

**FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE YELLOWFIN  
TUNA AND BIGEYE TUNA STOCKS IN THE IOTC AREA OF  
COMPETENCE**

**SUBMITTED BY KENYA, MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES ~~AND KENYA~~**

**The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC):**

RECOGNISING that based on past experience in the fishery, the potential production from the resource can be negatively impacted by excessive fishing effort and/or overfishing;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the available scientific information and advice, in particular the IOTC Scientific Committee conclusions whereby the yellowfin tuna stock has recently been overexploited and is probably still being overfished and the bigeye tuna stock are fully exploited;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendation of the IOTC Scientific Committee that catches of yellowfin tuna should not exceed the estimated MSY of 300,000 t;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendation of the IOTC Scientific Committee that catches of bigeye tuna should not exceed the estimated MSY of 110,000t;

RECOGNISING the importance of applying the precautionary approach for the management of the tropical tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean;

ADOPTS, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, the following.

- 1) The annual total catch limit for yellowfin tuna caught in the Indian Ocean in 2011 shall be set at 300,000t
- 2) The annual total catch limit for bigeye tuna caught in the Indian Ocean in 2011 shall be set at 110,000t
- 3) The provisions of this Resolution apply to vessels that are registered in the IOTC Record of Vessels authorised to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC Area, *ie.*
  - a) vessels larger than 24 metres in length overall, or
  - b) in case of vessels less than 24m, those operating in waters outside the economic exclusive zone of the flag state,
- 4) CPC's whose vessels fall under the description of paragraph 3, shall submit monthly reports of the catches of yellowfin and bigeye tunas of those vessels. The monthly reports should be submitted not later than fifteen days from the end of the month that they refer to.
- 5) CPCs whose vessels do not fall under the description of paragraph 3, shall endeavour to submit monthly reports of the catches of yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna by their fisheries on the same time frame.
- 6) The Scientific Committee shall recommend, before the end of its 13<sup>th</sup> Session, a procedure to determine the date when the catch limit for yellowfin and bigeye is reached, on the basis of the monthly reports from CPCs, and including estimates of catches not reported as per paragraph 4 and 5.

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- 7) The Secretariat will apply this procedure to the data available within five days after the deadline for submission of the monthly reports, and will report the results of the calculations to all CPCs. This report will include a list of the CPCs that failed to submit their monthly catch reports, and the steps taken to remedy the situation.
  - 8) The Scientific Committee will recommend, before the end of its 13<sup>th</sup> Session, a procedure for calculating the catch for CPCs that failed to report their monthly catches.
  - 9) CPCs that fail to submit their monthly catch reports on two consecutive occasions should be identified by the Commission, through the Compliance Committee under the procedures set out in IOTC Recommendation 03/05.
  - 10) The fishery for either of the species will be closed for all vessels that fall under paragraph 3, on the date estimated by the Secretariat when the catch limit is projected to be reached (*date of closure*).
  - 11) The Secretary will inform all CPCs 45 days before the date of closure, taking all necessary steps to ensure that the information reaches the appropriate officials in each CPC.
  - 12) Following the closure of the fishery, vessels will not be allowed to fish for the species in question. CPCs shall monitor the compliance of their vessels with this Resolution, and shall prohibit landings, transshipment and commercial transactions in either species that are positively identified as originating from activities that contravene any element of this Resolution.
  - 13) The Commission shall adopt, at its 15<sup>th</sup> Session, additional measures as necessary to ensure the full compliance by IOTC CPCs with the provisions of this Resolution.
  - 14) To the extent possible, the Commission will provide support to developing coastal states that request assistance to strengthen their ability to produce monthly reports according to the provisions of this Resolution.
  - 15) The Commission shall review these conservation and management measures for yellowfin and bigeye tunas at its 15<sup>th</sup> Session.