



Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative

A Fishery Improvement Project for the Indian Ocean Purse Seine Tuna Fishery

104 avenue du Président Kennedy, 75016 Paris, France

<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indian-ocean-tuna-purse-seine-sioti>

SIOTI Position Paper 01

Approaches for Increasing Compliance with Conservation and Management Measures of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

The Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative (SIOTI)¹ is a large-scale Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) comprising the major purse seine fishing fleets and tuna processors in the Indian Ocean (Annex 3) and is supported by Seychelles and the World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF). The SIOTI Action Plan, adopted in May 2017, identifies the need for improved compliance with Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Specifically, an Improved Performance Goal (IPG) of SIOTI is to support the strengthening of monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms to ensure that CMMs are enforced and complied with.

In early 2018, SIOTI commissioned an independent study to advise SIOTI and its partners on compliance issues in IOTC. The resulting Discussion Paper² submitted to SIOTI reviewed the IOTC compliance framework (and related recommendations of the recent performance review), compliance regimes in other tuna RFMOs and options for IOTC sanctioning regimes. Trends and barriers to compliance in IOTC were examined, and SIOTI IPGs and planned actions dependent on improved compliance were identified. The Discussion Paper concluded with recommended actions for strengthening IOTC compliance and the data reporting framework.

On the basis of actions recommended in the Discussion Paper, SIOTI has adopted the following position for strengthening compliance within IOTC (see Annex 2 for further details on these statements):

- SIOTI supports the **increased use of unique e-Monitoring and direct e-Reporting to the Commission** in order to harmonise data collection and reporting, to ensure timely reporting and data availability and to improve transparency.
- SIOTI supports a consistent approach to achieving a **fully operational Regional Observer Scheme (ROS)** to address key data gaps and improve data for the scientific process, especially in relation to bycatch and biological data.
- SIOTI supports the **strengthening and application of trade restrictive measures** in order to achieve compliance improvements.
- SIOTI recognises the **potential of Catch Documentation Schemes** for eliminating non-reported and IUU catch from trade.
- SIOTI supports further **strengthening of targeted and results-orientated capacity building** to ensure that limited resources for compliance support missions more effectively contribute to CPC compliance improvements.

¹ SIOTI is an association registered in Paris, France.

² Gilles Hosch. *Increasing Compliance with Conservation and Management Measures of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission*. SIOTI Discussion Paper 01, May 2018. Available on request from janrobinson71@gmail.com



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Annex 1: Further Details on SIOTI Position Statements

<p>e-Monitoring and direct reporting to the Commission</p>	<p>SIOTI supports the increased use of unique e-Monitoring and direct e-Reporting to the Commission to harmonise data collection and reporting, to ensure timely reporting and data availability and to improve transparency.</p> <p>Minimum requirements include the establishment of a regional VMS with direct reporting to the Secretariat (or via an independent service provider) and e-Reporting by the Regional Observer Program (ROS).</p> <p>Further studies on the feasibility and potential for direct reporting to the Commission of VMS, ROS and other operational data are supported given the implications for Secretariat human and budgetary resources.</p> <p>Direct reporting will have to observe the relevant confidentiality protocols, policies and procedures, such as those set by Resolution 12/02.</p>
<p>Regional Observer Scheme (ROS)</p>	<p>To address key data gaps and improve data for the scientific process, especially in relation to bycatch and biological data, SIOTI supports a consistent approach to achieving a fully operational Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) with phased implementation to 100% human or Remote Electronic Monitoring observer coverage (minimum 10% human observers) of purse-seine and other industrial vessels by end 2022.</p> <p>SIOTI supports near-real time e-Reporting by purse seine fishery observers to the Secretariat, either through more timely transmission of reports via CPC administrations or via direct reports to the Secretariat should further studies (as described above) indicate that it is feasibility for the Secretariat to absorb this function.</p> <p>In addition to the ROS, observer coverage to be maintained for all cargo freezers the IOTC Transshipment Programme, with observer coverage for longliners participating in the Programme to attain 100% by end of 2019.</p>
<p>Trade Restrictive Measures (TREMS)</p>	<p>SIOTI supports the application of trade restrictive measures in order to achieve compliance improvements.</p> <p>IOTC should consider amending and strengthening Resolution 10/10 by defining the nature and scope of “<i>market-related measures</i>” that may flow from confirmed identification, and the types of infringements to which they may apply. Trade Restrictive Measures may be applied incrementally if non-trade related penalties fail to achieve the desired outcome.</p> <p>Resolution 16/06, which contradicts and weakens the provisions of Resolution 10/10, should be considered for revocation. Resolution 99/02, which concerns trade restrictive measures for large scale longliners, should also be revoked since it is discriminatory and incompatible with WTO norms.</p> <p>SIOTI recommends that the Compliance Committee (CoC) forms a Working Group on TREMS to develop a structured approach, detailing the types and levels of non-</p>



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	<p>compliance and failure to adopt rectification measures, to identification of CPCs/NCPs under Resolution 10/10.</p> <p>SIOTI recommends that the CoC Working Group on TREMS develops a formal and exhaustive procedure detailing how a CPC/NCP may avoid trade restrictive measures being imposed, and the identification of non-compliant CPCs and NCPs should be on every agenda to apply the procedures detailed above.</p>
Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)	<p>SIOTI recognises the potential of Catch Documentation Schemes for eliminating non-reported and IUU catch from trade. SIOTI supports consultations with relevant tuna-RFMOs on a shared CDS platform and further studies on the feasibility of a shared CDS platform relative to a Port State Control Scheme.</p> <p>SIOTI supports the establishment of a joint tuna-RFMO working group to define the minimum standards, compatibility with existing CDS and other operational requirements of a shared CDS platform.</p>
Targeted and results-orientated capacity building	<p>SIOTI recognises the importance of compliance support missions undertaken by the Secretariat. SIOTI supports further strengthening of targeted and results-orientated capacity building to ensure that limited resources for these activities effectively contribute to CPC compliance improvements.</p> <p>The Compliance Committee (CoC) should formalise mechanisms to evaluate compliance and to develop dedicated action plans between the Secretariat and CPCs that explicitly link capacity building to expected and quantified CPC implementation and compliance improvements.</p> <p>IOTC capacity building efforts should be prioritised to contexts where transfer of knowledge and skills are most likely to improve CPC implementation and compliance, and progress should be formally monitored.</p>



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Annex 2: SIOTI Partners

ATUNSA	Beach Fishing LTD
CFTO	Hartswater LTD
Indian Ocean Ship Management Services (IOSMS)	Inpesca Fishing LTD
Interatun LTD	Industria Armatoriale Tonniera
Isabella Fishing LTD	OPAGAC
OPTUC (ANABAC)	ORTHONGEL
Princes LTD	Sapmer SA
Thai Union Europe	Pêche et Froid Océan Indien
Tuna Fishing Company	