

Report of Implementation for the year 2012

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 7 MARCH 2013

Reporting CPC: Philippines

Date: 2013-03-13

Please NOTE: this document is composed of 3 sections to report on the implementation of IOTC resolutions

Part A. *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, in the previous year to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission at its sixteenth Session.*

1. Resolution 12-01 On The Implementation Of The Precautionary Approach

The Philippines had been applying the precautionary approach in the IOTC area of competence by not increasing its fleet of authorized fishing vessels in the area. Thus there has not been any additional fishing vessel nor any Fleet Development Plan submitted. This has been covered by Fisheries Administrative Order Number 223 Series of 2003 and 223-1 Series of 2004 in compliance with the 1998 Fisheries Code.

2. Resolution 12-02 Data Confidentiality Policy And Procedures

Complied

3. Resolution 12-03 On The Recording Of Catch And Effort By Fishing Vessels In The IOTC Area Of Competence

All Philippine flagged fishing vessels operating during the year 2012 have been complying. Both have adopted and had been using the logbook format and logbook templates are provided for in said Resolution. This has been covered by Fisheries Administrative Order Number 198 Series of 2000 in compliance with the 1998 Fisheries Code..

4. Resolution 12-04 On The Conservation Of Marine Turtles (Including in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, their progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution)

Fishing companies were made aware of this Resolution. There many regulations covering the protection of marine turtles some of which have been already put in place since 1979. per interview and records, there were no known interaction with marine turtles in 2012. However, for the application of this rule in the IOTC area, national legislation is still pending. Meanwhile, the operators of all longline vessels carry line cutters and de-hookers and are encouraged to use whole finfish as bait .

5. Resolution 12-05 On Establishing A Programme For Transshipment By Large-Scale Fishing Vessels

The 12 Philippine flagged fishing vessels operating in the IOTC convention area in 2012 have been participating in the IOTC program to monitor at sea transshipment and have also been instructed not to participate in any transshipment with vessels on the IUU Vessels list. All Philippine flagged fishing vessels operating in the IOTC area have been authorized to conduct at sea transshipment and have been instructed to conduct at sea transshipment only under the monitoring and guidance of IOTC observers.

6. Resolution 12-06 On Reducing The Incidental Bycatch Of Seabirds In Longline Fisheries

In force in July 2014

7. Resolution 12-07 Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information

Not applicable

8. Resolution 12-08 Procedures On A Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) Management Plan

Not applicable

9. Resolution 12-09 On The Conservation Of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) Caught In Association With Fisheries In The IOTC Area Of Competence

10. Resolution 12-10 To Promote Implementation Of Conservation And Management Measures Already Adopted By IOTC

The Philippines is aware of the sheer volume of work needed to understand and comply with all existing and effective Conservation and Management Measures in all Tuna RFMOs. It is also now undertaking a review of its capacity to implement conservation and management measures that have been adopted by Tuna RFMOs of which it has been a member of. In this regard, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources [BFAR] has requested authority under the 2013 proposed General Appropriations Act when it was still pending before the Legislature to hire additional casual employees even while it is awaiting the grant of additional permanent personnel who will be trained for Scientific and Technical purposes. As of the end of 2012, the BFAR had been granted to hire additional casual employees who will be hired and then trained in 2013. As of the moment, as there are coming elections this coming May 2013, hiring will be delayed due to the impending ban on hiring.

11. Resolution 12-11 On The Implementation Of A Limitation Of Fishing Capacity Of Contracting Parties And Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties

Annually, the Philippines has been submitting its active list which is usually changing depending on the fishing opportunity. The list had been a subset of its authorized list of vessels for the IOTC. The Philippines did not submit a fleet development plan as it has no intentions of increasing its authorized list of vessels.

12. Resolution 12-12 To Prohibit The Use Of Large-Scale Driftnets On The High Seas In The IOTC Area (Including a summary of monitoring, control, and surveillance actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas in the IOTC Area of Competence)

The Philippines does not utilize drift nets in its fishing operations in the IOTC Convention area.

13. Resolution 12-13 For The Conservation And Management Of Tropical Tuna Stocks In The IOTC Area Of Competence (Including a summary of VMS records related to their fleet operation in the previous year for the consideration of the Compliance Committee)

Complied. All Philippine flagged vessels operating in the IOTC area are fully covered by VMS.

14. Recommendation 12/15 On The Best Available Science

The Philippines is aware of the volume of work needed to comply with all requirements for science data. In its review of its capacity to comply with the requirements for the Science Committee Meeting, the BFAR has requested authority under the proposed General Appropriations Act to hire additional casual employees even while it is awaiting the grant of additional permanent personnel who will be trained for Scientific and technical purposes. As of the end of 2012, the BFAR had been granted to hire additional casual employees who will be hired and then trained in 2013.

Part B. *Describe the actions taken, under national legislation, to implement conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission in previous Sessions, and which have not been reported previously.*

As regards action on legislation on sharks in accordance with resolution 12/09, this is still pending before the National Legislature. Examples of these are House Bill Number 174 entitled "AN ACT BANNING THE CATCHING, SALE, PURCHASE, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF ALL SHARKS AND RAYS IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" and House Bill Number 5412 entitled "AN ACT BANNING THE CATCHING, SALE, PURCHASE, POSSESSION AND TRADE OF ALL SHARKS AND RAYS, THEIR DERIVATIVES AND BY-PRODUCTS IN THE PHILIPPINES".

Part C. Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the *section March 2013 of the Guide on data and information reporting requirements for Members and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties*).

- Resolution 01/06 *Concerning the IOTC bigeye tuna statistical document programme*

CPCs which export bigeye tuna shall examine export data upon receiving the import data from the Secretary, and report the results to the Commission annually.

All catches of bigeye tuna are exported and are not landed into any Philippine fishport.

- Recommendation 05/07 *Concerning a management standard for the tuna fishing vessels*

The CPC flag states which issues licenses to their AFVs should report annually to the Commission all measures taken to meet the minimum management standards when they issue fishing licenses to their “authorised fishing vessels”.

Not applicable to the Philippines as the Philippines is not a coastal state within the convention area.

- Resolution 10/06 *On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries*

CPCs shall provide to the Commission, as part of their annual reports, information on how they are implementing this measure and all available information on interactions with seabirds, including bycatch by fishing vessels carrying their flag or authorised to fish by them. This is to include details of species where available to enable the Scientific Committee to annually estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries within the IOTC Area of Competence.

In the conduct of its fishing operations, the Vessel Captains ensures that the crew shall sink the hooks beyond the reach of seabirds as soon as possible after they are put in the water and utilize Tori lines. No changes to report last year. The Philippine does not operate longline vessels fishing south of 25°S .

- Resolution 10/10 *Concerning market related measures*

For CPCs that import tuna and tuna-like fish products, or in whose ports those products are landed or transhipped, should report, a range of information (e.g. information on vessels / owners, product data (species, weight), point of export) annually.

Not applicable as the Philippines does not import tuna and tuna-like fish products, from the IOTC area of competence, nor are these products landed or transhipped in any of its designated fishports.

- Resolution 11/04 *On a Regional observer scheme*

CPCs shall provide to the Executive Secretary and the Scientific Committee annually a report of the number of vessels monitored and the coverage achieved by gear type in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution.



The Philippines is still developing its advisory on the hiring of private maritime security personnel which are to be engaged when operating in high risk area. This being the case, the BFAR did not provide observer coverage as the Indian Ocean is a high risk area.

Additional Report to Part C as required by Circular 2012-85.

Resolution 12/04 *On marine turtles*

CPCs shall report to the Commission, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, their progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution.

There has been no by-catch of marine turtles by Philippine flagged vessels. The captains of Philippine flagged vessels longline vessels carry line cutters and de-hookers so as to facilitate the prompt release of marine turtles caught or entangled in the longlines. They also utilize mostly whole fish as bait.

The above activities are merely an extension of the existing Pawikan Conservation Project, though this is mostly done within Philippine jurisdiction.

By virtue of Executive Order No. 542, signed on 26 June 1979, the Task Force Pawikan (Marine Turtle Task Force as Pawikan is a local term for sea turtles), now referred to as the Pawikan Conservation Project (PCP), became the Philippine government's urgent response to conserve and manage the dwindling marine turtle resources of the country. The PCP is responsible for the development and implementation of conservation and protection policies, management and propagation schemes, and public information and education programs to ensure the survival and growth of the country's remaining marine turtle populations. At present, the project is attached to the Wildlife Division of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The project has a nationwide scope with pilot sites in the Turtle Island Group in Tawi-Tawi and El Nido (Bacuit Bay in Northwestern Palawan). In order to achieve its objectives, the project has instituted three major programs:

- § Resource Management and Protection,
- § Research and Investigation, and
- § Information and Education.

Additional activities are need to be put in place in order to extend the Philippines activities on the protection of marine turtles in the Indian Ocean.

Resolution 12/12 *To Prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC Area*

CPCs shall include in their Annual Reports a summary of monitoring, control, and surveillance actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas in the IOTC area of competence. In this case, the Philippines has never been using large scale driftnets.

Resolution 12/13 *For the Conservation and Management of Tropical Tunas Stocks in the IOTC Area of Competence*

CPCs flag states shall monitor the compliance of their vessels with this Resolution through VMS, and will provide:

Please see attached a summary of VMS records related to their fleet operation in the previous year for the consideration of the Compliance Committee.

Resolution 12/07 *Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information*

For Government to Government access agreement in existence prior to the entry into force of this resolution, 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 CPC-to-CPC agreement, CPCs involved in the referred agreement:

- § Shall submit copy of the access agreement,
- § Shall submit information concerning these agreements (paragraphs a, b, c, d, e, f, g),

Not applicable to the Philippines