

ATTN: Heads of Delegation to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

58 Supply Chain Companies call on the IOTC to Rebuild the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock

At the 25th Session of the IOTC in June 2021, delegates agreed an interim rebuilding plan for overfished yellowfin tuna. The agreed measure set a total catch limit of 401,011mt. However, six countries formally objected, and these objections put the interim rebuilding plan at serious risk of failure.

In December 2021, the IOTC Scientific Committee confirmed that the new stock assessment reveals that Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna continues to be overfished with overfishing occurring, and the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) estimate for the Indian Ocean stock was recalculated as 349,000t – significantly below the catch limit of the interim rebuilding plan (resolution 21/01).

Given the consistent overfishing and overfished status of the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock since 2015, the undersigned group of concerned companies strongly urge the IOTC to agree a new long-term rebuilding plan at the next meeting in May 2022.

We are calling for:

- Delegates to press the IOTC secretariat to schedule adequate time to discuss yellowfin rebuilding proposals.
- Agreement on a resolution that specifies how the yellowfin stock could be rebuilt in two generations.
- The resolution to apply to **all** fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna like species in the Indian Ocean regardless of the length of the vessel and area of operation.
- **All** CPCs to comply with the resolution.

We recognise that as far as possible, **all** CPCs and gear types are now required to play their part in delivering catch reductions going forwards.

The Scientific Committee has provided clear [advice](#) which states that catches need to be **significantly reduced** to end overfishing a rebuild the stock. Based on their advice we are urging delegates to reduce yellowfin catches to <70% of 2020 levels so there is a >67% probability of being above BMSY in 2030, and ending overfishing ($F < F_{msy}$) by 2023. This equates to a yellowfin catch below 302,837t.

The issue of yellowfin tuna needs to be taken seriously. We encourage delegates to discuss proposals in advance of the meeting, and request that the IOTC secretariat provide detailed simulations of the proposals to inform your decision-making.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Yours faithfully,





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