

AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTIONS 12/05, 13/02 AND 13/07 CONCERNING THE OBLIGATION FOR VESSELS ABOVE 24 METERS OR UNDER 24 METERS FISHING OUTSIDE THEIR EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ) TO HOLD AN IMO NUMBER

PART II

CONCERNING A RECORD OF LICENSED FOREIGN VESSELS FISHING FOR IOTC SPECIES IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE AND ACCESS AGREEMENT INFORMATION

SUBMITTED BY: EUROPEAN UNION, 30 APRIL 2014

Explanatory Memorandum

The proposed amendments aim that fishing vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence above 24 meters or less than 24 meters if fishing outside their EEZ hold an IMO numbers by 1 January 2016. This should include chartered vessels. In addition, vessels engaged in transshipment at sea in the IOTC area of competence shall report their IMO number if they have one.

The amendments concern:

- Resolution 13/02 *on the IOTC Record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence* (paragraph 2 and especially footnote 1),
- Resolution 13/07 *Concerning a Record of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing for IOTC Species in the IOTC Area of Competence and Access Agreement Information* (paragraph 2 and especially footnote 1),
- Resolution 12/05 *on Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels* (paragraph 12).

The current wording in Resolutions 13/02 and 13/07 concerning all vessels above 24 meters or less than 24 meters fishing outside their EEZ would be able to provide IMO numbers by 2015, does not provide sufficient clarity regarding the obligation of the owners of those vessels regarding the deadline to respect this obligation.

Resolution 12/05 currently does not make use of the IMO numbers.

Using IMO numbers as a unique vessel identifier (UVI) for fishing vessels is both useful to fight against IUU fishing and practical for vessel identification.

In 2013, CCAMLR, ICCAT and WCPFC strengthened their transparency requirements and mandated IMO numbers for fishing vessels.

RESOLUTION 14/XX13/07

CONCERNING A RECORD OF LICENSED FOREIGN VESSELS FISHING FOR IOTC SPECIES IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE AND ACCESS AGREEMENT INFORMATION

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNISING that coastal States have sovereign rights in a 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with respect to their natural resources;

CONCIOUS of the provisions of Article 62 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

NOTING that the information on vessels licensed to fish in the EEZ of IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (collectively, CPCs), constitutes a means to identify potential unreported fishing activities;

MINDFUL of the recommendation 17 of the Performance Review Panel, as listed in [Resolution 09/01](#) on the performance review follow-up, that the obligation incumbent to a flag State to report data for its vessels be included in a separate Resolution from the obligation incumbent on Members to report data on the vessels of third countries they licence to fish in their EEZs;

AWARE of the data reporting requirements for all CPCs and the importance of complete statistical reporting to the work of the Scientific Community, its Working Parties and the Commission;

MINDFUL of the need to ensure transparency among CPCs, in particular to facilitate joint efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

RECALLING the duties of CPCs concerning IUU fisheries as stated in the [Resolution 11/03](#) establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the IOTC area of competence; which requires CPCs to ensure that their vessels do not conduct fishing activities within areas under the national jurisdiction of other States without authorisation and/or infringe the coastal State's laws and Resolutions;

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

PRIVATE ACCESS AGREEMENTS:

1. All CPCs which issue licenses to foreign flag vessels to fish in their EEZ for species managed by the IOTC in the IOTC area of competence (hereinafter referred to as “the Area”), shall submit to the IOTC Executive Secretary, by 15 February every year, a list of all foreign flag vessels to which such licences have been issued during the previous year.
2. This list shall contain the following information for each vessel:
 - a) IOTC Number;
 - b) Name and registration number;
 - c) IMO number, if any¹;
 - d) The flag at the time of issuing the licence;

¹ ~~If a vessel currently holds an IMO number, it must be reported in its information.~~ Effective 1 January 2016, flag CPCs shall ensure that all their AFVs above 24 meters or less than 24 meters if fishing outside their EEZ have IMO numbers issued to them. Further, it is expected that all vessels greater than 24 m would be able to provide IMO numbers by 2015.

- e) International radio call sign (if any);
- f) Vessel type, length, and gross tonnage (GT);
- g) Name and address of owner, and/or charterer and/or operator;
- h) Main target species; and
- i) Period of licence.

In assessing compliance with the paragraph above, the Commission shall take into account exceptional circumstances in which a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO number despite following the appropriate procedures. Flag CPCs shall report any such exceptional situations to the IOTC Secretariat.

GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT ACCESS AGREEMENTS:

3. In cases where coastal CPCs allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in waters in their EEZ in the IOTC Area for species managed by IOTC through a Government to Government access agreement, CPCs involved in the referred agreement shall submit jointly to the IOTC Executive Secretary the information concerning these agreements, including:
 - a) The CPCs involved in the agreement;
 - b) The time period or periods covered by the agreement;
 - c) The number of vessels and gear types authorised;
 - d) The stock or species authorised for harvest, including any applicable catch limits;
 - e) The CPC's quota or catch limit to which the catch will be applied, where applicable;
 - f) Monitoring, control, and surveillance measures required by the flag CPC and coastal CPC involved;
 - g) Data reporting obligations stipulated in the agreement, including those between the parties involved, as well as those regarding information that must be provided to the Commission;
 - h) A copy of the written agreement.
4. For agreements in existence prior to the entry into force of this Resolution, the information specified in paragraph 3 shall be provided, at the least, 60 days in advance of the 2013 Commission meeting.
5. When an access agreement is modified in a manner that changes any of the information specified in paragraph 3, these changes shall be promptly notified to the IOTC Executive Secretary.

COMMON PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS AGREEMENTS:

6. The CPCs shall notify the ship owner and flag State concerning foreign flagged fishing vessels that requested a license under a private access agreement or under a government to government access agreement and for which the request of license was denied. If the reason for denial is related to an infringement of IOTC legislation, the IOTC Compliance Committee shall address the issue at the next session accordingly.
7. All CPCs which issue licenses to foreign flag vessels to fish in their EEZs for species managed by the IOTC in the IOTC Area, under a private access agreement or under a government to government access agreement, shall submit to the IOTC Executive Secretary within two (2) months of the entry into force of this Resolution a

template of the official coastal State fishing License and translated version in one of the official Languages of the IOTC, with:

- a) The terms and conditions of the coastal State fishing license;
- b) The name of the Competent Authority;
- c) The name and contact of the personnel of the Competent Authority;
- d) The signature of the personnel of the Competent Authority;
- e) The official stamp(s) of the Competent Authority.

The IOTC Executive Secretary shall publish the template of the coastal State fishing license and the above information in a secure part of the IOTC website for MCS purposes. The information mentioned in sub-paragraph b) to e) must be provided in the form of the **Annex I**.

8. When a coastal State fishing license is modified in a manner that changes the template, any of the information provided in it or the information provided in a) to e) of paragraph 7, these changes shall be promptly notified to the IOTC Executive Secretary.
9. The IOTC Secretariat shall report the information specified in this Resolution annually to the Commission at its annual meeting.
10. This Resolution shall be consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements of the coastal CPC and the flag CPC concerned.
11. This Resolution supersedes Resolution ~~13/0712/07~~ *Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information*.



ANNEX I

COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Coastal State Fishing licence

Country:	
Name of the Competent Authority as stated in the Authorisation To Fish (ATF):	
Address of the Competent Authority:	
Name and contact of personnel of the Competent Authority (email, telephone, fax):	
Signature of the personnel of the Competent Authority:	
Government seal used on the fishing licence:	