

# The Tuna Resource Management in the Indian Ocean: the Challenges for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

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# The Content of the presentation

- The Introduction to the IOTC
- The Stock Aspect
- The Legal Aspect
- The Challenge for IOTC

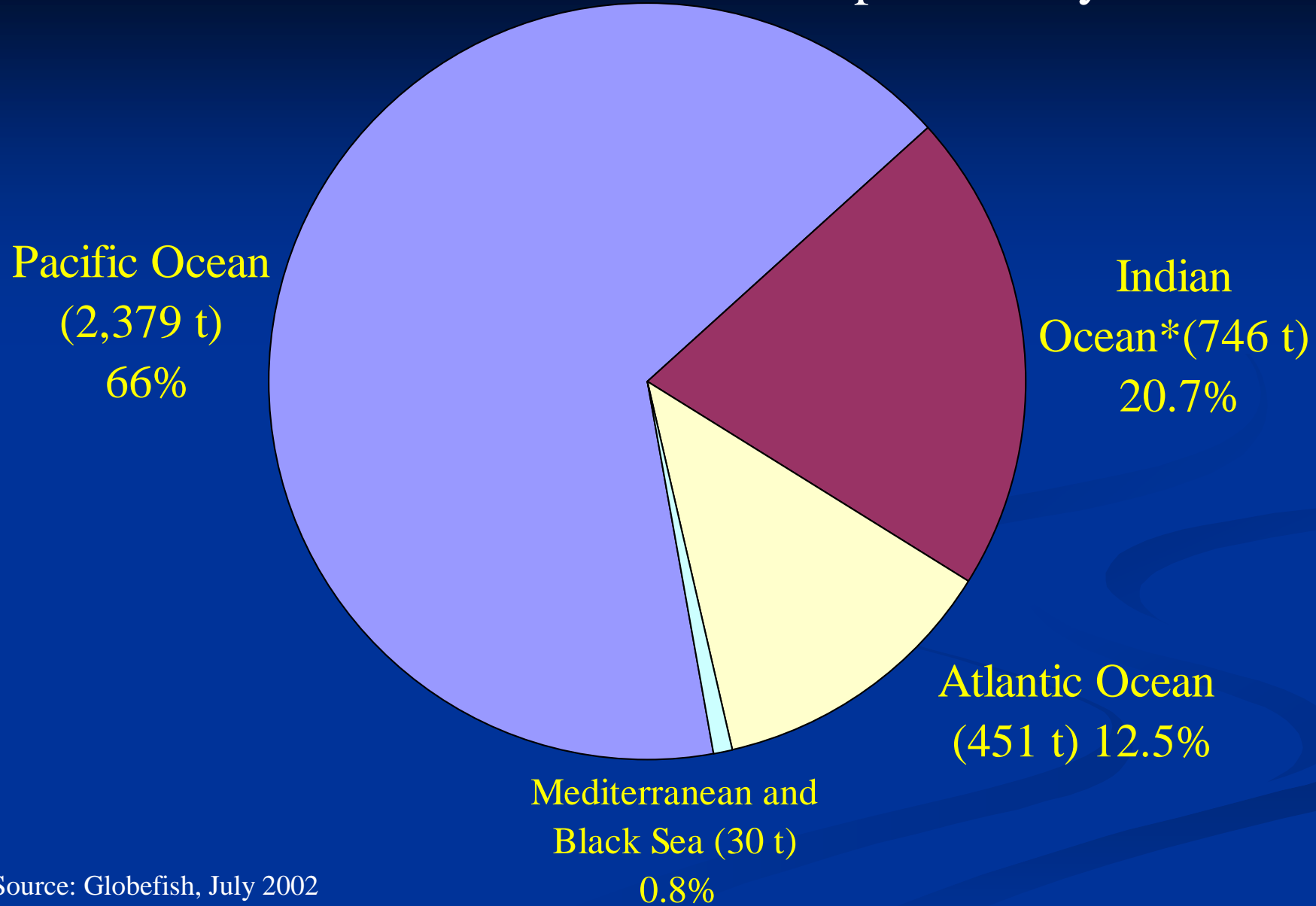
## Reference

- IOTC. 2009. The Report of the IOTC Performance Panel. 53 pp.
- The report of the 10th-12rd session of the working parties meeting.
- <http://www.iotc.org/English/index.php>



- Tunas are among the largest, most specialized and commercially important of all pelagic fish. They are in great demand throughout the world market due to their excellent meat quality

# Total World Tuna Catches Composition by Ocean



Source: Globefish, July 2002

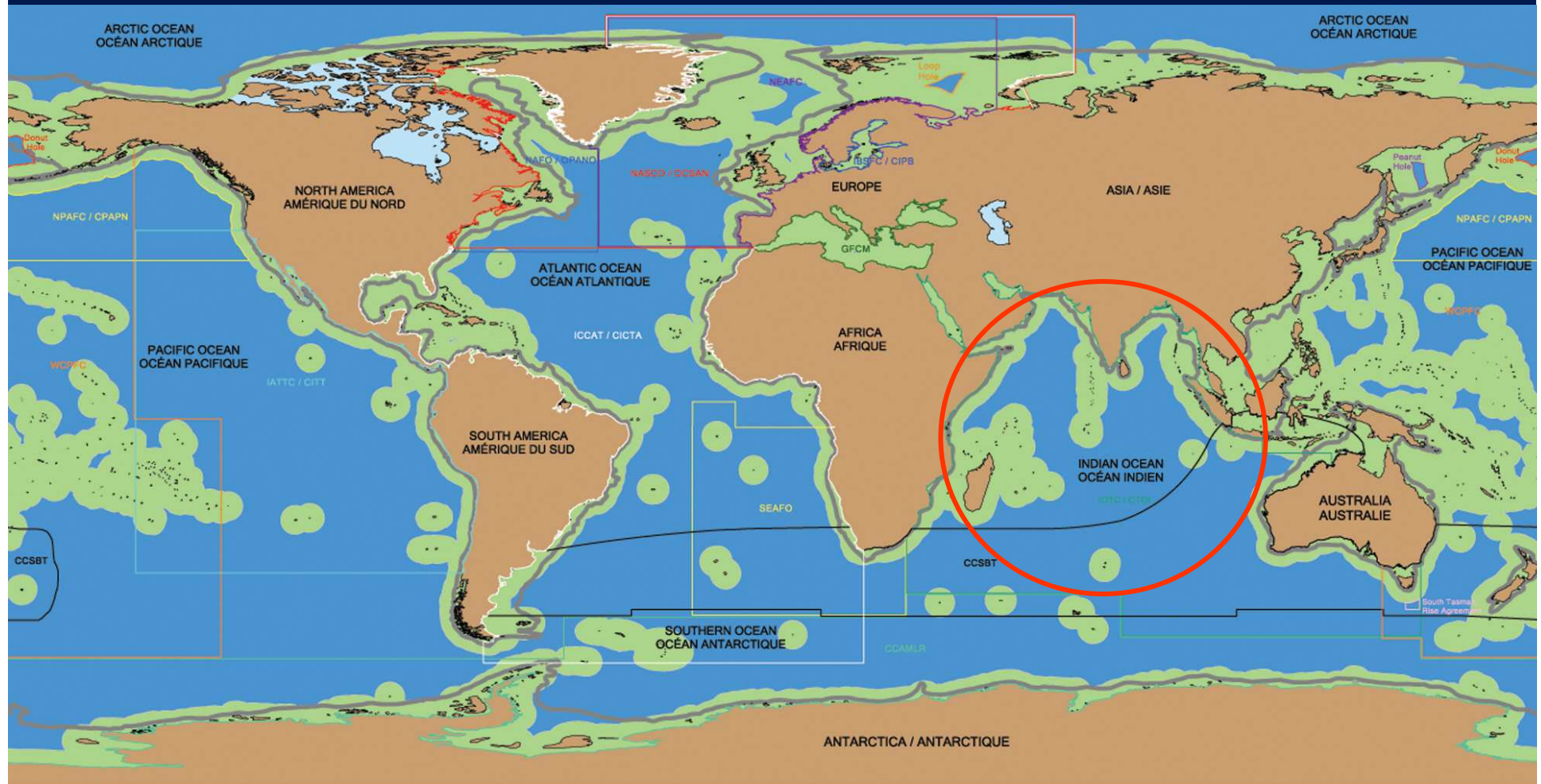
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# Regional Fisheries Management Organization



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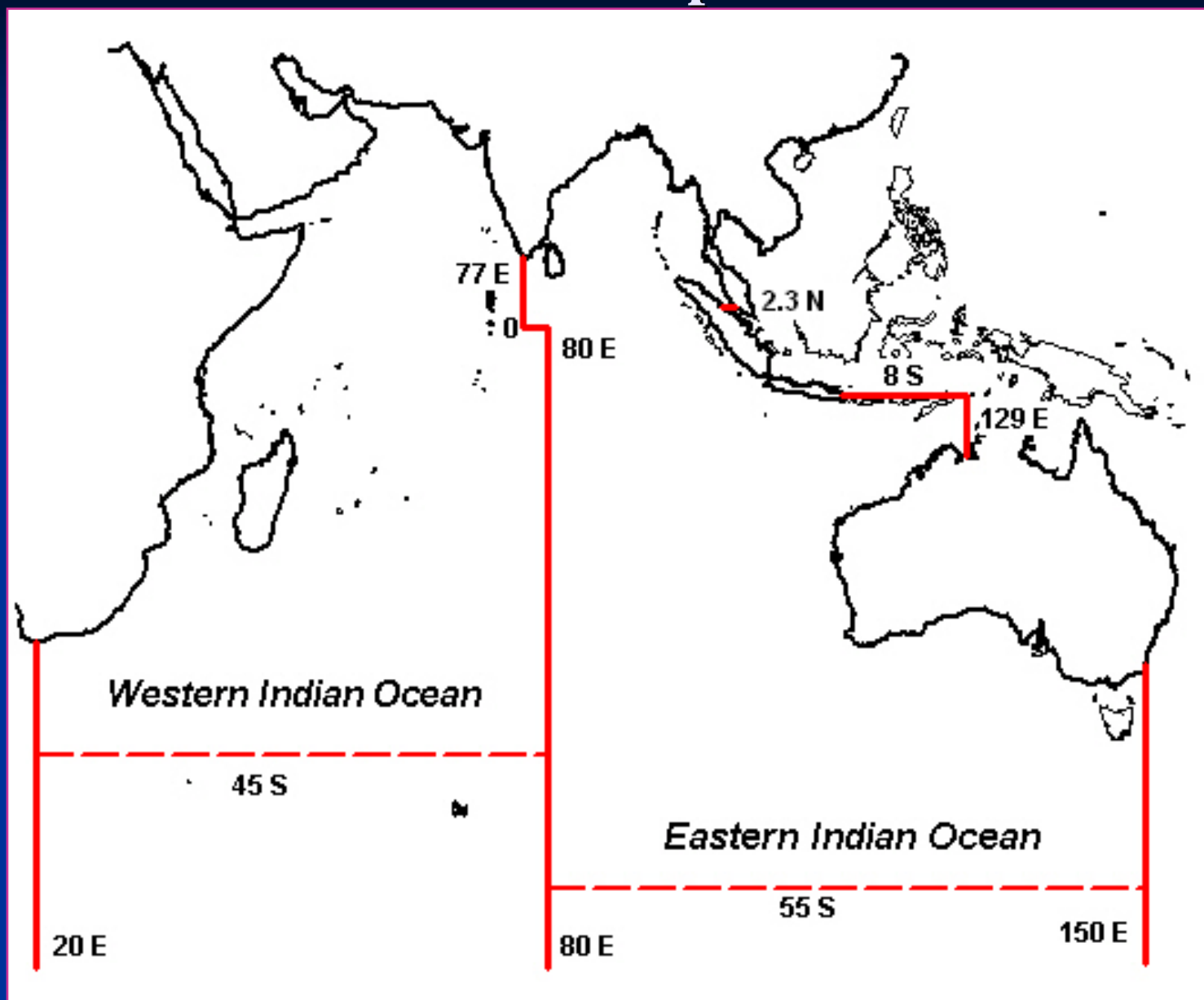
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# Indian Ocean Tuna Commission: IOTC

The IOTC is an intergovernmental organization established under Article XIV of the FAO constitution and is located within the FAO framework. The IOTC agreement was concluded in 1993 and entered into force in 1998.

# Area of Competence





**Tuna**

## SPECIES under IOTC Management



**Billfish**

Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)

Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)

Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)

Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*)

Bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*)

Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*)

Indo-Pacific king mackerel (*Scomberomorus guttatus*)

Narrow barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commersoni*)

### **Neritic tuna**

Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)

Striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*)

Black marlin (*Makaira indica*)

Indo-Pacific sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*)

Indo-Pacific blue marlin (*Makaira mazara*)

Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*)

Frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*)



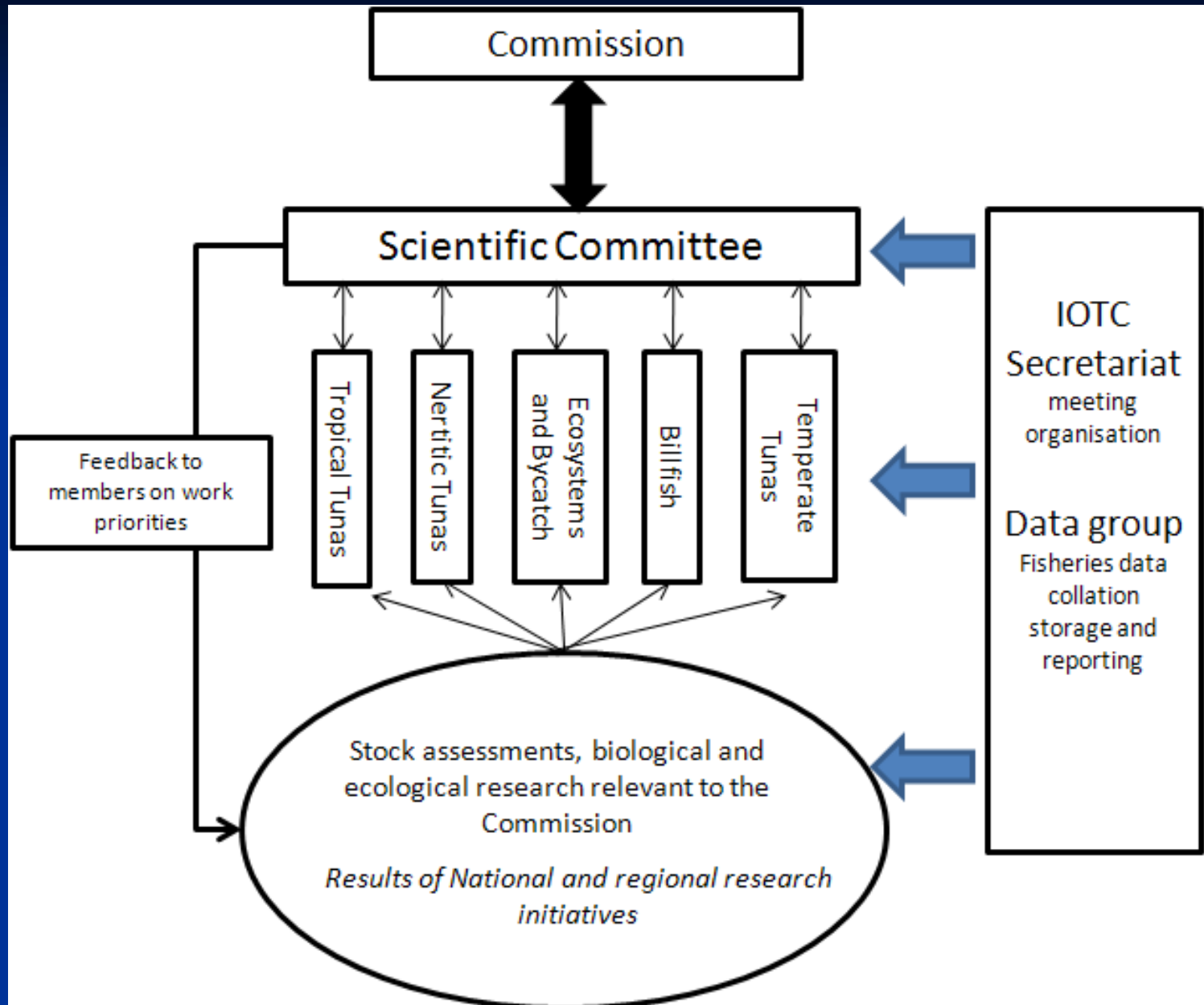


## Mandate and Objective

- The IOTC is mandated to manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas

*“Conservation and optimum utilization of the stocks  
for long term sustainability”*

# Structure of the Commission



# 29 Members and 3 cooperating non-contracting parties

Australia	November 1996	Oman	April 2000
Belize	May 2007	Pakistan	April 1995
China	October 1998	Philippines	January 2004
Comoros	August 2001	Seychelles	July 1995
Eritrea	August 1994	Sierra Leone	July 2008
European Community	October 1995	Sri Lanka	June 1994
France Overseas Territories	December 1996	Sudan	December 1996
Guinea	January 2005	Tanzania	April 2007
India	March 1995	Thailand	March 1997
Indonesia	July 2007	Unite Kingdom Oversea Territories	March 1995
Iran, Islamic Republic	January 2002	Vanuatu	October 2002
Japan	June 1996	<b>COOPERATING PARTIES</b>	
Kenya	September 2004	Senegal	May 2006
Korea, Republic of	March 1996	South Africa	June 2005
Madagascar	January 1996	Uruguay	May 2007
Malaysia	May 1998		
Mauritius	December 1994		

# Indian Ocean Tuna Commission: IOTC

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- The United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) Review Conference
- The Food and Agriculture Organization's Committee on Fisheries (FAO COFI)
- The St. John's Conference on the Governance of High Seas Fisheries
- The Ministerially-led High Seas Task Force on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

# The Status of Stocks

- The stocks of skipjack, albacore and swordfish outside the south-western Indian Ocean appear moderately exploited and there is some room for increasing harvests for these stocks while maintaining biomass at or above Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)

# The Status of Stocks

- The stocks of swordfish in the south-western Indian Ocean and of bigeye tuna throughout the Indian Ocean appear to be at least fully exploited and fishing pressure is near MSY.

# The Status of Stocks

- High levels of **juvenile bigeye tuna and yellowfin** tuna harvest have reduced the long-term maximum sustainable catch and associated optimal fishing effort for these stocks.

*“ a reduction in catch by all gears for these stocks ”*

# The Status of Stocks

- For **yellowfin tuna**, conservation measures thus far adopted by the Commission have not prevented the stock from **being overfished** and stock biomass may now be **below the BMSY**



# The Status of Stocks

- For the remaining stocks of concern to the Commission, there is little quantitative information on stock status available and their status is uncertain.

*“However, there are worrying signs in catch rate patterns for some stocks of marlins, which may indicate decline to well below the BMSY*

## Legal aspect

- The LOSC
- **FAO Compliance Agreement**
- **The UNSFA**
- The 1995 CCRF
- **FAO International Plans of Action**

IPOA-seabird

IPOA-sharks

IPOA-capacity

IPOA-IUU

The IOTC Members who have ratified or acceded to UNFSA  
and/or the FAO Compliance Agreement

Member	UNFSA	FAO Compliance Agreement
Australia		
Belize		
China		
Comoros		
Eritrea		
European Community		
France		*
Guinea		
India		
Indonesia		
Iran, Islamic Rep. of		
Japan		
Kenya		
Korea, Rep. of		

Member	UNFSA	FAO Compliance Agreement
Madagascar		
Malaysia		
Mauritius		
Oman, Sultanate of		
Pakistan		
Philippines		
Seychelles		
Sierra Leone		
Sri Lanka		
Sudan		
Tanzania		
Thailand		
United Kingdom		*
Vanuatu		

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# IPOA-seabird



Reducing bycatch  
of incidental  
seabirds in  
longline fisheries



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# IPOA-sharks



[current.com/items/89013724/100\\_million\\_sharks](http://current.com/items/89013724/100_million_sharks).

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[www.closestofree.org](http://www.closestofree.org)



[www.madmermaids.com](http://www.madmermaids.com)



[www.bluespheremedia.com/.../SharkFin.jpg](http://www.bluespheremedia.com/.../SharkFin.jpg)

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# IPOA-capacity



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# IPOA-capacity



- IOTC should establish a stronger policy on fishing capacity to prevent or eliminate excess fishing capacity



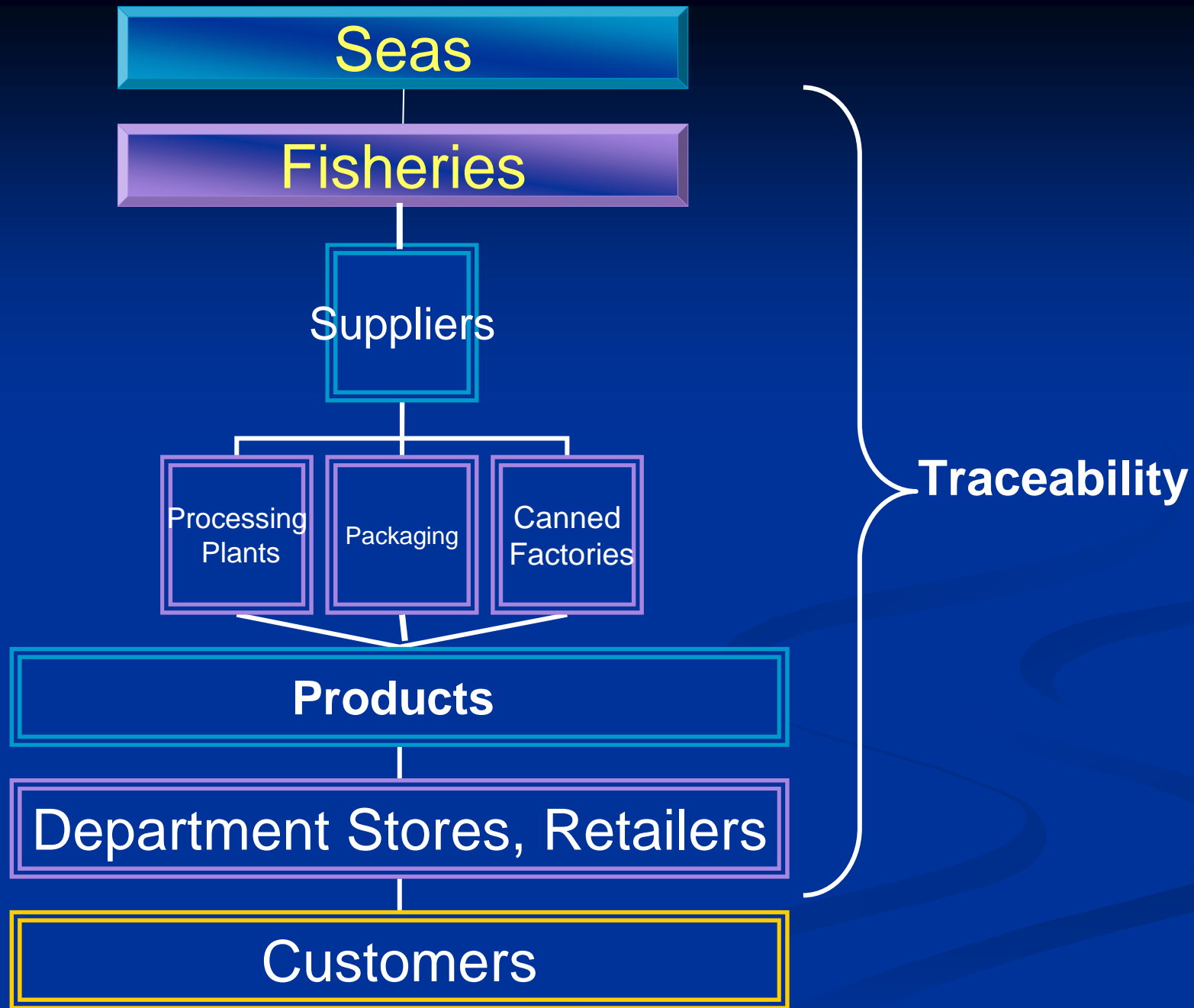
- IOTC should create a **Working Group on Fishing Capacity**

# IPOA-IUU



The IOTC needs the Cooperative mechanism to detect and deter non-compliance which are;

- Flag State Duties,
- Port State Measures,
- Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
- Market related measure





## From Sea to Plate



With harmless to marine ecosystem  
& not involve in IUU fishing

# The Challenges for IOTC

## The Legal Aspect

The Agreement is needed the improvement. The weaknesses and gaps identified are, or have a potential to be, major impediments to the effective and efficient functioning of the Commission and its ability to adopt and implement measures aimed at long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of stocks.

# The Challenges for IOTC

## The Conservation and Management Aspect

- The Adoption of effective conservation and management measures
- Improving the data collection and sharing
- Cooperation with non Members and other RFMOs
- .....



Thank you