

RESOLUTION 03/01

ON THE LIMITATION OF FISHING CAPACITY OF CONTRACTING PARTIES AND COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES

THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION (IOTC)

RECALLING the adoption of FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas,

RECOGNISING that paragraph 1 of the "Resolution 99/1 on the management of fishing capacity and on the reduction of the catch of juvenile bigeye tuna by vessels, including flag of convenience vessels, fishing for tropical tunas in the IOTC Area of competence", adopted at the 4th session of the Commission, stipulate that the 2000 IOTC Session would consider the limitation of the capacity of the fleet of large-scale tuna vessels (greater than 24 m LOA) to the appropriate level,

RECALLING the adoption by IOTC on 2001 of the Resolution 01/04 on limitation of fishing effort of non-Members of IOTC whose vessels fish bigeye tuna,

RECOGNISING that the Scientific Committee recommended that a reduction in catches of bigeye tuna from all gears should be implemented as soon as possible; that the stock of yellowfin tuna is being exploited close to, or possibly above MSY; and that the level of fishing effort of swordfish should not be increased,

RECOGNISING that FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of the Fishing Capacity (IPOA) provides, in its Objectives and Principles that "States and Regional Fisheries Organisations confronted with an overcapacity problem, where capacity is undermining achievement of long-term sustainability outcomes, should endeavour initially to limit at present level and progressively reduce the fishing capacity applied to affected fisheries";

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to have due regard for the interests of all Members concerned, in conformity with the rights and obligations of those Members under international law and in particular, to the rights and obligations of developing countries of the Indian Ocean rim with respect to entry into the high-seas fisheries in the IOTC area of competence.

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) which have more than 50 vessels on the 2003 IOTC Record of Vessels, shall limit in 2004 and following years, the number of their fishing vessels larger than 24 meters length overall (hereafter LSFVs) to the number of its fishing vessels registered in 2003 in the IOTC Record of Vessels¹.
2. This limitation of number of vessels shall be commensurate with the corresponding overall tonnage expressed in GRT (Gross Registered Tonnage) or in GT (Gross Tonnage) and, where vessels are replaced, the overall tonnage shall not be exceeded.
3. Other CPCs which have the objective of developing their fleets above those authorizations currently foreseen under administrative processes, will draw up, a fleet development plan in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 02-05. This Plan shall be submitted to the Commission for information and record at the 2004/5 Sessions and should define, *inter alia*, the type, size and origin of the vessels and the programming of their introduction into the fisheries.

¹ Including authorisations currently foreseen under administrative process

4. In relation to the foregoing, the Commission took note of the interests of the developing coastal States, in particular small island developing States and territories within the IOTC Convention Area whose economies depend largely on fisheries.