



## SIOTI<sup>1</sup> Position Paper 02

### SIOTI Position on Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Rebuilding

Catches of yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean have increased since 2014 and did not reach resolution 16/01 objectives, due to monitoring and compliance issues leading to non-compliance by some countries subject to the resolution, and increase in catch for some CPC exempted by the resolution. SIOTI partners recognise that there are a number of problems with the current resolution 18/01:

- the measure does not apply to vessels less than 24 m within the EEZ of any CPC
- there is no provision to prevent those fleets exempt from the resolution from increasing their catches
- there are no penalties or sanctions for non-compliance to the resolution
- there are no incentives to reduce catches if decreases in catch by any sector of the fishery can be undermined by the activity of other sectors

Output controls in the form of quota allocations are common in most international fishery commissions and in many national jurisdictions. There are a wide range of options for managing catch to sustainable levels in fisheries. For any measures to be effective they need to be subject to accurate reporting and compliance monitoring and need to be economically sustainable for the sector.

**SIOTI members considered several options for rebuilding the yellowfin tuna stock. The majority of SIOTI members (75%) support output-based controls, while the other members expressed a preference for input-based controls.**

The following table presents a broad range of alternative ways for IOTC to improve the rebuilding of yellowfin tuna.

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<sup>1</sup> The Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative (SIOTI) is A Fishery Improvement Project for the Indian Ocean Purse Seine Tuna Fishery

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

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<b>Management option</b>	<b>Specification</b>	<b>Effectiveness</b>	<b>Control mechanisms</b>	<b>Other issues</b>
Output controls	Competitive catch limit on YFT for all fisheries	Easy to implement Effective in reducing total catches	IOTC Commission closes YFT fishery when catch limit is reached	Allowance required for unreported catches Economically inefficient Impact on SKJ purse seine fishery not addressed Almost certain disruption of processing plants, employment, markets Lack of equity (the burden should be more supported by fleets that have the greatest impact on the stock state)
	Catch limit on YFT for purse seine fishery alone	Easy to implement Not effective in controlling total catches	CPCs would be responsible for compliance/control	Interaction with purse seine SKJ fishery not addressed Potential change in selectivity, possible disruption of employment, markets Lack of equity (only one gear catching less than 50% is concerned)
	Catch limit on all 3 tropical tuna species combined	Easy to implement Considers SKJ fishery catch limits at the same time	CPCs would be responsible for compliance/control	TAC required for each CPC Allowance required for unreported catches Lack of experience since such a global catch limit was never applied
Input controls	Total effort in purse seine fishery restricted by either number of days, number of FADs, supply vessels, fishing capacity etc.	Could be complicate to implement depending on the type of restriction Not effective in controlling total catches Considers SKJ fishery catch limits at the same time	CPCs would be responsible for compliance/control	Estimation of likely catches for given effort required Annual updates of fishing capacity required Economically efficient matching capacity to yield
	Total effort in purse seine fishery restricted by closures of areas and/or months of year	Easy to monitor Not effective in controlling total catches	Reporting of vessel positions automatic	Economically unsustainable for most of the vessels and processing plants (possible disruption of employment and markets)