22 December 2025

IOTC CIRCULAR

2025–44

Dear Sir/Madam

REGARDING IOTC TROPICAL TUNA ALLOCATED CATCH LIMITS FOR 2026

YELLOWFIN TUNA

Resolution 21/01

IOTC Resolution 21/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence* came into force on 17 December 2021 and applies to all CPCs except India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Madagascar, Oman and Somalia. Paragraph 25 of Resolution 21/01 requires the IOTC Secretariat, under the advice of the Scientific Committee, to prepare and circulate the below table (**Table 1)** of 2026 provisional allocated catch limits disaggregated as per the conditions set out in paragraphs 5 – 11.

Background on the calculations and discussions regarding these allocated catch limits will be available in the Report of the 28th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee which will soon be posted on the SC28 meeting page.

Table 1: 2025 (calculated) and 2026 (estimated) allocated catch limits for yellowfin tuna.

CPC_CODE	CPC name	CPC	Based allocation catch limit	Allocated catch limits (t)	
				2025	2026
AUS	Australia	AUS - Australia	2,000	2,000	2,000
BGD	Bangladesh	BGD - Bangladesh	2,000	2,000	2,000
CHN	China	CHN - China	10,557	-2,423	3,083
COM	Comoros	COM - Comoros	5,279	5,279	5,279
EUR	European Union	EUR - European Union	73,078	73,078	73,078
FRAT	France OT	FRAT - France OT	500	500	500
GBR	United Kingdom	GBR - United Kingdom	500	500	500
IDN	Indonesia	IDN - Indonesia	45,426	45,426	45,426
JPN	Japan	JPN - Japan	4,003	4,003	4,003
KEN	Kenya	KEN - Kenya	3,654	3,654	3,654
KOR	Korea	KOR - Korea	9,056	9,056	9,056
LKA	Sri Lanka	LKA - Sri Lanka	33,245	32,958	33,123
MDV	Maldives	MDV - Maldives	47,195	47,195	47,195
MOZ	Mozambique	MOZ - Mozambique	2,000	2,000	2,000
MUS	Mauritius	MUS - Mauritius	10,490	10,490	10,490
MYS	Malaysia	MYS - Malaysia	2,000	2,000	2,000
PAK	Pakistan	PAK - Pakistan	14,468	14,468	14,468
PHL	Philippines	PHL - Philippines	700	700	700
SDN	Sudan	SDN - Sudan	2,000	2,000	2,000
SYC	Seychelles	SYC - Seychelles	39,577	39,577	39,577
THA	Thailand	THA - Thailand	2,000	2,000	2,000
TZA	Tanzania	TZA - Tanzania	3,905	3,872	3,872
YEM	Yemen	YEM - Yemen	26,262	10,685	16,474
ZAF	South Africa	ZAF - South Africa	2,000	2,000	2,000
		Totals	**341,896**	**313,019**	**324,479**

Please note: the limits for 2026 are *estimated* on the assumption that catches for 2025, which are not yet available, will not exceed the limit for that year. CPCs are currently in the best position to calculate a more precise estimate of their allocated catch limits for 2026 using the information they have collected at national level for 2025.

Resolution 19/01

IOTC Resolution 19/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence* came into force on 28 December 2019 and applies to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Madagascar, Oman, and Somalia. Paragraph 24 of Resolution 19/01 requires the IOTC Secretariat, under the advice of the Scientific Committee, to prepare and circulate a table (**Table 2)** of 2026 allocated catch limits disaggregated as per the conditions set out in paragraphs 5 – 10.

Background on the calculations and discussions regarding these allocated catch limits will be available in the Report of the 28th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee which will soon be posted on the SC28 meeting page.

Table 2: 2025 (calculated) and 2026 (estimated) catch limits for yellowfin tuna

CPC	Gear (industrial)	Base allocated catch limit	Allocated catch limits (t)	
			2025	***2026***
I.R. Iran	Gillnet	32,623	*32,623*	*32,623*

No catch limits apply for Madagascar, Oman, and Somalia in 2026.

Please note: the limits for 2026 are estimated on the assumption that catches for 2025, which are not yet available, will not exceed the limit for that year. CPCs are currently in the best position to calculate a more precise estimate of their allocated catch limits for 2026 using the information they have collected at national level for 2025.

Resolution 18/01

IOTC Resolution 18/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence* came into force on 4 October 2018 and applies to India.

Resolution 18/01 pertains to all fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean of 24 meters overall length and over, and those under 24 meters if they fish outside the Exclusive Economic Zone of their flag State, within the IOTC area of competence. India currently does not have such vessels matching these criteria; therefore, no catch limits apply for India in 2026.

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia, Panama. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to**: FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

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BIGEYE TUNA

Resolutions 23/04 and 25/04

Resolutions 23/04 *On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence* came into force 16 September 2023 and applies to all CPCs. Resolutions 23/04 established bigeye tuna TACs of 80,583 t for 2024-2025 and introduced catch limits for the main fleets targeting bigeye tuna.

Resolutions 25/04 *On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence* came into force 21 October 2025 and applies to all CPCs except India and Somalia. Resolutions 25/04 established bigeye tuna TACs of 92,670 t for 2026-2028 and introduced catch limits for the main fleets targeting bigeye tuna. Paragraph 10 of Resolution 25/04 requires the IOTC Secretariat to prepare and circulate the below table (**Table 3**) of allocated catch limits disaggregated as per the requirements set out in paragraphs 2 – 9.

Table 3: Catch limits (t) that shall be applied in 2025 and 2026 for the main fleets targeting Indian Ocean bigeye tuna

Fleet code	Fleet	Catch limit 2025	Catch limit 2026
CHN	China	3,785	4,353
EUR	European Union	17,010	19,562
IDN	Indonesia	18,605	21,396
IRN	I.R. Iran	2,105	2,421
JPN	Japan	3,684	4,237
LKA	Sri Lanka	4,772	5,488
MUS	Mauritius	N/A	2,482
SYC	Seychelles	11,882	13,664
TWN	Taiwan,China	11,488	13,211

Distribution

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Skipjack Tuna
Resolution 25/03

Resolution 25/03 *On establishing catch limits for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence* came into force 21 October 2025 and applies to all CPCs except India, Korea and Somalia. Resolutions 25/03 established a TAC of 628,606 t for skipjack tuna for the period in 2025 and 2026. Paragraph 1130 of Resolution 25/03 requires the IOTC Secretariat to prepare and circulate the below table (**Table 4**) of allocated catch limits disaggregated as per the requirements set out in paragraphs 5 – 12.

Table 4: Catch limits (t) that shall be applied in 2025 and 2026 for the main fleets targeting Indian Ocean Skipjack tuna

Fleet code	Fleet	Catch limit 2025	Catch limit 2026
EUR	European Union	125,000	125,000
IDN	Indonesia	138,000	138,000
IRN	I.R. Iran	68,000	68,000
LKA	Sri Lanka	38,000	38,000
MDV	Maldives	121,000	121,000
MUS	Mauritius	13,908	13,908
SYC	Seychelles	76,725	76,725

Yours sincerely



Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia, Panama. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to**: FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

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