

RECOMMENDATION 05/07

CONCERNING A MANAGEMENT STANDARD FOR THE TUNA FISHING VESSELS

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECALLING that the Commission has actively taken various measures and actions to eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities by large-scale tuna longline vessels in the IOTC Area;

FURTHER RECALLING that FAO has been taking initiatives to eliminate IUU fishing activities;

RECOGNIZING that large-scale tuna vessels shift fishing grounds very easily from the IOTC Area to other Oceans and vice versa and that this highly mobile nature of this fishery makes control and management of this fishery difficult;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that their catches are transferred from the fishing grounds to the market directly without going through the flag countries;

BEING AWARE that most of their bigeye and yellowfin tuna catches are exported to Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (hereinafter referred to as CPCs);

NOTING, with grave concern, that many IUU large-scale tuna vessels still survive by shifting their flags from non-Contracting Parties to CPC's with less management ability, and by changing their vessel names and nominal owners to evade international efforts to eliminate these vessels;

FURTHER NOTING that the lack of a minimum management standard of the Commission allows such shifting to CPCs; and

RECOGNIZING the urgent necessity of undertaking due measures so as not to use Contracting Parties as shelters of such vessels,

RECOMMENDS, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, that:

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) should take measures to meet the minimum management standard (Attachment I) when they issue fishing licenses to their "authorised fishing vessels" (AFVs as defined in Resolution 05/07).
2. All CPCs should cooperate with those CPCs which issue licenses to their AFVs to meet the above standard.
3. The CPC flag states which issues licenses to their AFVs should report annually to the Commission all measures taken according to paragraph 1 using the format shown in Attachment II.

IOTC Management Standard for the AFVs

The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, should:

Management in the fishing grounds

- i* Monitor and inspect, where appropriate through patrol boats and maintain surveillance of the activities of its vessels in order to ensure compliance with IOTC's conservation and management measures.
- ii* Deploy if appropriate, scientific observers on-board the vessels according to the Commission's Resolution ;
- iii* Require the installation of satellite-based vessel monitoring systems on board the AFVs operating in the IOTC Area according to the Commission's Resolution ;
- iv* Require a report of their entry/exit to and from the management areas and the IOTC Area, unless otherwise indicated through use of a vessel monitoring system.
- v* Require a daily or periodical report of the vessel's catches of species to which catch limits are applicable;

Management of transshipment (from the fishing grounds to the landing ports)

- i* Require a report of any transshipment of the vessel's catches by species and by management area;
- ii* Conduct port inspection according to the Commission's Resolution 05/01;
- iii* Implement statistical document programs according to the Commission's Resolution's 01/06 and 03/03;

Management at landing ports

- i* Collect landing and transshipment data to verify catch data, if appropriate, through cooperation with other Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties.
- ii* Require a report of landings of their catches by species and by management area.

Model format for annual reporting of implementation of the IOTC management standard for AFVs

a. Management in the fishing grounds

	<i>Scientific Observer boarding</i>	<i>Satellite-based vessel monitoring system</i>	<i>Daily or required periodic catch report</i>	<i>Entry/Exit report</i>
Yes, No				
Note	%	% or number of vessels	Method	Method

b. Management of transshipment (from the fishing grounds to the landing ports)

	<i>Transshipment report</i>	<i>Port inspection</i>	<i>Statistical document program</i>
Yes, No			
Note	Method	Method	

c. Management at landing ports

	<i>Landing inspection</i>	<i>Landing reporting</i>	<i>Cooperation with other Parties</i>
Yes, No			
Note	Method	Method	