in the SS3 assessment conducted in 2019, particularly due to the conflicts in key data inputs, a precautionary approach to the management of albacore tuna should be applied. The K2SM indicates that catch reductions are required in order to prevent the biomass from declining to below MSY levels in the short term, due to the low recent recruitment levels. Although there is considerable uncertainty in the projections, current catches are exceeding the estimated MSY level (35,700 t).</p> <p>The stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY target reference points indicates that the stock is <b>not overfished</b> but is <b>subject to overfishing</b>.</p> <p>Click here for full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 8</a></p>
Bigeye tuna <i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Catch in 2018: 93,515 t (81,413 t <sup>1</sup> ) Average catch 2014–2018: 92,140 t (89,720 t <sup>1</sup> ) MSY (1000 t) (80% CI): 87 (75 – 108) F <sub>MSY</sub> (80% CI): 0.24 (0.18 – 0.36) SB <sub>MSY</sub> (1,000 t) (80% CI): 503 (370 – 748) F <sub>2018</sub> /F <sub>MSY</sub> (80% CI): 1.20 (0.70 – 2.05) SB <sub>2018</sub> /SB <sub>MSY</sub> (80% CI): 1.22 (0.82 – 1.81) SB <sub>2018</sub> /SB <sub>0</sub> (80% CI): 0.31 (0.21 – 0.34)		84%			38%	<p>In 2019 a new stock assessment was carried out for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence to update the stock status undertaken in 2016.</p> <p>The stock status determination changed qualitatively in 2019 to <b>not overfished</b> but <b>subject to overfishing</b>. If catches remain at current levels there is a risk of breaching MSY reference points with 58.9% and 60.8% probability in 2021 and 2028. Reduced catches of at least 10% from current levels will likely reduce the probabilities of breaching reference levels to 49.1% in 2028. Continued monitoring and improvement in data collection, reporting and analyses is required to reduce the uncertainty in assessments.</p> <p>Click here for full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 9</a></p>

<sup>1</sup> Considering the alternative purse seine log-associated catch composition for the EU fleet in 2018 as per IOTC-2019-WPTT21-R[E]

Skipjack tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Catch in 2018: 607,701 t (606,197 t <sup>1</sup> ) Average catch 2014–2018: 484,993 t (484,692 t <sup>1</sup> ) Yield <sub>40%SSB</sub> (1000 t) (80% CI): 510.1 (455.9–618.8) C <sub>2016</sub> /C <sub>40%SSB</sub> (80% CI): 0.88 (0.72-0.98) SB <sub>2016</sub> (1000 t) (80% CI): 796.66 (582.65-1,059.29) Total Biomass B <sub>2016</sub> (1000 t) (80% CI): 910.4 (873.6-1195) SB <sub>2016</sub> /SB <sub>40%SSB</sub> (80% CI): 0.40 (0.35–0.47) SB <sub>2016</sub> /SB <sub>0</sub> (80% CI): 0.59 (0.53-0.65) E <sup>3</sup> <sub>40%SSB</sub> (80% CI): 2,015,220 (1,651,230–2,296,135) SB <sub>0</sub> (80% CI): 2,296,135		47%					<p>No new stock assessment was carried out for skipjack tuna in 2019, thus, stock status is determined on the basis of the 2016 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2019, the skipjack tuna stock is determined to be <b>not overfished</b> and is <b>not subject to overfishing</b>. Based on the results of the stock assessment of skipjack tuna in 2017, the Commission, following Resolution 16/02, adopted an annual catch limit of 470,029 tonnes for the years 2018 to 2020. Total catches in 2018 (607,701 t) were 29% larger than the catch limit generated by the Harvest Control Rule (470,029 t) which applies to the years 2018–2020, and there has been an increasing trend in catches over the past 3 years. The Commission needs to ensure that future catches of skipjack do not exceed the agreed limit for the 2018-2020 period.</p> <p>Click here for full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 10</a></p>
Yellowfin tuna <i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Catch 2018: 423,815 t (437,422 t <sup>2</sup> ) Average catch 2014–2018: 404,655 t (407,377 t <sup>2</sup> ) MSY (1000 t) (80% CI): 403 (339–436) FMSY (80% CI): 0.15 (0.13–0.17) SBMSY (1,000 t) (80% CI): 1069 (789–1387) F <sub>2017</sub> /FMSY (80% CI): 1.20 (1.00–1.71) SB <sub>2017</sub> /SBMSY (80% CI): 0.83 (0.74–0.97) SB <sub>2017</sub> /SB <sub>0</sub> (80% CI): 0.30 (0.27 – 0.33)	94%	68%			94%		<p>No new stock assessment was carried out for yellowfin tuna in 2019, thus, stock status is determined on the basis of the 2018 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2018 and 2019, the yellowfin tuna stock is determined to remain <b>overfished</b> and <b>subject to overfishing</b>.</p> <p>The decline in stock status to below MSY reference level is not well understood due to various uncertainties. As a precautionary measure, the Commission should ensure that catches are reduced to end overfishing and allow the SSB to recover to SSBMSY levels. At this stage, no revised specific catch limits are recommended.</p> <p>In the 2018 Scientific Committee a Workplan was developed to address the issues identified in the assessment review, aimed at increasing the Committee's ability to provide more concrete and robust advice by the 2019 meeting of the Scientific Committee. The workplan started in January 2019 which aimed at addressing the issues identified by the WPTT and the external reviewer in 2018. The draft workplan is attached as Appendix 38 of the 2018 Scientific Committee Report (IOTC-2018-SC21-R). The Commission should ensure that this workplan is budgeted appropriately. Despite the progress made to reduce the uncertainties inherent to this fishery, the WPTT agreed that no new advice could be provided in 2019.</p> <p>The Commission has an interim plan for the rebuilding the yellowfin stock, with catch limitations based on 2014/2015 levels (Resolution 19/01,</p>

<sup>2</sup> Considering the alternative purse seine log-associated catches for the EU fleet in 2018 as per IOTC-2019-WPTT21-R

								<p>which superseded 17/01 and 18/01). Some of the fisheries subject to catch reductions had fully achieved a decrease in catches in 2018 in accordance with the levels of reductions specified in the Resolution; however, these reductions were offset by increases in the catches from CPCs exempt and some CPCs subject to limitations on their catches of yellowfin tuna (see table 9 in IOTC-2019-WPTT21-R). Thus, the total catches of yellowfin in 2018 increased by around 9% from 2014/2015 levels. The Commission should ensure that any revision of the management measure can effectively achieve any prescribed catch reduction to ensure the effectiveness of the management measure.</p> <p>Click here for full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 11</a></p>
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**Neritic tunas and mackerel:** These six species have become as important or more important as the three tropical tuna species (bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna and yellowfin tuna) to most IOTC coastal states. Neritic tunas and mackerels are caught primarily by coastal fisheries, including small-scale industrial and artisanal fisheries, and are almost always caught within the EEZs of coastal states. Historically, catches were often reported as aggregates of various species, making it difficult to obtain appropriate data for stock assessment analyses.

Stock	Indicators	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Advice to the Commission
Bullet tuna <i>Auxis rochei</i>	Catch 2018: 31,615 t Average catch 2014–2018: 16,364 t MSY (1,000 t): unknown $F_{MSY}$ : unknown $B_{MSY}$ (1,000 t): unknown $F_{current}/F_{MSY}$ : unknown $B_{current}/B_{MSY}$ : unknown $B_{current}/B_0$ : unknown						<p>No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for bullet tuna in the Indian Ocean, and due to a lack of fishery data for several gears, only preliminary stock status indicators can be used. Stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY reference points remains <b>unknown</b></p> <p>For assessed species of neritic tunas in Indian Ocean (longtail tuna, kawakawa and narrow barred Spanish mackerel), the MSY was estimated to have been reached between 2009 and 2011 and both FMSY and BMSY were breached thereafter. Therefore, in the absence of a stock assessment of bullet tuna a limit to the catches should be considered by the Commission, by ensuring that future catches do not exceed the average catches estimated between 2009 and 2011 (8,870 t). The reference period (2009-2011) was chosen based on the most recent assessments of those neritic species in the Indian Ocean for which an assessment is available under the assumption that also for bullet tuna MSY was reached between 2009 and 2011. This catch advice should be maintained until an assessment of bullet tuna is available. Considering that MSY-based reference points for assessed species can change over time, the stock should be closely monitored. Mechanisms need to be developed by the Commission to improve current statistics by encouraging CPCs to comply with their recording and reporting requirements, so as to better inform scientific advice</p> <p>Click here for a full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 17</a></p>
Frigate tuna <i>Auxis thazard</i>	Catch 2018: 82,909 t Average catch 2014–2018: 89,253 t MSY (1,000 t): unknown $F_{MSY}$ : unknown $B_{MSY}$ (1,000 t): unknown $F_{current}/F_{MSY}$ : unknown $B_{current}/B_{MSY}$ : unknown $B_{current}/B_0$ : unknown						<p>No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for frigate tuna in the Indian Ocean, and due to a lack of fishery data for several gears, only preliminary stock status indicators can be used. Stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY reference points remains <b>unknown</b>.</p> <p>For assessed species of neritic tunas in Indian Ocean (longtail tuna, kawakawa and narrow barred Spanish mackerel), the MSY was estimated to have been reached between 2009 and 2011 and both FMSY and BMSY were breached thereafter. Therefore, in the absence of a stock assessment of frigate tuna a limit to the catches should be considered by the Commission, by ensuring that future catches do not exceed the average catches estimated between 2009 and 2011 (94,921 t). The reference period (2009-2011) was</p>

Stock	Indicators		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Advice to the Commission
								<p>chosen based on the most recent assessments of those neritic species in the Indian Ocean for which an assessment is available under the assumption that also for bullet tuna MSY was reached between 2009 and 2011. This catch advice should be maintained until an assessment of frigate tuna is available. Considering that MSY-based reference points for assessed species can change over time, the stock should be closely monitored. Mechanisms need to be developed by the Commission to improve current statistics by encouraging CPCs to comply with their recording and reporting requirements, so as to better inform scientific advice.</p> <p>Click here for a full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 18</a></p>
Kawakawa <i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	Catch 2018: Average catch 2014-2018 MSY (1,000 t) [*] $F_{MSY}$ [*] $B_{MSY}$ (1,000 t) [*] $F_{2013}/F_{MSY}$ [*] $B_{2013}/B_{MSY}$ [*] $B_{2013}/B_0$ [*]	173,367 t 161,844 t 152 [125–188] 0.56 [0.42–0.69] 202 [151–315] 0.98 [0.85–1.11] 1.15 [0.97–1.38] 0.58 [0.33–0.86]						<p>A stock assessment was not undertaken for kawakawa in 2019 and the status is determined on the basis of the last assessment conducted in 2015, which used catch data from 1950 to 2013.</p> <p>Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the kawakawa stock for the Indian Ocean is classified as <b>not overfished</b> and <b>not subject to overfishing</b>.</p> <p>Although the stock status is classified as not overfished and not subject to overfishing, the Kobe strategy II matrix developed in 2015 showed that there is a 96% probability that biomass is below MSY levels and 100% probability that <math>F &gt; F_{MSY}</math> by 2016 and 2023 if catches are maintained at the 2013 levels. There is a 55% probability that biomass is below MSY levels and 91% probability that <math>F &gt; F_{MSY}</math> by 2023 if catches are maintained at around 2016 levels. The modelled probabilities of the stock achieving levels consistent with the MSY reference points (e.g. <math>S_B &gt; S_{BMSY}</math> and <math>F &lt; F_{MSY}</math>) in 2023 are 100% for a future constant catch at 80% of 2013 catch levels. If catches are reduced by 20% based on 2013 levels at the time of the assessment (170,181 t), the stock is expected to recover to levels above MSY reference points with a 50% probability by 2023.</p> <p>Click here for a full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 19</a></p>

Stock	Indicators		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Advice to the Commission
Longtail tuna <i>Thunnus tonggol</i>	Catch 2018: Average catch 2014–2018: MSY (1,000 t) (*): $F_{MSY}$ (*): $B_{MSY}$ (1,000 t) (*): $F_{2015}/F_{MSY}$ (*): $B_{2015}/B_{MSY}$ (*): $B_{2015}/B_0$ (*):	136,906 t 138,352 t 140 (103–184) 0.43 (0.28–0.69) 319 (200–623) 1.04 (0.84–1.46) 0.94 (0.68–1.16) 0.48 (0.34–0.59)			67%			<p>No new stock assessment for Longtail tuna was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2017 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019.</p> <p>Based on the weight-of-evidence currently available, the stock is considered to be both <b>overfished</b> and <b>subject to overfishing</b>.</p> <p>There is a substantial risk of exceeding MSY-based reference points by 2018 if catches are maintained at current (2015) levels (63% risk that <math>B_{2018} &lt; B_{MSY}</math>, and 55% risk that <math>F_{2018} &gt; F_{MSY}</math>). If catches are reduced by 10% this risk is lowered to 33% probability <math>B_{2018} &lt; B_{MSY}</math> and 28% probability <math>F_{2018} &gt; F_{MSY}</math>. If catches are capped at current (2015) levels at the time of the assessment (i.e., 136,849 t), the stock is expected to recover to levels above MSY reference points with at least a 50% probability by 2025. Catches have remained below estimated MSY since 2015.</p> <p>Click here for a full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 20</a></p>
Indo-Pacific king mackerel <i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>	Catch 2018: Average catch 2014–2018: MSY (1,000 t) $F_{MSY}$ : $B_{MSY}$ (1,000 t): $F_{current}/F_{MSY}$ : $B_{current}/B_{MSY}$ : $B_{current}/B_0$ :	50,653 t 49,511 t Unknown Unknown Unknown Unknown Unknown Unknown						<p>No new stock assessment for Indo-Pacific king mackerel was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2016 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019.</p> <p>Given that no new assessment was undertaken in 2019, the WPNT considered that stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY target reference points remains <b>unknown</b>.</p> <p>For assessed species of neritic tunas in Indian Ocean (longtail tuna, kawakawa and narrow barred Spanish mackerel), the MSY was estimated to have been reached between 2009 and 2011 and both FMSY and BMSY were breached thereafter. Therefore, in the absence of a stock assessment of Indo-Pacific king mackerel a limit to the catches should be considered by the Commission, by ensuring that future catches do not exceed the average catches between 2009 and 2011 estimated at the time of the assessment (46,787 t). The reference period (2009–2011) was chosen based on the most recent assessments of those neritic species in the Indian Ocean for which an assessment is available under the assumption that also for Indo-Pacific king mackerel MSY was reached between 2009 and 2011. This catch advice should be maintained until an assessment of Indo-Pacific king mackerel is available. This catch advice should be maintained until an assessment of Indo-Pacific king mackerel is available. Considering that MSY-based reference</p>

Stock	Indicators		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Advice to the Commission
								<p>points for assessed species can change over time, the stock should be closely monitored. Mechanisms need to be developed by the Commission to improve current statistics by encouraging CPCs to comply with their recording and reporting requirements, so as to better inform scientific advice.</p> <p>Click here for a full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 21</a></p>
Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel <i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	Catch 2018: Average catch 2014-2018: MSY (1,000 t) [*]: $F_{MSY}$ [*]: $B_{MSY}$ (1,000 t) [*]: $F_{2015}/F_{MSY}$ [*]: $B_{2015}/B_{MSY}$ [*]: $B_{2015}/B_0$ [*]:	149,263 t 163,209 t 131 [96–180] 0.35 [0.18–0.7] 371 [187–882] 1.28 [1.03–1.69] 0.89 [0.63–1.15] 0.44 [0.31–0.57]			89%			<p>No new stock assessment for Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2017 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019.</p> <p>Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the stock appears to be <b>overfished and subject to overfishing</b>.</p> <p>There is a continued high risk of exceeding MSY-based reference points by 2025, even if catches are reduced to 80% of the 2015 levels (73% risk that <math>B_{2025} &lt; B_{MSY}</math>, and 99% risk that <math>F_{2025} &gt; F_{MSY}</math>). The modelled probabilities of the stock achieving levels consistent with the MSY reference levels (e.g. <math>B &gt; B_{MSY}</math> and <math>F &lt; F_{MSY}</math>) in 2025 are 93% and 70%, respectively, for a future constant catch at 70% of current catch level. If catches are reduced by 30% of the 2015 levels at the time of the assessment, which corresponds to catches below MSY, the stock is expected to recover to levels above the MSY reference points with at least a 50% probability by 2025.</p> <p>Click here for a full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 22</a></p>



**Billfish:** The billfish stocks are exploited by industrial and artisanal fisheries throughout the Indian Ocean, both on the high seas and in the EEZ of coastal states. While marlins and sailfish are not usually targeted by most fleets, they are caught and retained as byproduct by the main industrial fisheries, and are also important for localised small-scale and artisanal fisheries or as targets in sports and recreational fisheries.

Stock	Indicators	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Advice to the Scientific Committee
Swordfish <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Catch 2018: 31,628 t Average catch 2014-2018: 31,343 t MSY (1,000 t) (80% CI): 31.59 (26.30-45.50) $F_{MSY}$ (80% CI): 0.17 (0.12-0.23) SB <sub>MSY</sub> (1,000 t) (80% CI): 43.69 (25.27-67.92) $F_{2015}/F_{MSY}$ (80% CI): 0.76 (0.41-1.04) SB <sub>2015}/SB<sub>MSY</sub> (80% CI): 1.50 (1.05-2.45)            SB<sub>2015}/SB<sub>1950</sub> (80% CI): 0.31 (0.26-0.43)         </sub></sub>						<p>No new stock assessment was carried out for swordfish in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2017 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019.</p> <p>On the weight-of-evidence available in 2019, the stock is determined to be <b>not overfished</b> and <b>not subject to overfishing</b>.</p> <p>The most recent catches (33,352 t in 2017) are higher than MSY (31,590 t) and should be reduced to the MSY level.</p> <p>Click here for full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 12</a></p>
Black marlin <i>Makaira indica</i>	Catch 2018: 18,180 t Average catch 2014-2018: 18,074 t MSY (1,000 t) (80% CI): 12.93 (9.44-18.20) $F_{MSY}$ (80% CI): 0.18 (0.11-0.30) B <sub>MSY</sub> (1,000 t) (80% CI): 72.66 (45.52-119.47) $F_{2017}/F_{MSY}$ (80% CI): 0.96 (0.77-1.12) B <sub>2017}/B<sub>MSY</sub> (80% CI): 1.68 (1.32-2.10)            B<sub>2017}/B<sub>0</sub> (80% CI): 0.62 (0.49-0.78)         </sub></sub>						<p>No new stock assessment for black marlin was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2018 assessment based on JABBA and other indicators presented in 2019. The Kobe plot from the JABBA model indicated that the stock is <b>not subject to overfishing</b> and is currently <b>not overfished</b>, however these status estimates are subject to a high degree of uncertainty.</p> <p>Current catches (&gt;14,600 t in 2017) are higher than MSY estimate (12,930 t), which is likely to associate with high uncertainty. The catch limits as stipulated in Resolution 18/05 have also been exceeded. The Commission should provide mechanisms to ensure that catch limits are not exceeded by all concerned fisheries. Projections were not carried out due to the poor predictive capabilities identified in the assessment diagnostics.</p> <p>Click here for full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 13</a></p>

<p>Blue marlin <i>Makaira nigricans</i></p>	<p>Catch 2018: 9,969 t Average catch 2014-2018: 11,382 t MSY (1,000 t) (80% CI): 9.98 (8.18 – 11.86) F<sub>MSY</sub> (80% CI): 0.21 (0.13 – 0.35) B<sub>MSY</sub> (1,000 t) (80% CI): 47 (29.9 – 75.3) H<sub>2017</sub>/H<sub>MSY</sub> (80% CI): 1.47 (0.96 – 2.35) B<sub>2017</sub>/B<sub>MSY</sub> (80% CI): 0.82 (0.56 – 1.15) B<sub>2017</sub>/B<sub>0</sub> (80% CI): 0.41 (0.28 – 0.57)</p>	<p>9,969 t 11,382 t 9.98 (8.18 – 11.86) 0.21 (0.13 – 0.35) 47 (29.9 – 75.3) 1.47 (0.96 – 2.35) 0.82 (0.56 – 1.15) 0.41 (0.28 – 0.57)</p>					87%	<p>Stock status based on the Bayesian State-Space Surplus Production model JABBA suggests that there is an 87% probability that the Indian Ocean blue marlin stock in 2017 is in the red zone of the Kobe plot, indicating the stock is <b>overfished</b> and <b>subject to overfishing</b>.</p> <p>The current catches of blue marlin (average of 11,761 t in the last 5 years, 2013-2017) are higher than MSY (9,984 t) and the stock is currently overfished and subject to overfishing. In order to achieve the Commission objectives of being in the green zone of the Kobe Plot by 2027 (F<sub>2027</sub> &lt; F<sub>MSY</sub> and B<sub>2027</sub> &gt; B<sub>MSY</sub>) with at least a 60% chance, the catches of blue marlin would have to be reduced by 35% compared to the average of the last 3 years, to a maximum value of approximately 7,800 t.</p> <p>Click here for full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 14</a></p>
<p>Striped marlin <i>Tetrapturus audax</i></p>	<p>Catch 2018: 2,791 t Average catch 2014-2018: 3,247 t MSY (1,000 t) (JABBA): 4.73 (4.27–5.18) F<sub>MSY</sub> (JABBA): 0.26 (0.20–0.34) B<sub>MSY</sub> (1,000 t) (JABBA): 17.94 (14.21–23.13) F<sub>2017</sub>/F<sub>MSY</sub> (JABBA): 1.99 (1.21–3.62) B<sub>2017</sub>/B<sub>MSY</sub> (JABBA): 0.33 (0.18–0.54) SB<sub>2017</sub>/SB<sub>MSY</sub> (SS3): 0.373 B<sub>2017</sub>/K(JABBA): 0.12 (0.07–0.20) SB<sub>2017</sub>/SB<sub>1950</sub> (SS3): 0.13 (0.09–0.14)</p>	<p>2,791 t 3,247 t 4.73 (4.27–5.18) 0.26 (0.20–0.34) 17.94 (14.21–23.13) 1.99 (1.21–3.62) 0.33 (0.18–0.54) 0.373 0.12 (0.07–0.20) 0.13 (0.09–0.14)</p>					99%	<p>No new stock assessment for striped marlin was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2018 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2019, the stock status of striped marlin is determined to be <b>overfished</b> and <b>subject to overfishing</b>.</p> <p>Current or increasing catches have a very high risk of further decline in the stock status. Current 2017 catches are lower than MSY (4,730 t) but the stock has been overfished for more than two decades and is now in a highly depleted state. If the Commission wishes to recover the stock to the green quadrant of the Kobe plot with a probability ranging from 60% to 90% by 2026, it needs to provide mechanisms to ensure the maximum annual catches remain between 1,500 t – 2,200 t.</p> <p>Click here for full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 15</a></p>
<p>Indo-Pacific Sailfish <i>Istiophorus platypterus</i></p>	<p>Catch 2018: 36,911 t Average catch 2014-2018: 31,267 t MSY (1,000 t) (80% CI): 23.9 (16.1 – 35.4) F<sub>MSY</sub> (80% CI): 0.19 (0.14 - 0.24) B<sub>MSY</sub> (1,000 t) (80% CI): 129 (81–206) F<sub>2017</sub>/F<sub>MSY</sub> (80% CI): 1.22 (1 – 2.22) B<sub>2017</sub>/B<sub>MSY</sub> (80% CI): 1.14 (0.63 – 1.39) B<sub>2017</sub>/B<sub>0</sub> (80% CI): 0.57 (0.31 – 0.70)</p>	<p>36,911 t 31,267 t 23.9 (16.1 – 35.4) 0.19 (0.14 - 0.24) 129 (81–206) 1.22 (1 – 2.22) 1.14 (0.63 – 1.39) 0.57 (0.31 – 0.70)</p>						<p>A new stock assessment was carried out for Indo-Pacific sailfish in 2019 using the C-MSY model. The data poor stock assessment techniques indicated that F was above F<sub>MSY</sub> (F/F<sub>MSY</sub>=1.22) and B above B<sub>MSY</sub> (B/B<sub>MSY</sub>=1.14). On the weight-of-evidence available in 2019, the stock status <b>cannot be assessed</b> and is determined to be uncertain.</p> <p>The catch limits as stipulated in Resolution 18/05 have been exceeded. The Commission should provide mechanisms to ensure that catch limits are not exceeded by all concerned fisheries. Research emphasis on further developing possible CPUE indicators from gillnet fisheries, and further exploration of stock assessment approaches for data poor fisheries are warranted. Given the limited data being reported for coastal gillnet fisheries, and the importance of sports fisheries for this species, efforts must be made to rectify these information gaps. The</p>

									<p>lack of catch records in the Persian Gulf should also be examined to evaluate the degree of localised depletion in Indian Ocean coastal areas.</p> <p>Click here for full stock status summary: <a href="#">Appendix 16</a></p>
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**APPENDIX 7.**  
**IOTC IUU VESSELS LIST (6 NOVEMBER 2020)**

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**APPENDIX 8.**  
**IOTC BUDGET FOR 2021 AND INDICATIVE BUDGET FOR 2022**

		Actuals 2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff costs</b>				
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Professional</b>				
	Executive Secretary (D1)	184,203	185,095	194,790	198,686
	<i>Science</i>				
	Science Manager (P5)	135,122	135,319	145,468	148,377
	Science Coordinator (P4)	-	0	0	0
	Stock Assessment Expert (P4)	116,706	117,749	124,533	127,023
	Fishery Officer (Science P3)	52,423	104,852	96,943	98,882
	<i>Compliance</i>				
	Compliance Manager (P5)	-	135,319	140,197	143,001
	Compliance Coordinator (P4)	125,599	125,113	132,158	134,802
	Compliance Officer (P3)	123,838	125,381	129,899	132,497
	Fishery Officer (P1)	54,910	57,497	61,351	62,578
	<i>Data</i>				
	Data Coordinator (P4)	123,602	120,503	129,836	132,433
	Statistician (P3)	81,297	107,201	96,943	98,882
	<i>Admin.</i>				
	Administrative Officer (P3/P4)	117,436	118,378	124,960	127,460
<b>1.2</b>	<b>General Service</b>				
	Administrative Assistant	21,206	18,643	21,222	21,647
	Office Associate	16,761	13,749	17,327	17,673
	Database Assistant	21,826	19,213	21,871	22,309
	Office Assistant	-	13,746	12,448	12,697
	Driver	11,567	10,169	11,576	11,807
	Overtime	1,901	5,100	5,100	5,202
	<b>Total Salary Costs</b>	<b>1,188,398</b>	<b>1,413,027</b>	<b>1,466,622</b>	<b>1,495,954</b>
1.3	Employer Pension and Health	324,006	386,021	417,773	426,128
1.4	Employer FAO Entitlement Fund	577,309	644,315	748,437	763,406
1.5	Adjustment entitlement fund	1,756			
1.6	Improved Cost Recovery Uplift	60,692	70,858	76,352	77,879
	<b>Total Staff Costs</b>	<b>2,152,161</b>	<b>2,514,220</b>	<b>2,709,184</b>	<b>2,763,368</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Operating Expenditures</b>				
2.1	Capacity Building	31,694	40,000	40,000	40,000
2.2	Co-funding Science/Data grants	166,109	188,400	26,700	0
2.3	Co-funding Compliance grants	19,670	0	0	0
2.4	Misc. Contingencies	0	0	0	0
2.5	Consultants/Service Providers	104,550	568,600	597,800	597,800
2.6	Duty travel	149,628	160,000	165,000	165,000
2.7	Meetings	67,913	135,000	145,000	145,000
2.8	Interpretation	124,616	140,000	135,000	135,000
2.9	Translation	101,679	110,000	110,000	110,000
2.10	Equipment	17,822	25,000	25,000	25,000
2.11	General Operating Expenses	48,357	68,000	71,300	71,300
2.12	Printing	0	0	0	0
2.13	Contingencies	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
	<b>Total OE</b>	<b>832,038</b>	<b>1,445,000</b>	<b>1,325,800</b>	<b>1,299,100</b>
	<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>2,984,198</b>	<b>3,959,220</b>	<b>4,034,984</b>	<b>4,062,468</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Additional Contributions Seychelles</b>	0	-20,100	-20,100	-20,100
<b>4</b>	<b>FAO Servicing Costs</b>	134,433	178,165	181,574	182,811
<b>5</b>	<b>Deficit Contingency</b>	-	0		
<b>6</b>	<b>Meeting Participation Fund</b>	246,544	250,000	25,000	250,000
				-	-
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,365,175</b>	<b>4,367,285</b>	<b>4,221,458</b>	<b>4,475,179</b>

**APPENDIX 9.**  
**IOTC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2021**

Country	World Bank Classification in 2018	OECD Membership	Average catch for 2016-2018 (t)	Base Contribution	Operations Contribution	GNI Contribution	Catch Contribution	Total Contribution (in USD)
Australia	High	Yes	5,398	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$143,709	\$15,480	\$190,396
Bangladesh	Middle	No	498	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$286	\$67,420
China	Middle	No	76,182	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$43,693	\$110,828
Comoros	Middle	No	12,073	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$6,925	\$74,059
Eritrea	Low	No	219	\$13,618	\$0	\$0	\$126	\$13,743
European Union	High	Yes	251,460	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$143,709	\$721,111	\$896,027
France(Terr)	High	Yes	0	\$13,618	\$0	\$143,709	\$0	\$157,327
India	Middle	No	176,739	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$101,367	\$168,501
Indonesia	Middle	No	319,801	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$183,419	\$250,553
Iran, Islamic Republic of	Middle	No	260,960	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$149,671	\$216,805
Japan	High	Yes	14,641	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$143,709	\$41,985	\$216,901
Kenya	Middle	No	2,326	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$1,334	\$68,469
Korea, Rep of	High	Yes	23,262	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$143,709	\$66,709	\$241,625
Madagascar	Low	No	8,569	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$0	\$4,914	\$36,121
Malaysia	Middle	No	21,632	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$12,407	\$79,541
Maldives	Middle	No	138,589	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$79,486	\$146,620
Mauritius	Middle	No	18,199	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$10,438	\$77,572
Mozambique	Low	No	4,655	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$0	\$2,670	\$33,877
Oman	High	No	56,139	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$143,709	\$32,198	\$207,114
Pakistan	Middle	No	86,731	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$49,744	\$116,878
Philippines	Middle	No	81	\$13,618	\$0	\$35,927	\$46	\$49,591
Seychelles	High	No	130,466	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$143,709	\$74,827	\$249,744
Sierra Leone	Low	No	0	\$13,618	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,618
Somalia	Low	No	0	\$13,618	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,618
South Africa	Middle	No	575	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$330	\$67,464
Sri Lanka	Middle	No	101,166	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$58,022	\$125,157
Sudan	Middle	No	34	\$13,618	\$0	\$0	\$19	\$13,637
Tanzania	Low	No	10,373	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$0	\$5,949	\$37,156
Thailand	Middle	No	13,932	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$35,927	\$7,990	\$75,125
United Kingdom("BIOT")	High	Yes	4	\$13,618	\$0	\$143,709	\$13	\$157,340
Yemen	Middle	No	30,382	\$13,618	\$17,589	\$0	\$17,425	\$48,632
			<b>Total</b>	<b>422,146</b>	<b>422,146</b>	<b>1,688,583</b>	<b>1,688,583</b>	<b>4,221,458</b>

**APPENDIX 10.**  
**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2021**

Meeting	Date
Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM)	15-17 February
MSE Task Force	1-5 March
<b>Special Session (SS4)</b>	8-12 March
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC) 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting	22-25 March
Working Party on Ecosystems & Bycatch – data preparation (WPEB-DP)	12-14 April
Working Party on Tropical Tunas – data preparation (WPTT-DP)	10-14 May
Compliance Committee (CoC)	30 May – 1 June
Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF)	2 June
Report adoption: CoC (am) / SCAF (pm)	3 June
Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP)	4-5 June
<b>Commission (S25)</b>	7-11 June
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC) 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting	21-24 June
Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT)	5-9 July
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB)	6-10 September
Working Party on Billfish (WPB)	13-16 September
Ad hoc Working Group on FADs (WGFAD)	4-6 October
Working Party on Methods (WPM)	18-20 October
Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT)	21-26 October
Working Party on Temperate Tunas – data preparation (WPTmT-DP)	8-10 November
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC) 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting	22-26 November (tbc)
Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS)	1-3 December
Scientific Committee (SC)	6-10 December