**RESPONSES FROM IOMS TO / Réponses de l'IOMS à / Respuestas del IOMS a : BYC01 – TURTLES**

(Report on implementation of Rec. 22-12, Paras 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8 and relevant actions taken to implement the FAO guidelines)

(Rapport sur la mise en œuvre de la Rec. 22-12, paragraphes 1, 2, 4, 5 et 8 et actions pertinentes prises en vue de mettre en œuvre les directives de la FAO)

(Informe sobre la implementación de la Rec. 22-12, párrs. 1, 2, 4, 5 y 8, y acciones pertinentes emprendidas para implementar las directrices de FAO)

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| **CPC** | **Applicable / Aplicable** | **First Submit date / Date de première soumission / Primera fecha de envío** | **Response/Reason for not applicable / Response/Reason for not applicable / Respuesta/motivo de N/A** |
| ALBANIA | Yes |  | The Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles and their Habitats in Albania was adopted through a Ministerial Order No. 596, 22.11.2012 and 150/2022 Albania, also approved the Ministerial Order 150/2022 “On the mitigation of fisheries impact for the conservation of seabirds, sea turtles, cetaceans and elasmobranchs” as per implementation of respective Rec GFCM 44/2021/13-14-15-16 |
| ALGERIA | Yes | 2024-09-15 |  |
| ANGOLA | Yes |  | Information to be included and submitted with the Annual Report |
| BARBADOS | Yes |  | The forthcoming Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act and Fisheries Management Regulations discussed in the National Report lists turtles as protected species and strictly prohibits their capture, it mandates that only large circle hooks are to be used on longlines, that any turtles incidentally taken that are alive at haul-back are to promptly released in a manner that maximizes their survival and in this context that all vessels must carry the appropriate equipment and that crews are trained to facilitate the release of captured animals to maximize survival at haul-back. |
| BELIZE | Yes | 2024-04-02 | Belize implemented the FAO Guidelines for Sea Turtles in 2008. In 2016 Belize revised its guidelines to include visual aids on turtle identification and handling and detangling equipment and procedures. It is now mandatory for our vessels to have on board this data and all relevant equipment. The implementation of our observer program has aided in identifying the use of these measures by our vessels. |
| Bolivia | Yes |  | 2024-09-13 |
| BRAZIL | Yes |  | Brazil established the Interministerial Rule No. 74, November 2017, which establishes mitigating measures to reduce bycatch and mortality of sea turtles by fishing vessels. |
| CABO VERDE | Yes |  |  |
| CANADA | Yes |  | Canada’s pelagic longline fleet has had a Code of Conduct in place since the early 2000s, and its adherence is a mandatory licence condition. Vessels flagged to Canada must carry on board safe handling, disentanglement, and release equipment, and it is mandatory for harvesters to release any incidentally harvest sea turtles in a manner that maximizes the probability of their survival.  The pelagic longline fleet participated in a de-hooking certification course in 2007. A second training and certification program was conducted in March 2011 on the proper use of safe handling and release equipment and data recording protocols. Training is mandatory requirement for vessel operators/licence holders.  Licence conditions also require at least one member of the crew on board must hold a valid certification identifying that they have successfully completed a DFO-approved de-hooking / disentanglement course. A copy of the valid certification must be on board the vessel and be provided to a Fishery Officer upon request. |
| CHINA PR. | Yes |  | Refer to annual report of this year word part submitted on 2024/9/15 |
| Chinese Taipei | Yes |  | See Section 4.3 of our Annual Report |
| COSTA RICA | Yes |  | En Costa Rica es obligatorio el uso de anzuelo circular en la pesca de grandes pelágicos (Reglamento a la Ley de Pesca y Acuicultura No 89436 No 36782-MINAET-MAG-MOPT-TUR-SP-S-MTSS, Capítulo XV, Artículo 56). Costa Rica no cuenta con flota de buques de cerco ni de arrastre en el Atlántico. La flota costarricense en el Atlántico es artesanal de menos de 20 metros de eslora. Se ha dado capacitación a tripulaciones para concientizar sobre buenas prácticas de manipulación y liberación. |
| CÔTE D'IVOIRE | Yes |  |  |
| CURAÇAO | Yes | 2024-09-18 | Our observers are trained by AZTI to apply best practices on sensitive species and other marine mammals in fishery operations. In case of any abnormality the observers will report to us to start an investigation |
| EGYPT | Yes |  | LFRPDA is working with provision of the executive regulation for the law No. 146/2021 issued be the prime ministerial decree No. 706/2023 which stated in article 30 “it’s prohibiting that any fishing for sea turtles”. Article 31 stated “fishing vessels should follow the measures set by LFRPDA for the conservation of sea turtles and marine mammals and to mitigate the effect of by catch” and in article 32 which stated that “If there is any accidental by-catch of sea turtle, it should be returned alive to the sea and reported to the concerned fisheries management office at the port, including the date and location of this accidental fishing”. |
| EL SALVADOR | Yes | 2024-09-10 | 2024-09-10. El Salvador posee cobertura de observadores a bordo del 100% de sus viajes, habilitados para recopilar la información de interacciones. A pesar de que no existen interacciones con tortugas marinas relevantes, se posee un código de buenas prácticas para el manejo de capturas incidentales. Adicionalmente, existe convenio con la organización AZTI, para la evaluación del desempeño en la ejecución de las buenas prácticas y no se han recibido hallazgos de incumplimiento u observaciones negativas |
| EUROPEAN UNION | Yes | 2024-09-15 |  |
| FRANCE (St-Pierre et Miquelon) | Yes |  | Il n'y a pas eu de capture accidentelle de tortues marines en 2023 par FRSPM.Les pêcheurs professionnels sont sensibilisés par l'administration sur les interactions entre les navires et les tortues marines. |
| GABON | Yes |  | pas de rapport faute d'activités en 2023. |
| GHANA | Yes | 2024-09-13 | Annual Report |
| GUINEA ECUATORIAL | Yes |  |  |
| GUINÉE REP. | Yes |  | Suivant les carnets de pêche, ont été capturés en 2023, à la senne, sous objet flottant, par un navire de plus de 20 m LHT et relâchés vivants, aux mois et positions géographiques (latitude ; longitude NW) indiquées, avec une distribution 1°x1°, les individus des espèces de tortues suivantes : - avril ; 9,17 ; 16,38 ; Effort : 05:28:00 (FISH.HOUR ), 2 individus de TTL de 35 cm chacun et 1 individu de TTX de 50 cm ; - mars ; 9,28 ; 22,42; Effort : 32:13:00 (FISH.HOUR ), 3 individus de TTL de 15 cm ; 25 cm et 30 cm; - mai ; 9,03 ; 16,00 ; Effort : 05:39:00 (FISH.HOUR ), 2 individus de TTL de 100 cm et de 35 cm ; - mai ; 10,27 ; 17,00 ; Effort : 14:55:00 (FISH.HOUR ), 2 individus de TTL de 100 cm et de 42 cm ; - novembre ; 10,03 ; 18,16 ; Effort : 31:00:00 (FISH.HOUR ), 2 individus de TTL de1 00 cm chacun. Soit un total de 1 TTX de 50 cm et de 11 TTL de 647 cm de somme des tailles (35 cm x 2 + 15 cm x 1 + 25 cm x 1 + 30 cm x 1 + 100 cm x 4 + 35 cm x 1+ 42 cm x 1) |
| HONDURAS | Yes |  | No aplica, en virtud que actualmente Honduras no cuenta con buques pesqueros autorizados sobre especies en la ICCAT. |
| ICELAND | Yes |  | See Annual Report 2024-08-21. |
| JAPAN | Yes |  | Our report on this matter is included in Annual Report Part 2. |
| KOREA REP | Yes | 2024-09-13 |  |
| LIBERIA | Yes |  | For the reporting period, Liberia had no purse seine vessels operating in the ICCAT areas. No sea turtle incidents or interactions was report. However, the national observers have been trained on the safe release practices of sea turtles. The vessels are equipped with necessary equipment to safely release sea turtles at live. The vessels captains and crews were made aware of the safety practices. |
| LIBYA | Yes |  | 2024-09-11 |
| MAROC | Yes | 2024-07-29 | Cf section 7 du chapitre II du rapport annuel |
| MAURITANIA | Yes |  | les prises accessoires sont reglémentées et les mesures sont strictes pour rendre les prises accessoires minium |
| MEXICO | Yes | 2024-09-13 |  |
| NAMIBIA | Yes |  | 2024/07/15 |
| NICARAGUA | Yes |  |  |
| NORWAY | Yes |  | There are no reports from the fisheries, or from the scientific community, on sea turtles in Norwegian waters. Norwegian waters are outside the area of distribution of sea turtles. |
| PANAMA | Yes |  | Mediante Decreto Ejecutivo No. 160 de 2013, se establecieron medidas que se encuentran vinculadas a la Rec. 10-09, párr. 1, 2 y 7, tal y como fue enmendada por la Rec. 13-11 y acciones pertinentes emprendidas para implementar las directrices de la FAO. |
| PHILIPPINES | Yes |  | 2024-September-15 The Philippines under its Fisheries Code and other subsequent issuances recognizes the prohibition in the catching of sharks, turtles, and other species that have been listed under CITES. Fishing vessels authorized to fish in other RFMO convention areas comply with the provisions and applicable strategies to mitigate and avoid such mortalities of sharks, turtles, and other species. |
| RUSSIA | Yes |  | Russia does not carry out longline and purse-seine fisheries in the Convention area and hence can take no by-catch. Based on the observer data, turtles did not occur in the trawl by-catches in 2023 |
| SENEGAL | Yes |  | Protection intégrale des tortues marines, oiseaux et cétacés et l’interdiction de leur capture sont dans la législation des pêches. Transposition de la rec 22-12 sur les tortues. Formation des observateurs pour le recueil de données. Formation aux bonnes pratiques pour les capitaines et membres d’équipage sur les bonnes pratiques de la pêche sous DCP pour limiter les impacts sur les oiseaux de mer et d’autres animaux marins.  Poursuite de la sensibilisation. |
| SIERRA LEONE | Yes |  | No information on seabirds. Sierra Leone does not have longline fishery in the area to which the requirement pertains. |
| SOUTH AFRICA | Yes | 2024-07-16 | Notification on turtle bycatch interactions submitted to ICCAT for the purpose of statistical reporting requirements on 2024-07-16. Turtle interactions are reported in logbooks by the longline fleet. Dehooking tools and procedures are specified in the Large Pelagic Longline permit conditions.  The use of circle hooks is encouraged in the Large Pelagic Longline permit conditions. |
| St VINCENT & GRENADINES | Yes |  | St. Vincent and the Grenadines has passed bycatch mitigation measures inline with Rec. 22-12 and the FAO guidelines |
| Suriname | Yes |  | There is no interaction with sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries. However in the shrimp bottom trawl fisheries where there is an interaction with sea turtles the implementation of a TED (Turtle Excluder Device) and a BRD (Bycatch Reduction Device) are required. |
| TRINIDAD & TOBAGO | Yes | 2024-09-22 |  |
| TUNISIE | Yes |  | INCLUS DANS LE RAPPORT ANNUEL |
| TÜRKIYE | Yes | 2024-08-28 | The Ministry has actively participated in "Understanding multi-taxa 'bycatch' of vulnerable species and testing mitigation a collaborative approach" project (Medbycatch Project) that has been implemented with the project's partners ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN Med, MEDASSET, RAC/SPA in the Mediterranean Basin. Project duration is from September-2017 to October 2022. Project objectives were to develop a standard data collection method to determine the capture rates of non-target species by widely used fishing gear (demersal trawl, gillnets, longlines) in the Mediterranean Basin, to contribute to the development of good practice examples that will reduce the rates of bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles and cartilaginous fish with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. In the scope of Medbycatch Project, the effects of circular and J-type hooks on target catch and sea turtles and as well as the sensitive species bycatch data collection and bycatch mitigations methods have been studied. Bycatch related provisions of domestic legislation have been updated in 2024 by taking into account the outputs of the Medbycatch Project, relevant GFCM and ICCAT recommendations.   As was the case in previous ministerial notifications on regulation of commercial fishing and amateur fishing, Article 16 of Notification on Regulation of Commercial Fisheries (No. 2024/20), entered into force on 11 August 2024 and covering the period 2024-2028, shall continue to prohibit catching, retaining on board, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale of sea turtles in all Turkish seas, including inland waters. The prohibition shall cover the following species; Caretta caretta, Chelonia mydas, Dermochelys coriacea and Trionyx triunguis. During the sea turtle breeding season necessary measures, including navigation controls at sea, shall be taken by the Ministry in the vicinity of spawning grounds of sea turtles. For instance, boats shall not exceed 8 miles speed within 1 nautical mile from a sea-turtle breeding zone between the periods 1 April – 30 September.   In accordance with Article 18 of Ministerial Notification 2024/20; in case of any prohibited species and seabirds being caught incidentally during commercial fishing operations, it shall be mandatory that these species are returned to the water alive and unharmed. Handling, treatment and release of incidentally caught species on this scope shall be made in accordance with “Vulnerable Species Protection Guidelines” published by the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The guidelines on practical implementation for handling, release and protection of vulnerable species in cases of by-catch have been prepared and put into practice based on the relevant FAO guidelines, outputs of the Medbycatch Project, and related ICCAT recommendations. In this context, "Safe Handling and Release Practices for Sea Turtles" has also been published and notified to the relevant fisheries sector stakeholders with necessary mobilization activities on increasing public awareness and training being made. The guidelines on protection of vulnerable species published by the Ministry will encompass proper mitigation and handling techniques for sea turtles as well as the minimum information to be completed by the fishing operators as required by ICCAT on any interactions with sea turtles. As per Article 18 of Ministerial Notification (2024/20), it is mandatory to report any incident of sea turtle and marine mammal bycatch. The provision covering the period 2024-2028 shall continue to require that by-catch section in the e-logbook, logbook and/or the transport (origin) document shall be completed and reported to the Ministry by the fishermen.  As to other technical measures introduced by Ministerial Notification 2024/20; new regulatory provisions have been introduced regarding fishing with longlines. Accordingly, Article 15 of the Ministerial Notification stipulates that it shall be mandatory to use only large circle hooks (equal to a mouth gape of 2.8 cm or larger) at longlines for fishing of Mediterranean swordfish and albacore. It shall also be compulsory to use circle hooks with an offset of no more than 10 degrees. Additionally, the following provisions existing in previous Ministerial Notifications will continue to be valid for the period 2024-2028: Longlines, gill nets and entangling nets to be set (anchored) at sea shall be marked with a signal flag / float in day-time and with illuminated -buoy in night-time. As regards ICCAT fisheries carried-out by purse seiners, master of the fishing vessel shall take all necessary measures to prevent its crew from intentionally setting a purse seine net around a marine mammal and sea turtle species, if the vulnerable species in question is sighted prior to the commencement of the set and encirclement of fish. In the event that a vulnerable species is unintentional |
| UNITED KINGDOM | Yes |  | In 2023, the Met UK did not have any longline fisheries, nor did the UKOTs of British Virgin Islands (BVI), Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) and Saint Helena (SHN). Bermuda (BMU) requires its longliner to use only large circle hooks, which are not offset by more than 10 degrees. Bermuda does not have 10% observer coverage in its fishery, as such paragraph 1b is not relevant. The vessel reports all interactions with sea turtles, but these interactions are rare. The vessel has the necessary equipment onboard for the safe release of sea turtles, the vessels captain was trained in the use of this equipment and has FAO compliant safe handling guide onboard. |
| UNITED STATES | Yes | 2023-09-15 | Information submitted on 2023-09-15 via the Annual Report; U.S. regulations adopted in 2004 for all U.S. Atlantic pelagic longline vessels include: mandatory attendance at protected species safe handling release and identification workshops, mandatory bait specifications, use of circle hooks (size of hook depending on fishing locale), and the mandatory possession and use of sea turtle handling and release gear on board all vessels with pelagic longline gear.  The United States continues to modify the suite of disentanglement and release gears required to be onboard longline vessels as new gears and information on best practices are developed. Information on these issues is also included in the 2024 U.S. swordfish management plan. Sea turtle interactions in the U.S. pelagic longline fleet are reported annually to ICCAT. |
| URUGUAY | Yes |  | Sin actividad en 2023. De todas formas, Uruguay promueve en su flota pesquera el uso de equipos que permitan liberar, desenredar y manipular de forma segura las tortugas marinas capturadas. Para esto, en algunas oportunidades, observadores a bordo han llevado los equipos necesarios a bordo para entrenar a los pescadores en el uso de los mismos. |
| VENEZUELA | Yes |  | Venezuela no presenta registro de capturas de tortugas marinas. |