Objectives: To establish the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Summary of provisions: The Commission is established within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The species and the area covered by the Agreement are defined in articles II and III. Parties agree that the objective of the Commission is to promote co-operation among its members with a view to ensuring the conservation and optimum utilisation of stocks and encouraging sustainable development in fisheries based on such stocks (art. V). The Commission is to, inter alia, adopt conservation and management measures, promote research and development activities, and transmit to the Director-General of the FAO reports on its activities and programmes. Article IX sets voting procedures concerning the adoption of binding measures and the right of States to object thereto. Parties further undertake to, inter alia, implement the Agreement and conservation and management measures which become binding on them (art. X), and transmit to the Commission an annual statement thereon. Institutional mechanisms: The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is established, with a permanent Scientific Committee (art. XII).

For each State which deposits an instrument of acceptance after 27 May 1996, the date of entry into force for that State is the date of receipt by the Director General of its instrument of acceptance. REGIONAL: Art. II: The area of competence of the Commission (...) shall be the Indian Ocean (defined for the purpose of this Agreement as being FAO statistical areas 51 and 57 as shown on the map set out in Annex A to this Agreement) and adjacent seas, north of the Antarctic Convergence, (...). RESTRICTED: Art. IV: 1. Membership in the Commission shall be open to Members and Associate Members of FAO (a) that are: (i) coastal States or Associate Members situated wholly or partly within the Area; (ii) States or Associate Members whose vessels engage in fishing in the Area for stocks covered by this Agreement; or (iii) regional economic integration organizations of which any State referred to in subparagraphs (i), or (ii) above is a member and to which that State has transferred competence over matters within the purview of this Agreement (...).