



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources**

Ref: 2018/007977E

Ms Susan Imende Ungadi
IOTC Chairperson
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
PO Box 1011
VICTORIA SEYCHELLES

Dear Ms Ungadi

I refer to the letter of 25 May 2018 from the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Vice-Chairperson Ms Jung-re Riley Kim, regarding Australia's outstanding compliance issues. Australia considers strengthening compliance with IOTC conservation and management measures fundamental for effective fisheries management.

Please find enclosed Australia's response to the matters requiring attention.

My sincere thanks to you, as well as the Compliance Committee Chair and members, for your ongoing efforts to strengthen compliance with IOTC measures.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Neil'.

Gordon Neil
Assistant Secretary
Fisheries Branch
19 June 2018

cc: Mr Chris O'Brien, Executive Secretary, IOTC

Australia's response to the 2018 Compliance Committee's letter of feedback

Resolution 17/05 Submission of data regarding sharks – size frequency

As per previous advice, due to very low levels of effort in Australia's relevant fisheries, sampling is undertaken upon landing and is primarily focused on achieving effective sampling coverage for target species. Sharks are not a target species in these fisheries and Australia has a very low retained catch of sharks in these fisheries (many species cannot be landed and all live sharks must be released). It is not practical to obtain size measurements of released sharks as best practice guidelines for their release is not to remove them from the water. As a result Australia is unable to meet the relevant sampling coverage and is unable to provide size frequency for sharks.

Australia accepts the rating of non-compliant for this period.

Resolution 11/04 Observer reports

Australia's electronic monitoring program provides accurate fisheries data and is used as a tool to monitor compliance in Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone within the IOTC Area of Competence. Australia acknowledges that e-monitoring does not collect the suite of data required by the Commission under the observer program. However, as a member of IOTC Australia recognises that timely, accurate and verifiable data is important to support management decisions and considers that the information provided by Australia supports this broader objective. Supplementary programs to collect the outstanding data fields efficiently are also currently being considered.

Australia accepts the rating of partially compliant for this period.