



The Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia 23-24 August 2022

Gerard DOMINGUE
Compliance Manager
Secretariat
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission



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Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien





About IOTC

- Inter-governmental organisation which is an Article XIV body of the FAO
- *Est.* 1996 and became operational in 1998
- **Mandate:** To sustainably manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas.
- One of five tuna RFMOs
- Secretariat is headquartered in the Seychelles
- Currently has 30 Contracting Parties & one Cooperating non-Contracting Party



The current IOTC MCS framework

Multi-faceted measures targeting:

- Flag States
- Coastal States
- Port States
- Market States

The effectiveness and reach of the measures are continuously evolving.



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IOTC MCS framework versus potential IUU fishing issues

	Pre-fishing	Fishing	Transshipping & landing	Post-harvest
Potential IUU issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Misreported vessel (specs and/or fishing gear) VMS dysfunctional or not fitted 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing without a flag Fishing without FS authorisation Fishing and flying the flag of an NCP Fishing in CS EEZ without authorisation Illegal fishing (gear, FADs, VMS, observer, protected spp.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Transshipping to unauthorized vessel Transshipping IUU catch Landing IUU catch Incomplete, fraudulent or absent reporting of fishing trip and harvest data, forms or other required documents 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Buying IUU catch Marketing illegal catch (domestically and into international trade)



Effectiveness of current MCS related Measures

May be categorised as low, medium or high based on:

- **Completeness** – are all angles covered
 - e.g. disparity between authorised record of fishing vessels and authorised record of carrier vessels
- **Transparent** – who can access derived information
 - Not all information reported and collated are available to publicly
- **Integration** – can existing measures be consolidated
 - e.g. implementation of port State measures and port inspection scheme

Initiative to streamline measures have been conducted by the IOTC Secretariat, but requires members to follow through at the level of the Commission.



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MCS related Measures ... work in progress

- **Improve the measure related to vessels monitoring system (VMS)**
 - **Working Group constituted to discuss technical and financial details**
 - **Progress has been slow**
 - **Level of participation in the Working Group has been low**
 - **Agreement reached on a hybrid centralised system (Direct/Indirect reporting)**
 - **Some important stakeholders not part of the current discussion**
 - **Agreed points may be contested at the level of the Commission**



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- **An IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)**
 - Intended to replace the current Statistical Document Programme
 - Working Group constituted to discuss technical and financial details
 - Engagement of CPCs in general has been poor, which stalls progress
 - Level of participation in the Working Group has been low
 - Some important stakeholders not part of the current discussion
 - Agreed points may be contested at the level of the Commission



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MCS related Measures ... work in progress

- **An IOTC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme (HSBIS)**
 - The notion was first introduced in the IOTC in 2013 as a result of the increase in armed personnel onboard fishing vessel – anti piracy
 - 2014 - A guideline for the development of a regional binding measure was proposed
 - 2014 - A Working Group was constituted to further develop the guideline
 - 2016 – Some CPCs did not deem HSBIS a priority
 - 2022 – A proposal for a measure based on work previously done was tabled for adoption: no consensus
 - 2023 ... ?



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A tropical beach scene with turquoise water, white sand, and palm trees under a blue sky. The water is clear and shallow, with a sandy beach in the foreground. Several palm trees are on the right side, leaning over the water. A small sailboat is visible on the horizon. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

Thank you!

www.iotc.org