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Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC9) and 12th Meeting of the Parties (MoP12)

Ebene, Mauritius, 25–27 June 2025 and 30 June – 04 July 2025

MoP-12-53

List of Measures Submitted by India

Secretariat

Meeting	Compliance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting of the Parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Document type	General Document (Secretariat) <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal or Working Paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	
As requested by the 9 th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC09) and the 12 th Meeting of the Parties to the SIOFA (MoP12), India has submitted measures that CC08 and MoP11 requested. This paper highlights these measures for the consideration of the MoP12.	

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the measures implemented domestically by India for the respective obligations under the Agreement and the CMMs adopted thereunder.

¹ Restricted documents may contain confidential information. Please do not distribute restricted documents in any form without the explicit permission of the SIOFA Secretariat and the data owner(s)/provider(s).

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

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CCP	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2023 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2024 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Final Compliance Status (2024 Assessment Period)
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Table 5Implementation of CMM 05 (2016) (Pelagic Driftnets and Deepwater Gillnets)

India	1. The use of all large-scale pelagic driftnets in the Agreement Area is prohibited for any vessel flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) or participating fishing entity (PFE).	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	This obligation is applicable in the Agreement Area only. Since India does not have a fishery fishing in the SIOFA agreement area, India reiterates that this obligation is not applicable to India for now. India remains committed to upholding its international obligations and will fully comply should its vessels operate in the Agreement Area in the future. Further, India is at finalisation of a National legal instrument in this regard which shall necessitate India-flagged vessels to comply with all national and intenrational legal instruments in the High Seas including complying to the CMMs of SIOFA as applicable.	Critically Non-Compliant
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Table 6Implementation of CMM 06 (2024) and CMM 06 (2022) (IUU Vessel List)

India	19. a Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to take all the necessary measures to eliminate the IUU activities, including if necessary, the withdrawal of the fishing licences, authorisations or permits granted to vessels included in the IUU Vessel List, and the refusal of the fishing licences, authorisations or permits to such vessels;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	Under the provisions in the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 (MZI Act), India takes all the necessary measures to eliminate the IUU activities, including, if necessary, the withdrawal of the fishing licences, authorisations or permits granted to vessels included in the IUU Vessel List, and the refusal of the fishing licences, authorisations or permits to such vessels. These provisions include those listed under Section 5: Licensing of Foreign Fishing Vessels; Section 6: Cancellation, Suspension, or Variation of Licence; and Section 14: Power to Make Rules of the MZI Act. Further, India is a party to the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA)-IUU steered by the Bay of Bengal Programme-IGO. India is also working on having the National Plan of Action (NPOA)-IUU in line with the IPOA-IUU. India is also actively working to have a domestic legal instrument that shall adequately enable accession to the PSMA.	Critically Non-Compliant
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India	19. b Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to ensure that its vessels do not participate in any transshipment or other operations such as joint-fishing, transfers at sea of fuel, crew, gear or any other supplies either as an unloading or receiving vessel, with vessels included in the IUU Vessel List;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	Under the provisions of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 (MZI Act), India takes all the necessary measures to ensure that its vessels do not participate in any transshipment or other operations such as joint-fishing, transfers at sea of fuel, crew, gear or any other supplies either as an unloading or receiving vessel, with vessels included in the IUU Vessel List. These provisions include those listed under Section 5: Licensing of Foreign Fishing Vessels; Section 6: Cancellation, Suspension, or Variation of Licence; and Section 14: Power to Make Rules. Further, India is a party to the Regional Plan of Action-IUU steered by the Bay of Bengal Programme-IGO and is working on having the IPOA-IUU. India is also at finalisaiton of a National legal instrument to regulate the fishing in the High Seas by the India-flagged vessel which sets conditions of compliance on all relevant aspects, including transshipments by India authorised fishing/collector vessels. Further, India is also actviely working to have a domestic legal instrument that shall adequately enable accession to the PSMA.	Critically Non-Compliant
India	19.c Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to ensure that vessels on the IUU Vessel List are denied access to ports unless for the purpose of inspecting them and taking other appropriate actions in conformity with international law which are at least as effective as denial of port entry in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	India to indicate how this measure is made binding domestically(legislation, administrative procedures etc)	Under the provisions in the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 (MZI Act), India takes all the necessary measures to ensure that vessels on the IUU Vessel List are denied access to ports unless for the purpose of inspecting them and taking other appropriate actions in conformity with international law which are at least as effective as denial of port entry in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing. These provisions include those listed under Section 5: Licensing of Foreign Fishing Vessels; Section 6: Cancellation, Suspension, or Variation of Licence; Section 7: Prohibition of Unauthorized Entry; and Section 14: Power to Make Rules. Further, India is a party to the Regional Plan of Action-IUU steered by the Bay of Bengal Programme-IGO and is at preparation of a National Plan of Action-IUU to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing effectively. India is at finalisation of a national legal instrument to regulate fishing by the India-flagged vessels in the High Seas in compliance with the relevant RFMOs. India is also actively working to have a domestic legal instrument that shall adequately enable accession to the PSMA.	Critically Non-Compliant
India	19. d Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to give priority to the inspection of vessels on the IUU Vessel List, if such vessels are found in their ports;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect	Under the provisions in the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 (MZI Act), India takes all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to give priority to the inspection of vessels on the IUU Vessel List, if such vessels are found in their ports. These provisions include those listed under Section 7 – Entry of Foreign Fishing Vessels into Specified Ports; Section 14 – Power to Make Rules and Section 6 – Suspension or Cancellation of Licence. Further, India is	Critically Non-Compliant

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				to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	already a party to the Regional plan of Action-RPOA steered by the Bay of Bengal Programme-IGO and is at preparations for enacting the National Plan of Action (NPOA)-IUU to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the waters under its jurisdiction and the India-flagged vessels in the High Seas. India is also actively at having domestic law that shall adequately enable accession to the PSMA.	
India	19. e Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to prohibit the chartering of vessels on the IUU Vessel List;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	India is not allowing chartering of foreign fishing vessels at present. Further, under the provisions in the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 (MZI Act), India takes take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to prohibit the chartering of vessels on the IUU Vessel List. These provisions include those listed under Section 5 – Licensing of Foreign Fishing Vessels; Section 6 – Suspension or Cancellation of Licence; and Section 14 – Rule-Making Power. Further, India is already a party to the Regional Plan of Action-RPOA steered by the Bay of Bengal Programme-IGO and is at preparations for enacting the National plan of Action (NPOA)-IUU to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the waters under its jurisdiction. India is also actively at having domestic law that shall adequately enable accession to the PSMA. India is also at finalisation of a national legal instrument to regulate fishing by the India-flagged vessels in the High Seas in compliance with the relevant RFMOs.	Critically Non-Compliant
India	19. f Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to refuse to grant their flag to vessels on the IUU Vessel List;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	India is not granting its flag to any foreign fishing vessels, especially those listed in the IUU vessel list. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (MSA, 1958) is the primary legislation in India governing maritime affairs, including the registration of Indian ships. While the Act broadly covers all Indian ships, it has specific provisions for fishing vessels, particularly under Part XVA: Indian Fishing Boats. The provisions under the Act adequately address the concerns.	Critically Non-Compliant
India	19. g Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to prohibit commercial transactions, such as imports, exports or re-exports, landings and transshipments of fisheries resources covered by the Agreement, as well as other operations	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No	India takes all necessary measures under the provisions of MZI Act, 1981 (Section 5 – Licensing of Foreign Fishing Vessels; Section 6 – Cancellation or Suspension of Licence; Section 14 – Rule-Making Power), Customs Act, 1962 (Sections 11, 111, 113 empowering the Government to prohibit import/export of goods in violation of international conventions or national interest), Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 & Foreign Trade Policy and Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Further,	Critically Non-Compliant

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	involving such fisheries resources, from vessels on the IUU Vessel List;			measures submitted as of yet.	India is already a party to the Regional Plan of Action-RPOA steered by the Bay of Bengal Programme-IGO and is at preparations for enacting the National plan of Action (NPOA)-IUU to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the waters under its jurisdiction. India is also actively at having domestic law that shall adequately enable accession to the PSMA. India is also at finalisation of a national legal instrument to regulate fishing by the India-flagged vessel in the High Seas in compliance with the relevant RFMOs.	
India	19. h Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to prohibit change of crew on board of vessels on the IUU Vessel List;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	India takes all necessary measures under the provisions of Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 (MZI Act), and supporting enforcement powers under the Foreigners Act, 1946, The Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950, and port clearance protocols under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and Customs Act, 1962. These provisions include Section 5 – Licensing of Foreign Fishing Vessels; Section 7 – Entry into Specified Ports; and Section 14 – Power to Make Rules of the MZI Act, Foreigners Act, 1946 (Grants Government powers to regulate the entry, stay, and departure of foreigners in India), The Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950 (Requires entry permits for all foreigners, including seafarers), Customs Act, 1962 – Section 30A & 31 (Regulates the arrival and departure of vessels, including the permission for crew transfer) and Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 – Sections 42 & 216 (Relates to seafarers' documentation, crew changes, and port inspections).	Critically Non-Compliant
India	19. i Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to encourage traders, importers and transporters to refrain from transactions in, and transshipment of, fishery resources covered by the Agreement caught by vessels on the IUU Vessel List;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	India takes all necessary measures under the provisions in the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 (MZI Act), Customs Act, 1962, the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and India's Consumer Protection and CSR framework. These provisions include those under Section 5, 7 and 14 of MZI Act (Allow India to deny port access and landing of fish from vessels contravening management measures in place), Customs Act, 1962 (Section 11: Allows the Government to prohibit imports or exports of goods to protect public interest or comply with international obligations and Sections 111–113: Allow seizure and confiscation of illegally imported goods), Companies Act, 2013 – CSR & Ethical Trade (Under Section 135 and Schedule VII, companies are encouraged to adopt sustainable and responsible supply chains).	Critically Non-Compliant

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India	19. j Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation and pursuant to paragraphs 56 and 66 of the IPOA-IUU to collect and promptly exchange with other Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs, any appropriate relevant information on vessels included in the IUU Vessel List;	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	India takes all necessary measures under the provisions of Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 (MZI Act), and the Indian Coast Guard Act, 1978 and Customs Act, 1962 to collect and promptly exchange with other Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs, any appropriate relevant information on vessels included in the IUU Vessel List. Further, India is already a party to the Regional Plan of Action-RPOA steered by the Bay of Bengal Programme-IGO and is at preparations for enacting the National Plan of Action (NPOA)-IUU to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the waters under its jurisdiction. India is also actively at having domestic law that shall adequately enable accession to the PSMA. India is also at finalisation of a national legal instrument to regulate fishing by the India-flagged vessels in the High Seas in compliance with the relevant RFMOs.	Critically Non-Compliant

Table 7 Implementation of CMM 07 (2024) and CMM 07 (2022) (Vessel Authorization)

India	7. CMM 07(2022)/ 6. CMM 07(2024):Each CCP shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing and fishing related activities on fishery resources covered by the Agreement by vessels which are not registered in the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.	Not Assessed in 2024	Compliant	India to provide national bindding measures to implement this obligation	Indian fishing vessels are not fishing SIOFA managed fishery resources in the Agreement area. The provisions in the Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRAs) of the coastal provinces (states/Union Territories) of India have adequate provisions to deter fishing in the areas outside jurisdiction of the State/UT including in High Seas and waters of other nations. India is at finalisation of a national legal instrument to regulate fishing in the High Seas which will further deter the India-flagged vessels venturing to High Seas without proper authorisaiton in conformity with the relevant RFMOs.	Non-Compliant
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Table 8 Implementation of CMM 08 (2020) (Port Inspection)

India	26. Each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall require its vessels to cooperate with the port State in inspections carried out pursuant to this CMM.	Critically Non-Compliant	Compliant	Pending follow-up action: CC08 was of the view that this obligation is applicable to all CCPs, including India. India was requested to submit national binding measures with respect to this obligation. No measures submitted as of yet.	India presently is not engaged in fishing in the High Seas including in the SIOFA agreement area. India remains committed to upholding its international obligations and will fully comply should its vessels operate in the Agreement Area in the future. A national legal instrument mandating the obligation of vessels to comply with all national and international legal framework in their jurisdictional areas is being finalised. Further, India is a party to the Regional Plan of Action-IUU steered by the Bay of Bengal Programme-IGO and is at preparation of a National Plan of Action-IUU to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing effectively. India is also actively working to have a domestic legal instrument that shall adequately enable accession to the PSMA.	Critically Non-Compliant
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