



Indian Ocean tuna and large pelagics - longline (Afrivet) FIP Position Statement Ahead of the IOTC Annual Meeting 2021

Drafted with agreement from all Indian Ocean tuna and large pelagics - longline (Afrivet) FIP Participants
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The submission of this position statement is on behalf of the [Indian Ocean tuna and large pelagics - longline \(Afrivet\) FIP](#). The fishery is comprised of longline vessels that target bigeye and yellowfin tuna, swordfish and mahi mahi in the Indian Ocean. The vessels are managed by Pescamoz, a longline fishing company based in the port of Beira (Mozambique), comprising a processing facility and self-owned fleet of Mozambique flagged longline vessels. Pescamoz is a subsidiary company of Afrivet Ventures Limited, founded in Mauritius.

This Fishery Improvement Project aims to meet the rising global demand for tuna and other large pelagics in a sustainable manner by assuring catches do not exceed sustainable levels, promoting the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and strengthening policy and governance systems in the region. The end goal is to achieve certification under the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) Fisheries Standard by the latest 2025.

As a FIP, we are concerned with the status of the tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean and their effective management. We operate in this region and the sustainability of these stocks is integral to not only our business, but also to the overall marine environment.

We recognise that the impacts of COVID-19 continue to present challenges to regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) like the IOTC. However, we do not believe these circumstances should prevent the IOTC from taking action in 2021 to adopt science-based management measures to ensure the sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview.

The Indian Ocean tuna and large pelagics - longline (Afrivet) FIP is disappointed that the IOTC failed to reach an agreement on a revised yellowfin rebuilding plan at its Special Meeting in March 2021. We therefore strongly urge that the IOTC acts in June 2021 at the virtual Meeting of the IOTC Commission to:

1. Adopt without delay an effective rebuilding plan for yellowfin tuna which, if implemented effectively, would imply a reduction to a total catch between 350,000 and 403,000 tons.
2. Address over-catches in contravention of Resolution 19/01.
3. Urgently monitor and manage catches of skipjack to ensure catches in 2021 do not exceed the limit set by the adopted Harvest Control Rule in Resolution 16/02.
4. Accelerate the develop Management Procedures and agree on permanent Limit and Target Reference Points for tropical and temperate tunas, particularly yellowfin, by 2022.
5. Request the Scientific Committee to provide science-based limits on FAD deployments and/or FAD sets; develop in 2021 and adopt, by 2022, FAD marking guidelines and FAD tracking and recovery policies; and require the use of biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs and establish a timeline for transitioning to 100% biodegradable.
6. Establish the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring (EM) and develop EM program minimum standards by 2022; and drastically improve observer coverage (human and/or electronic) in industrial tuna fisheries, including all those engaged in at sea transshipment, by 2024.



The FIP looks forward to the continued leadership of the IOTC in the Indian Ocean, a region rich in tuna resources that are in need of continued science-based conservation and management. Many thanks for taking time to read our position statement. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

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