

Report of Implementation for the year 2012

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 7 MARCH 2013

Reporting CPC: I. R. IRAN

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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

Fisheries Management as an acceptable principle has been included in Iran Fisheries Regulations and all management approaches are based on these principles. However, in order to implement these approaches more carefully, we have prepared a National Code of Conduct for Tuna Fishing Management in 2012 which is based on this Resolution and been announced by Iran Fisheries Organization.

2. Resolution 12-02 Data Confidentiality Policy And Procedures

This resolution is very effective for increasing the level of responsibility between both sides and will result in organizing the access and information dissemination among member countries and will result in more clarification on information.

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

According Information and data collection system of Iran Fisheries Organization, all Tuna Fishing Vessels are covered in the system like any other fishing vessel and their data is recorded by this system. This system has been previously introduced to IOTC Secretariat and during the mission of Statistics managers been reviewed. They have reported the progress of it and admired this system of Data Collection as an effective and efficient plan of Iran Fisheries Organization.

The Manual for implementation of 1-6 Annexes of this Resolution have been processed and implemented for Purse Seine Vessels and for Gill Net Vessels, necessary steps for designing, publication of Manual for Daily Data Collection with coordination of Statistics Manager of IOTC (Mr. Herrera) been underway. Afterwards, we planned for extension and training courses for fishing community at national level. The experimental and final implementation of this procedure been carried out and now over 200 gillnetters are covered by this system. Also, a development plan for expansion of this system after solving its possible problems is in the program. Final report in this regard, based on this resolution will be sent to IOTC Secretariat until June 30, 2013.

As mentioned in Article 10 of the Resolution, exclusive plans of the Commission to implement this resolution are very essential and it is expected that in order to implement it more effectively and expansion of covered fishing vessels, necessary support and coordination for supplying training, software support be considered by IOTC.

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)

In order to implementation of resolution 12/04, Iran Fishery Organization trained some observers and we put especial column through the logbooks and observer programs to collect marine turtles

through them, but we have not received any report up to now. In order to reducing accidental catches of marine turtles I.R.Iran prepared a colorful guide line as a catalog and distributed them between gillnet fishermen cooperatives. Also related guidelines which printed by FAO and the printed bycatch identification cards by IOTC are under translation and IFO expect some money to publish and distribute them between Tuna fishermen. On this way some training courses were developed and implemented to train fishermen how they released alive the entangled turtles.

As we discussed during Ecosystem and bycatch meeting in South Africa I.R.Iran offer his request to capacity building and by receiving technical and financial support to develop some project in Iran. On this way holding training courses by hand of IOTC will be useful. In National Tuna Fishing Management Regulation, all fishing vessels are obliged to immediately release accidental catch of Turtles to the sea. Also, in their logbook, according to the format, recording the accidental catch is mandatory. Some samples of Identification Cards have been circulated among port authorities and vessels' crew. Also, there has been some negotiations among Iran Fisheries Organization, IOTC Secretariat and WWF to publish Persian Language Identification Catalogues for this purpose.

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

Basically, there is no transshipment among Iran Fishing Vessels at sea. However, Iran has no long line vessels at all.

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

Iran Fisheries Organization has not been requested to issue any license for foreign vessels inside Iran EEZ or IOTC competent area and no license been issued.

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

Noting that according this resolution, countries must send their managerial plan on how to use FADs by Purse Seine Vessels, we will send the requested information to IOTC Secretariat before the end of 2013.

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

Importance of Shark fishes on Tuna Fishing has always been considered by Iran Fisheries Organization and banning of fishing this kind of fish has been mentioned in National Tuna Fishing by Iran. Also, in fishing license of for Tuna Fishing Vessels we have mentioned the necessity of releasing shark after accidental by-catch to the sea. Landing and Trade of Shark is banned and in order to facilitate this we have implemented required training on how to release longtail shark after accidental catch for Fishing Crew. Also, captain of these vessels is obliged to record this kind of catch and release in their ordinary logbook. These issues are emphasized in Article nos. 3-4, 3-6, 5-3 and 5-4.

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

Based on Resolution 12/10 the Commission shall establish a special fund for capacity building in order to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by IOTC. On this way Iran Fisheries Organization offer its request as a below:

-Identification Tuna and tuna like species and bycatch (Workshop)

- Implementation of observer scheme(Workshop)
 - Capacity building for cooperation of fishermen in implementation IOTC Resolutions(Workshop)
 - Extention of Lonline Fisheries(Workshop)
 - Traing of fisherment how they deal with accidental catch in gill net and pure seine fishery
 - Use of FADs in Pure seine fisheries(Workshop).
11. Resolution 12-11 On The Implementation Of A Limitation Of Fishing Capacity Of Contracting Parties And Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties
- The required data and information of each vessel are sent to Secretariat in due time. Also, development plan by year is sent too.*
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)
- Using long Gillnets are banned according to Article 3-3 National Tuna Fishing Regulation in 2010and it has been circulated through official network of Iran Fisheries Organization.*
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)
- Based on Resolutions regarding geographical and time closure for purse-seine and longline vessels has been introduced by Iran Fisheries Organization and been announced to Fisheries Authorities and purse seine vessles, and no liscence been issued for such areas. This issue has been informed by letter no. 4408 dated March 2, 2013 to IOTC Secretariat. Regarding longline vessels, Iran has no active longliner in 2013.*
- Regarding pilot plan of data collection system for fishing ports we obtained the information for a 12-month time period. Also, these data is compiled with the help of selected experts who have benefited training courses for capacity building. In this regard, receiving traing courses from IOTC Secretariat would be a useful and good help for capacity building.*
- Regarding Article nos. 11 to 13 of this resolution, Iran Fisheries Organization has been actively participating in Allocation Criteria and offered proposals to Specialized Workgroup.*
14. Recommendation 12/15 On The Best Available Science
- In recent years, there has been an increase in information exchange among CPCs and with the help of internet and email, focal points have better information dissemination activities. Iran Fisheries Organization, on its turn is using its potentials trying to build more scientific capacities and better relation with other member states. Also, at national level, by holding joint meetings between policy makers, stakeholders and scientific branches has helped better dialogue to solve facing problems. National Iranian IOTC body with members and specialized groups, been facilitating the flow of information inside and outside the industry.*

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.*

Iran Fisheries Organization has been actively implementing "Guide on data and information reporting" and sent related reports in due time to IOTC Secretariat, including:

- National Regulation for Tuna Fishing Management of Gillnet Vessels with one introduction, 6 Article and 30 items which is based on IOTC regulations. In this regulation, IOTC regulations was followed in article 1-3, the logbook issues in articles 2-4, 4-2, 5-2 and 5-3, ban on using longer than 2.5 Km long gill nets in article 3-3, ban on Dolphine, longtail shark and turtle in article 4-1 and necessity of benefiting VMS and tracking system in article 3-5 and the Monitoring System and Law Enforcement in article 5-4 were notified.

Also, in our National regulation of Tuna Fishing with Purse Seine is mentioned in articles 3-2, 2-2, 3-10, 4-1 and ban on place and time of purse seining was included by 6 articles, 28 sections. This regulation is annually updated and reviewed according IOTC resolutions and Managerial-National Criteria by Iran Fisheries Organization and other stakeholders in Iran.

Noting that National Tuna Commission (which is an IOTC miniature at national level) is participated by all stakeholders at national level. It has the authority to survey IOT resolutions and decide on methods to implement them at national level. This high commission has the authority of policy making on how to exploit marine resources by defining regulations and codes of conduct to save and protect these resources by species and area.

- This National Commission has the authority to review related IUU acts in the framework of its regulations and issue verdicts for penalty and ban of fishing for certain vessels or people.

The following steps have been taken by this commission:

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1- As we mentioned, Iran VMS system is under developing and more than 400 vessels equipped before but we have not summarized the information and we did not send related report. We hope I. R. Iran will sent VMS report on the distinguished time in 2013.

2 - Because of some problems through the received observer reports such as, Identification different species, none completed report, number of received reports and etc; they do not have enough quality and quantity to cover 5% of Iranian vessels. For this in 2012 I. R. Iran has not send observer reports and we will sent the report on the distinguished time in 2013.

3 - Statistical data of catch and effort by Degree (Grade)

4 - Logbook data of gillnet vessels

5 - Statistical data of by-catch and discard of Tuna Fishing Gilnetters and Purse Seiners in IOTC competent area.



Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien



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.

According this resolution, regarding import and export of Big eye Tuna no shipment has been recorded in our custom offices.

- 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”.

Iran Fisheries Organization carries out all activities regarding recording data of each fishing vessel at entrance and exit, controlling the logbook, reviewing offline data on their VMS, controlling all equipment and crew engaged in fishing activities.

Deployment of observers and inspectors on vessels, especially farseas vessels to monitor fishing standards, time and location of catch/release activities and reporting the data of endangered species.

- 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.

Not applicable for Iran ,because none of our long liner vessels are active in IOTC competence area

- 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.

Regarding this resolution, tuna import to Iran is carried out by non-fishing vessels (Container and refer vessels) and during 2012 no foreign fishing vessel has delivered catch directly in our ports

- 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.

I.R.Iran started his regional observer schem from 2012. On this way I.R.Iran developed and implemented some training cources for on board observers. As you know Iran has got a big fleet and we tried to cover 5% observer coverage . we traird around 70 observers but unfurtunately there are some problems that impact negativly the results of receiving reports. The main problem is about Identification of species by observers which it is the main problem of observers. For this the received reports did not fully complet. We also have tried to recheck and compare the results of observer reports with completed logbook forms. In fact I.R.Iran seriously is keen to implement regional observer schem on its vessels. We believe after solving current problems we will receive valuable information by our observer in 2013.