



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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## 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Bonn, Germany, 28-30 June 2010

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Agenda Item 9.0

### CALL FOR INFORMATION IN FOLLOW-UP OF CMS RESOLUTION 9.18 ON BY-CATCH

*(Response received from IOTC)*

**Reply sent by Mr. Miguel Herrera, Data Coordinator on behalf of the IOTC Executive Secretary, Mr. Alejandro Anganuzzi**

#### **(a) Policy and management of migratory species by-catch**

The IOTC has implemented several Resolutions and Recommendations relating to by-catch, including sharks, seabirds and marine turtles. In addition, IOTC Resolution 10/02 calls for IOTC Contracting and Cooperating Parties to report by-catch levels for other species, including marine mammals. The Collection of IOTC Resolutions can be downloaded from <http://www.iotc.org/English/resolutions.php>.

Please refer to the following Resolutions:

*Resolution 10/02 Mandatory Statistical Requirements For IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPC's)* calls for the reporting of levels of by-catch on IOTC fisheries.

*Resolution 10/04 On a Regional observer scheme* calls for the collection of information on by-catch in port (artisanal fisheries) and at sea (industrial fisheries).

*Resolution 05/05 Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC* calls for the reporting of statistics of sharks caught in association with IOTC fisheries and measures to mitigate such catches (fining).

*Resolution 10/12 On the Conservation of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Agreement Area* calls for the release of Thresher Sharks alive on IOTC industrial fisheries.

*Recommendation 05/08 On sea turtles and Resolution 09/06 On marine turtles* call for the reporting of levels of by-catch of marine turtles on IOTC fisheries and measures to mitigate such by-catch or the mortality of marine turtles (e.g. resuscitation).

*For reasons of economy, documents are printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.*

*Recommendation 05/09 On incidental mortality of seabirds and Resolution 10/06 On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries* call for the reporting of levels of by-catch of seabirds on IOTC fisheries and measures to mitigate such by-catch.

*Resolution 08/02 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels* calls for the monitoring of transshipments from large scale longliners, including bycatch of sharks or other non-IOTC species.

*Resolution 09/05 To prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC area* recalls the UN ban on the use of large-scale drifting gillnets on the high seas.

**(b) Data on migratory species by-catch in the fisheries for which you have responsibility**

The data available at the IOTC concerning the catches of sharks by IOTC fisheries can be downloaded from [http://www.iotc.org/Common/NC\\_Sharks.zip](http://www.iotc.org/Common/NC_Sharks.zip).

In addition, data on the by-catch levels of sharks or other species has been published in documents presented to the IOTC Working Parties. The main results presented in the documents are usually covered by the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB). I invite you to download the reports from this Working Party from the IOTC Web Site ([http://www.iotc.org/English/documents/doc\\_proceedings.php?mode=proceed&break=group,doc&maingroup%5B%5D=3&cat%5B%5D=1&comment=reports&offset=30](http://www.iotc.org/English/documents/doc_proceedings.php?mode=proceed&break=group,doc&maingroup%5B%5D=3&cat%5B%5D=1&comment=reports&offset=30) and previous page).

**(c) Assessments of the impacts by your fisheries on seabirds, sharks, turtles and cetaceans**

The impacts of IOTC fisheries on bycatch species are covered by the WPEB. Please, refer to the reports referred in (b) for more information. In addition I invite you to consult the documents in our Web Site; please, refer to <http://www.iotc.org/English/documents/search.php>.

**(d) Adoption of monitoring, control and surveillance measures on by-catch in the fisheries relevant to migratory species**

Please, refer to IOTC Resolutions *10/04* (monitoring of bycatch through observers), *05/05* (monitoring of shark fin-to-body weight ratio), *08/02* (monitoring of transshipments of large-scale longline vessels through observers) and *09/05* (ban on large-scale drifting gillnets), as indicated above.

**(e) Best practices on the basis of any performance reviews that have been undertaken**

The implementation of IOTC Measures by IOTC Contracting and Cooperating Parties is reviewed by the IOTC Compliance Committee, which reports to the Commission. I invite you to consult the last report from the Commission in: [http://www.iotc.org/files/proceedings/2010/s/IOTC-2010-S14-R\[E\]\\_rev1.pdf](http://www.iotc.org/files/proceedings/2010/s/IOTC-2010-S14-R[E]_rev1.pdf) (note that the report of the Compliance Committee is an Annex to such Report)

In addition, the IOTC undertook a Performance Review last year. The report of the Performance Review was presented to the Commission. You can download the report from [http://www.iotc.org/files/misc/performance%20review/IOTC-2009-PRP-R\[E\].pdf](http://www.iotc.org/files/misc/performance%20review/IOTC-2009-PRP-R[E].pdf).