

<p><b>RFMO Structure</b></p>	<p><b>IOTC</b></p> <p><b>Indian Ocean Tuna Commission</b></p> <p><b>Headquarters:</b> Victoria, Seychelles.</p> <p><b>Convention:</b> Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC Convention). (FAO Article XIV body).</p> <p><b>Signed:</b> November 25, 1993 Rome, Italy.</p> <p><b>In force:</b> March 27, 1996.</p>	<p><b>Area of Competence</b></p> <p>The Indian Ocean. Defined for the purpose of the Agreement as being FAO areas 51 and 57, and adjacent seas, north of the Antarctic Convergence. There is an overlap on the western boundary with WCPFC. In 1999, it was agreed that area of competence be extended to 20° E.</p>	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>To promote cooperation among Members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by the Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks. IOTC has competency for SBT but, by agreement CCSBT manages SBT in IOTC Convention Area.</p>	<p><b>Organizational Structure</b></p> <p>Commission, Scientific Committee (SC), Compliance Committee, Standing Committee on Administration and Finance, Sub-Commissions (stock-specific, to be convened only if necessary), Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT), Working Party on Tagging (WPT), Working Party on Billfish, Working Party on Temperate Tunas, Working Party on Neritic Tunas (to meet in 2005), Working Party on Bycatch (working by correspondence), Working Party on Methods, Secretariat (Executive Secretary).</p>	<p><b>Scientific Regime</b></p> <p>SC is comprised of representatives of CPs and reviews work of WPs and advises Commission (and sub-Commissions, if established) on research, data collection, stock status and management issues. Scientific Committee meetings have been held conjointly with Commission meetings. Sub-Commissions will examine management options and recommend to Commission appropriate management measures for particular stocks, WPs are meetings of scientists (in their individual capacity) who conduct stock assessment and proposes management recommendations. EC is funding Indian Ocean Tuna Tagging Program (IOTTP).</p>
<p><b>The Fishery EA and PA</b></p>	<p><b>Key Species and Gear</b></p> <p><b>Highly Migratory Species:</b> Yellowfin tuna, skipjack, bigeye tuna, albacore tuna, longtail tuna, kawakawa, frigate tuna, bullet tuna, narrow barred Spanish mackerel, Indo-Pacific king mackerel, Indo-Pacific blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, Indo-Pacific sailfish, swordfish (also southern bluefin tuna but CCSBT has primary responsibility).</p>	<p><b>Stock Status</b></p> <p><b>Above MSY:</b> Yellowfin (further increase in effort and catch above 2000 levels should be avoided); Bigeye (possible overfishing occurring)</p> <p><b>Stable:</b> Skipjack; Swordfish (current catch level unsustainable) possible overfishing in SW Indian Ocean).</p> <p><b>Uncertain:</b> Albacore (no reliable assessment, catch increases to consider PA if adopted).</p> <p>Assessments not available for other target species.</p>	<p><b>Bycatch</b></p> <p>Turtles, sharks, seabird and juveniles of target species, particularly swordfish. Sampling requirements for bycatch have not yet been established and the Bycatch Working Group established in 2002 has not yet met. In 2002, IOTC resolved to implement regional IPOA- Sharks but no timeframe established yet.</p>	<p><b>Ecosystem Approach (EA)</b></p> <p>EA is pursued through requesting data on non-target, associated and dependent species (NTADs) (Data is often not available).</p>	<p><b>Precautionary Approach (PA)</b></p> <p>IOTC has adopted PA through the principle of incorporating uncertainty in stock assessments. In 1999, SC invoked PA in its recommendation to reduce catches of bigeye tuna.</p>
<p><b>Participation</b></p>	<p><b>Members / Contracting Parties</b></p> <p><b>Australia</b>, China, Comoros, <b>EC</b>, Eritrea, <b>France</b>, <b>Guinea</b>, <b>India</b>, <b>Iran</b>, <b>Japan</b>, <b>Kenya</b>, <i>Republic of Korea</i>, <i>Madagascar</i>, Malaysia, <b>Mauritius</b>, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, <b>Seychelles</b>, <b>Sri Lanka</b>, Sudan, Thailand, Vanuatu and <b>UK</b>. France and UK are CPs on behalf of their Indian Ocean territories.</p>	<p><b>Cooperating Non-Members</b></p> <p>Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (NCPs): Indonesia and <b>South Africa</b>, who are applying for renewal in 2005. Belize is applying for the first time in 2005.</p>	<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>Membership is open to Indian Ocean Coastal States and REIOs who are UN members or one of its specialized agencies and are fishing for tunas in Area. To accommodate new entrants, IOTC encourages participation as Cooperating NCPs for States with financial constraints.</p>	<p><b>Participation Criteria</b></p> <p>CPs have can vote and must contribute to budget. Sub-Commissions will be open to those CP coastal States lying on migratory path of stocks concerned in sub-Commission or are States whose vessels participate in fisheries of these stocks.</p> <p>To date, no sub-commissions have been constituted, but possible management actions have been discussed in the context of the full Commission.</p>	<p><b>Transparency</b></p> <p>Publicly accessible website. Meeting minutes are published online. NCPs may attend meetings. IGOs and NGOs, upon request, may be invited to participate as observers. A list of observers must be submitted 30 days prior to meeting.</p>
<p><b>Monitoring, Control and Surveillance</b></p>	<p><b>Data Collecting and Reporting</b></p> <p>CPs are subject to mandatory statistical reporting and confidentiality procedures. Stock assessment is peer reviewed through species working parties. The Secretariat maintains a capability in stock assessment in order to ensure that parties without scientific capabilities have access to relevant information.</p> <p>As the Fishing Entity of Taiwan is not a FAO member, information from fishing vessels from Taiwan is supplied through the Japanese Organization for Promotion of Responsible Fisheries to China and then to the Commission.</p>	<p><b>Observer Program</b></p> <p>National Observer Programs have been proposed on ~10% of vessels.</p>	<p><b>Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)</b></p> <p>In 2002, passed non-binding Resolution to establish pilot program to implement VMS on 10% CP and NCP vessels &gt; 24 m. Information is to be sent to land based FMCs every 6 hours.</p>	<p><b>Enforcement</b></p> <p>There are currently no provisions for at-sea boarding and inspection. In 2002, established “positive” list of vessels &gt; 24 m authorized to operate in Regulatory Area. Unlisted vessels cannot fish for, retain or transship tuna or tuna like-species. Also in 2002, established Record of known IUU vessels and adopted Recommendation to prevent transshipment of IUU fish. 2002 Port Inspection Scheme is binding on CPs. In 2001, established Scheme of Control and Inspection currently being implemented in phases and developed NCP Scheme which includes elements of port State control. CPs and NCPs must have prior authorization for at-sea or in-port transshipment.</p> <p>Transshipments must be consistent with reported catch when validating Statistical Documents. In 1998, adopted vessel registration and exchange of information on non-compliance vessels fishing in Regulatory Area.</p>	<p><b>Catch and Trade Documentation</b></p> <p>In 2001, implemented Bigeye Tuna Statistical Documentation Scheme (applies only to frozen bigeye tuna). Statistical Documents and prior authorization are needed for at-sea or in-port transshipment by CPs and NCPs.</p>
<p><b>Other Governance Efforts and Challenges</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Making</b></p> <p>Decisions are generally reached through consensus. Each CP has one vote. Commission can adopt binding measures by 2/3 majority. CPs may object in which case the decision is not binding on them. Non-binding recommendations can be adopted by majority.</p>	<p><b>Dispute Settlement Mechanism</b></p> <p>Disputes, if not settled by Commission, will be referred for settlement to a conciliation procedure. If the dispute is not settled, it may be referred to the ICJ unless parties to the dispute agree to another method of settlement.</p>	<p><b>Cooperative Efforts</b></p> <p>Cooperates with CCSBT in SBT management and monitoring of Indonesian catches. In 2001, established 5-year project with Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation of Japan to improve data collection in Regulatory Area. Cooperates with various countries in regions in small-scale tuna tagging program funded by EC, Japan and the People’s Republic of China. Has MOU with Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) to conduct large-scale tropical tuna tagging program with EC funding. In 2004, joined FIRMS to report and share information on status and trends of fishery resources.</p>	<p><b>Efforts to Strengthen RFMO</b></p> <p>Establishment as an Article XIV FAO body. Improved enforcement through establishment of Compliance Committee that reviews annual report of compliance by CPs and NCPs. Establishment of “positive” vessel lists and IUU vessel Record.</p>	<p><b>Challenges</b></p> <p>Establishing an effective mechanism for equitable participation of all major stakeholders, including Fishing Entities. Ensuring timely and accurate collection of scientific data from CPs (IOTC 2004 SC Report). Implementing at-sea and effective port inspection scheme especially for NCPs. Adopting and implementing bycatch mitigation measures. Further developing and implementation of PA and EA measures. Increasing membership to include fishing nations in the Area and creating different mechanisms (e.g., creating extended commission) to include fishing entity. Further strengthening RFMO to undertake the functions envisaged under UNFA for management, conservation and control. Strengthening capacity of developing coastal States to fully participate in Commission.</p>