

IOTC Agreement – Article X

Report of Implementation for the year 2015

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT 16 MARCH 2016

Reporting CPC: Australia

Date of submission: 16/03/2016

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 Nineteenth Session.*

- Resolution 15/11 On the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties.^a

This Resolution supersedes Resolution 12/11 and extends the provisions of Resolution 12/11 for an additional two year period. Australia's previous submissions in relation to Resolution 12/11 remain current.

- Resolution 15/10 On target and limit reference points and a decision framework.
This Resolution does not require implementation at a national level therefore reporting under this item is not applicable (see Australia's Report of Implementation for the year 2012, submitted on 7 March 2013).

- Resolution 15/09 On a fish aggregating devices (FADs) working group.

This Resolution does not require implementation at a national level therefore reporting under this item is not applicable.

- Resolution 15/08 Procedures on fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including a limitation on the number of FADs, more detailed specifications of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species.^a

This Resolution supersedes Resolution 13/08, which Australia has previously reported against (see Australia's Report of Implementation for the year 2013 submitted 28 March 2014).

Under Australia's Fish Aggregation Device Management Plan in Australia's Tropical Tuna Fisheries, Australian fishing concession holders wishing to utilise fish aggregating devices (FADs) must apply to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) in writing for permission to do so. In assessing applications, AFMA would ensure all IOTC requirements relating to FADs are met.

Noting that no FAD fishing is currently authorised in Australian fisheries relevant to the IOTC, there are no further area restrictions on FADs currently in place.

- Resolution 15/07 On the use of artificial lights to attract fish to drifting fish aggregating devices. Under Australia's Fish Aggregation Device Management Plan in Australia's Tropical Tuna Fisheries, Australian fishing concession holders wishing to utilise FADs must apply to AFMA in writing for permission to do so. In assessing applications, AFMA would ensure all IOTC requirements relating to FADs are met.

- Resolution 15/06 On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, and a recommendation for non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC area of competence.

This Resolution supersedes Resolution 13/11, which Australia has previously reported against (see Australia's Report of Implementation for the year 2013 submitted 28 March 2014).

There are currently no active purse seine vessels operating in Australian fisheries relevant to the IOTC, except for the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery. All fish caught in the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery must be retained unless they can be released alive and vigorous. The details of all released fish must be recorded in logbooks. All data pertaining to the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery is reported to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

- Resolution 15/05 On conservation measures for striped marlin, black marlin and blue marlin.

Within the IOTC Area of Competence, Australia sets total allowable catch limits and allocates quota for striped marlin annually, taking into account a number of criteria, including advice from the IOTC Scientific Committee.

In accordance with Australian Government legislation, Fisheries Management Act 1991, the retention of blue marlin and black marlin in Commonwealth fisheries is prohibited.

- Resolution 15/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence.^a

This Resolution supersedes Resolution 14/04, which Australia has previously reported against. Australia's previous submissions remain current.

Australia continues to maintain an up-to-date register of all Australian flagged vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence, including auxiliary, supply and support vessels. Australia has submitted a list of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence and will continue to submit updates to the list as required under paragraphs 2 and 5.

Pursuant to Paragraph 3, Australia has provided samples of the official authorisations that are carried on board Australian flagged fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence, and associated information to the Executive Secretary (submitted on 12 February 2014). There have been no changes to this information in the intervening period.

Australia has also implemented a multi-faceted strategy to deter IUU fishing by foreign vessels in its jurisdiction, which includes on-the-water surveillance and enforcement, cooperation with regional neighbours, diplomatic representations, in-country education and capacity building, and international cooperation through RFMOs and other international agreements and arrangements.

Reporting on IMO number:

To allow the necessary time for CPCs to obtain an IMO number for eligible vessels that do not already have one, paragraph 2.b on IMO number is effective as of 1 January 2016. As of this date, CPCs shall ensure that all their fishing vessels that are registered on the IOTC Record of fishing vessels have IMO numbers issued to them. Paragraph 2.b on IMO number does not apply to vessels which are not eligible to receive IMO numbers.

In assessing compliance with the paragraph above, the Commission shall take into account exceptional circumstances in which a vessel owner is not able to obtain an IMO number despite following the appropriate procedures. **Flag CPCs shall report any such exceptional situations** to the IOTC Secretariat.

The report on exceptional situations has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes **Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):** [Click here to enter text](#)

No ; **if no report exceptional situations below:**

All Australian vessels on the IOTC Register that are eligible to receive IMO numbers have obtained IMO numbers. As such, there are no exceptional situations to be reported.

- Resolution 15/03 On the vessel monitoring system (VMS) Programme. ^a

This Resolution supersedes Resolution 06/03. Pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 12, since 1 July 2007, all vessels operating in Australia's Commonwealth fisheries must be fitted with an operational VMS. This includes all vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence. These VMS arrangements comply with the requirements of Resolution 15/03 - Attachment A refers. With regards to Question 11 of Attachment A, this should read as 'every 1-4 hours', however the formatting of the document would not allow this input.

- Resolution 15/02 On mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs).

This Resolution supersedes Resolution 10/02. Australia has complied with IOTC requirements for data provision, through submission of final scientific data to the IOTC for all fleets by 30 June 2015.

In addition, Australia provided the required National Report to the IOTC Scientific Committee in 2015 by the required deadline and in the correct format.

- Resolution 15/01 On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence.

This Resolution supersedes Resolution 13/03, which Australia has previously reported against (Australia's Report of Implementation for the year 2013 submitted 28 March 2014).

As outlined in the Australian National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission for 2015, it is a condition of fishing concessions that all Australian flagged fishing vessels authorised to fish for IOTC managed species use and submit logbooks.

An aggregated data set based on the logbook data requirements detailed in Resolution 15/01 is submitted to the IOTC Executive Secretary annually. All relevant scientific data was provided to the IOTC Executive Secretary by 30 June 2015.

Australia requires operators to provide accurate and timely catch and effort information on a shot-by-shot basis from purse seine and longline tuna fisheries. Australian flagged fishing vessels fishing for IOTC managed species do not generally use handline, trolling, gillnets or pole and line fishing methods. Logbooks record information on fishing operations such as location, time, method of fishing, gear and vessel details and the catch and bycatch for each fishing operation. Operators are required to provide information on any changes to vessel details and gear configuration. The logbook program is managed by AFMA, with all data maintained in a central database. Electronic submission of logbooks is available in some Commonwealth fisheries. Pursuant to paragraph 4, samples of the relevant logbooks were provided to IOTC Executive Secretary on 31 January 2014. There have been no changes to logbooks in the intervening period.

Note: ^a indicate that a template report exists for some of the requirements and can be downloaded at <http://www.iotc.org/compliance/reporting-templates>

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.*

Several Australian fisheries targeting IOTC species fall within the IOTC Area of Competence. In general, these fisheries are managed in accordance with regulations, including statutory management plans, which are developed under Australia's overarching fisheries management legislation. Australia takes actions under this legislation to implement IOTC Resolutions by updating fishing concession conditions that apply to concessions issued to Australian fishing vessels and by updating the regulations that set out the obligations applicable to fishing within the IOTC Area of Competence. Australia sets catch limits and allocates quota for target species, taking into account a number of criteria, including advice from the IOTC Scientific Committee.

Australia has provided detailed information about the implementation of IOTC Resolutions through the reports required under IOTC Resolutions and within this report.

Fisheries that fall within the IOTC Area of Competence and which target IOTC species include:

- the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery, where target species include swordfish, striped marlin, bigeye and yellowfin and the main gear type is pelagic longline
- the Skipjack Tuna Fishery, in which there has been no fishing effort since the 2008-09 fishing season. Management arrangements are designed to activate control rules if effort increases.
- the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery, which is managed in accordance with the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna. All data is reported to Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.
- the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, which is managed in accordance with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. All data is reported to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. No vessels in this fishery fished in the IOTC Area of Competence in 2014.

Part C. Data and information reporting requirements for CPCs to be included in this report (please refer to the section “Implementation Report due by 16 March 2016” of the *Guide on data and information reporting requirements for Members and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties*, available for download at <http://www.iotc.org/compliance/reporting-templates>).

- 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 [A template report exists].

Nil report, specify the reason: No large scale longline vessels on the IOTC RAV
 Do not export frozen big eye tuna

The report has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY): 12/02/2016
 No

The report is attached to the implementation report:

Yes No

Additional information:

Australia has previously reported on Resolution 01/06, concerning the IOTC bigeye tuna statistical document programme. The Australian Government has implemented a Statistical Document Programme to meet statistical document requirements adopted by the IOTC under Resolution 03/03 as well as by other RFMOs and import markets.

- 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”.

a. Management in the fishing grounds (of flag vessels).

	<i>Scientific Observer boarding</i>	<i>Satellite-based vessel monitoring system</i>	<i>Daily or required periodic catch report</i>	<i>Entry/Exit report</i>
Yes, No?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Note	% Refer to report on Resolution 11/04	% or number of vessels 100% – additional information below refers	Method Daily catch and effort reporting through logbooks – additional information below refers	Method Report required prior to entering the high seas. VMS is also used to monitor entry into and exit from

				the high seas
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b. Management of transshipment (from the fishing grounds to the landing ports; of flag vessels)

	<i>Transshipment report</i>	<i>Port inspection</i>	<i>Statistical document program</i>
Yes, No?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Note	Method Not applicable, Australia does not permit transshipment at-sea – additional information below refers	Method Risk assessment process to identify priority areas that require targeted compliance and enforcement action. Inspections conducted in accordance with IOTC Resolutions	Report on Resolution 01/06 above refers

c. Management at landing ports (of flag vessels).

	<i>Landing inspection</i>	<i>Landing reporting</i>	<i>Cooperation with other Parties</i>
Yes, No?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Note	Method Risk assessment process to identify priority areas that require targeted compliance and enforcement action. Inspections conducted in accordance with IOTC Resolutions	Method Catch Disposal Records - additional information below refers	Australia has ratified the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, and cooperates with relevant CPCs on an as needs basis

Additional information:

An operational VMS is mandatory for all Australian flagged fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence. AFMA monitors VMS data to ensure vessel compliance with relevant obligations. Vessels must also complete a daily report of all catches in an AFMA Logbook. Australian vessels maintain a level of observer coverage in order to meet the IOTC minimum target of five per cent scientific observer coverage.

Australia also undertakes in-port and at-sea inspections of its fishing vessels to monitor fishing activity.

Australian flagged fishing vessels fishing for tuna and tuna like species are not permitted to tranship at-sea within the IOTC Area of Competence.

All catch data is required to be verified by a licensed fish receiver by completing an AFMA Catch Disposal Record at the time of landing. Paper based audits may be used to verify compliance with requirements.

- 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. *[A template report exists].*

Nil report, specify the reason(s): **No landing from foreign vessels in national ports**
 No transhipment by foreign vessels in national ports
 Do not import tuna and tuna-like fish products

The report on import, landing or transhipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2015 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes **Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):** 12/02/2016
No

The report on import, landing or transhipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products landed or transhipped in port in 2015 is attached to the implementation report:

Yes No

Additional information:

Australia has previously reported on Resolution 10/10 concerning market related measures. Landings of fisheries products into Australia by foreign flagged vessels are prohibited, except where ministerial approval has been granted. No such approvals were granted in 2015. There were no transhipments by Australian flagged fishing vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence in 2015.

Australia has reported its tuna imports to the IOTC Executive Secretary. Australia's fresh tuna import is relatively small with only 86 tonnes imported in 2015, brought into Australia using container ships and chilled air freight. As required under paragraph 1 of Resolution 10/10, Australia currently provides available information on the imported products and associated vessels.

- Resolution 11/02 Prohibition of fishing on data buoys

CPCs are to notify the IOTC Secretariat of all reports of observations of damaged data buoys.

Nil Report

The report has already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes **Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):** [Click here to enter text.](#)
No

The report is attached to the implementation report:

Yes No

Additional information:

In 2011, Australia implemented a condition on fishing concessions in relevant fisheries to prohibit the intentional fishing within 1 nautical mile of a data buoy or intentional interaction with a data buoy. Interacting with a data buoy includes, but is not limited to: encircling the buoy with fishing gear; tying up to or attracting the boat or any fishing gear, part or portion of the boat to a data buoy or its moorings; or cutting a data buoy anchor line. Operators must also report any data buoys observed to be damaged to AFMA.

- 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.

Type of gear	No of vessels monitored in 2014	Coverage in 2014 (%)
Purse seine	N/A	N/A
Longline	41 066 hooks	9.1%
Gillnet	N/A	N/A
Bait Boat	N/A	N/A
Hand line	N/A	N/A
Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Insert other gear type Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

Additional information:

Australia has previously reported on Resolution 11/04, including in the Australian National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission for 2015, concerning a regional observer scheme. Australia has placed observers on Australian flagged vessels operating in the IOTC Area of Competence since 2003 and Australian vessels maintain a level of observer coverage in order to achieve the five per cent target for observer coverage each year, based on the number of hook sets. Australia provides information on observer coverage achieved, including the coverage rates by gear type.

In 2014, observer coverage of Australian flagged longline vessels in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery was 9.1 per cent of the 41 066 hooks set.

In 2014, observer coverage of Australian flagged longline vessels in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery was 9.1 per cent of the 41 066 hooks set.

There are currently no active purse seine vessels operating in Australian fisheries relevant to the IOTC, except in the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery. Observer coverage for the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery is reported to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna. The ongoing target observer coverage for the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna purse seine fleet is ten per cent of the total catch and effort for the fishery.

In 2015, electronic monitoring became compulsory in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery. Electronic monitoring is now the primary method of data collection and monitoring in these fisheries. Electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) is a system of sensors and video cameras capable of monitoring and recording fishing activities which can be reviewed later to independently verify logbook data.

- Resolution 12/04 On marine turtles

CPCs shall report to the Commission, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, their progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines and this Resolution.

Australia has previously reported on the implementation of Resolution 12/04 (see Australia's Report of Implementation for the year 2014 submitted 26 February 2015).

Australia's current turtle bycatch management and mitigation measures fulfil Australia's obligations under the FAO Sea Turtles Guidelines. All marine turtles found in Australian waters are protected under the Australian Government legislation and a recovery plan was implemented in 2003.

AFMA requires the operators of longline vessels to carry at least one line cutter and one de-hooker on board at all times to facilitate the handling and prompt release of turtles caught or entangled, consistent with paragraph 8 of Resolution 12/04. Further, a number of materials, including a video, have been produced to educate the Australian longline fishing industry on methods to minimise fishing impacts on turtle populations. Consistent with the IOTC Marine Turtle Identification Cards, these show how to safely bring turtles aboard and handle them on the deck of a fishing vessel, how to use de-hooking devices on turtles in the water and on deck, how to help comatose turtles recover and how to release them back into the water.

- Resolution 12 /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.

Australia has previously reported on the implementation of Resolution 12/06, including in the Australian National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission for 2015. Australia will continue to report on its implementation of, and information relating to seabird

interactions in accordance with Resolution 12/06, including through the annual Australian National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Australia has implemented fishing concession conditions aimed at reducing seabird mortality, consistent with and exceeding the minimum requirements detailed in Resolution 12/06. These include mandatory use of tori lines, best practice line weighting regimes and night setting.

- Resolution 12/12 To Prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC Area

CPCs shall include in their Annual Report a summary of monitoring, control, and surveillance actions related to large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas in the IOTC area of competence.

Australia has previously reported on the implementation of Resolution 12/12, most recently Australia's Report of Implementation for the year 2014 submitted 26 February 2015. Australia's previous submissions remain current. Australian legislation prohibits the use of large-scale driftnets within Australia's exclusive economic zone and on the high seas by Australian nationals.

- Resolution 13/04 On the conservation of cetaceans

CPCs shall report, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, any instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.

Not applicable (No PS vessels on the IOTC RAV in 2015);

No encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015,

Encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015 (Complete the table below):

Name of the species	Number of instances of encirclement
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

Additional information:

Australia has a number of purse seine fisheries operating in the IOTC Area of Competence, however there were no active Australian flagged purse seine vessels in these fisheries in 2015, except the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery. All data pertaining to the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery is reported to

the Commission for the Conservation for Southern Bluefin Tuna. All cetacean species are protected under Australian legislation.

- Resolution 13/05 On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)

CPCs shall report, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.

Not applicable (No PS vessels on the IOTC RAV in 2015);

No encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015,

Encirclement reported by flag vessels in 2015 (Complete the table below):

Name of the species	Number of instances of encirclement
Whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>)	Click here to enter text.

Additional information:

Australia has a number of purse seine fisheries operating in the IOTC Area of Competence, however there were no active Australian flagged purse seine vessels in these fisheries in 2015, except the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery. All data pertaining to the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery is reported to the Commission for the Conservation for Southern Bluefin Tuna. All cetacean species are protected under Australian legislation.

- Resolution 14/05 Concerning A Record Of Licensed Foreign Vessels Fishing For IOTC Species In The IOTC Area Of Competence And Access Agreement Information

For Government to Government access agreement in existence prior to the entry into force of this resolution, where coastal CPCs allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in waters in their EEZ in the IOTC Area for species managed by IOTC through a CPC-to-CPC agreement, CPCs involved in the referred agreement:

- Shall submit copy of the access agreement,
- Shall submit information concerning these agreements (paragraphs 3a, b, c, d, e, f, g),

A report template exists and can be requested at secretariat@iotc.org

Additional information:

Australia did not authorise any foreign fishing vessels to fish in Australia's exclusive economic zone within the IOTC Area of Competence in 2015.

- Resolution 14/06 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (Report of flag vessels transshipping in foreign ports)

Each flag CPC of the LSTV shall include in its annual report each year to IOTC the details on the transshipments in ports by its vessels (Name of LSTV, IOTC Number, name of carrier vessel, species and quantity transhipped, date and location of transshipment). *[A template report exists].*

Nil report, specify the reason(s): **No LSTVs on the RAV**
 Flag LSTVs do not tranship in foreign ports

The details on transhipment in ports for 2015 have already been provided to the IOTC Secretariat:

Yes **Date of reporting (DD/MM/YYYY):** [Click here to enter text.](#)
No

The details on transhipment in ports for 2015 are attached to the implementation report:

Yes **No**

Additional information:

Australia has prohibited at-sea transhipments in Australian fisheries relevant to the IOTC since 2011. There were no at-sea transhipments by Australian flagged vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence in 2015. There were no transhipments in Australian ports in 2015.

- Resolution 15/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence.

CPCs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 7, including punitive actions and sanctions and, in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report the results of the review to the Commission annually. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag CPCs of AFVs on the IOTC Record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.

The flag CPCs of the vessels on the record shall:

- take measures to ensure that their AFVs comply with all the relevant IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;
Describe the measures:

This Resolution supersedes Resolution 14/04, which Australia has previously reported against (most recently Australia's Report of Implementation for the year 2014 submitted 26 February 2015).

Pursuant to paragraphs 7(b) and 8 of Resolution 15/04, Australia takes measures to ensure Australian flagged fishing vessels comply with relevant IOTC Resolutions and are not associated with IUU fishing. For example, outcomes from IOTC meetings are reported to industry in order to raise awareness of obligations. Relevant Resolutions are given effect as part of fishing concession conditions. Australian fishing vessels are monitored through electronic monitoring (in selected fisheries), VMS, catch and effort reporting (logbooks, catch disposal records), on-board observers and in-port and at-sea inspections. AFMA undertakes a biennial risk assessment process to identify priority areas that require targeted compliance and enforcement action. The risk assessment process is conducted across all major Commonwealth fisheries, including in the IOTC Area of Competence. AFMA adopts a structured approach to monitor existing and emerging risks that may require mitigation strategies during this two year period.

Australia has also implemented a multi-faceted strategy to deter IUU fishing by foreign vessels in its jurisdiction, which includes on-the-water surveillance and enforcement, cooperation with regional neighbours, diplomatic representations, in-country education and capacity building, and international cooperation through RFMOs and other international agreements and arrangements.

- take measures to ensure that their AFVs on the IOTC Record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorisation to fish and/or tranship;

Describe the measures:

As required under paragraphs 7(c) and 13 of Resolution 15/04, in Australian fisheries relevant to the IOTC a copy of the extract from the boat statutory fishing right that states the name of the boat, or the original or a true copy of the fishing permit must be carried on board the nominated boat at all times.

Pursuant to Paragraph 3 of Resolution 15/04, Australia has provided samples of the official authorisations that are carried on board Australian flagged fishing vessels authorised to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence, and associated information to the Executive Secretary (submitted on 12 February 2014). There have been no changes to this information in the intervening period.

- ensure that their AFVs on the IOTC Record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such a history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels; the parties of the IUU incident have officially resolved the matter and sanctions have been completed; or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their AFVs are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;

Describe the measures:

No Australian flagged fishing vessels on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels have a history of IUU fishing activities in the IOTC Area of Competence.

- ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their AFVs on the IOTC Record are not engaged in or associated with tuna fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the IOTC Record in the IOTC area of competence;

Describe the measures:

No Australian flagged fishing vessels on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels are engaged in or associated with tuna fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence.

- take measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the AFVs on the IOTC Record are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them;

Describe the measures:

Under section 4(1) of the Australian Government Fisheries Management Act 1991, a boat is an Australian boat and therefore may be nominated to a Commonwealth fishing concession if it satisfies one of the following conditions:

- the boat is operated from Australia, is wholly owned by an Australian resident/company incorporated and was built in Australia; or
- the boat is listed on the Australian Shipping Register (that is, it is an Australian flagged boat), with the exception of a boat wholly owned by a foreign resident and under a demise charter arrangement; or
- the boat (which may be foreign flagged or Australian flagged and under a demise charter arrangement) has been declared to be an Australian boat by AFMA under section 4(2) of the Fisheries Management Act 1991. Under section 4(2) of the Fisheries Management Act 1991, AFMA may declare a boat is taken to be an Australian boat for the purposes of the Act when among other conditions that must be met, AFMA is satisfied that there is sufficient Australian control over the boat's operation. Any boat that does not meet these conditions is considered to be a foreign boat and is not eligible for nomination to a Commonwealth fishing concession.

With regard to foreign boats, under sections 34, 35, and 36 of the Fisheries Management Act 1991, foreign entities and governments can apply for foreign fishing licences authorising the use of a specified foreign boat in the Australian Fishing Zone. AFMA has not issued a foreign fishing licence since 1996.