



PROGRESS ON REQUESTS FOR ACTION MADE BY THE COMMISSION IN 2017

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PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period on the requests for action made during the 21st Session in 2017.

BACKGROUND

In 2017, the Commission made 33 specific requests for action by a range of parties. The responses to-date are given below.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2018-S22-05 which provided the Commission with an opportunity consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period on the requests for action made during the 21st Session in 2017.

- 2) **CONSIDER** whether any of the requests for action need extending into the ensuing inter-sessional period.

Action		Status
AI = agenda item from the S21 report. P = paragraph number.		
AI 5. Accession of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the IOTC agreement		
1	P10. The Commission REQUESTED the Chairperson to write to the FAO Legal Counsel confirming that the IOTC Members concur with FAO's assessment on the non-eligibility of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to become a Member, and requesting the FAO to take the appropriate action according to that assessment.	Completed.
AI6. Update on the appointment of the Executive Secretary		
2	P16. The Commission AGREED to form a small group to draft a proposal for the above mentioned permanent process that would include consideration of FAO's concerns. A draft terms of reference and an outline of the process to be undertaken in order to submit a document to the FAO Council was developed during the meeting and ENDORSED by the Commission.	Completed.
AI8. Report of the 19th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC19)		
3	P20. The Commission noted that 9 Contracting Parties and 3 Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties did not submit a National Report to the Scientific Committee in 2016, and issues with lack of data and poor quality data persist. The Commission strongly RECOMMENDED that CPCs take immediate steps to review, and where necessary, improve their performance with respect to the provision of data through improved compliance with Resolutions 15/01 <i>On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence</i> , and 15/02 <i>Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties</i> .	The 2017 SC report indicated that 10 CPs and 2 CNCs did not submit a National Report to the Scientific Committee in 2017.
4	P44. The Commission AGREED to continue its deliberations on allocation according to the following plan: (1) Feedback by CPCs on the latest version of IOTC-2017-S21-PropN is to be received by the IOTC Secretariat within 40 days of the end of S21, then to be provided to the proponents of proposal; (2) The Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC) will meet as soon as possible, preferably within three (3) months, to continue its deliberations on, inter alia, the above proposal; and (4) The IOTC Secretariat to consider requesting FAO legal support for the TCAC meeting	Completed. The TCAC met in February 2018. A legal expert from FAO participated.
5	P52. The Commission REQUESTED nominations from members that want to participate in the Pilot Project Steering Committee to be sent to the Secretariat.	Ongoing. A number of nominations have been received, and the Steering Group is yet to meet.

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AI9. Development of management procedures		
6	P56. The Commission AGREED that when establishing a catch limit for skipjack tuna using the Harvest Control Rule (HCR) adopted in Resolution 16/02, the following procedure will be applied: after the review of the assessment of skipjack tuna by the SC, the result of the assessment will be used by the SC in the calculation of a catch limit using the adopted HCR. The Secretariat will then notify to CPC's of the new catch limit for skipjack tuna that will apply for 2018	Completed.
7	P57. The Commission acknowledged the need for capacity building to improve understanding of Management Procedure concepts and their application by CPCs; and to improve the communication of information between scientists and managers. To accommodate these elements, the Commission AGREED that the TCMP meeting could be increased to two (2) days	Completed, the 2018 TCMP meeting was held over two days.
8	P59. The Commission ENDORSED the [TCMP] schedule that was revised during S21 (provided in Appendix 9), noting it is a 'living document' to guide the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in the future. The Commission also REQUESTED that a budget for implementation of the schedule be reviewed by the SCAF in 2018	Completed.
AI10. Report of the 14th Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC14)		
9	P62. The Commission noted the marginal improvement in the levels of compliance of some CPCs in 2016, especially with regards to mandatory statistics. The Commission encouraged all CPCs and the IOTC Secretariat of the need to respect the 15 days deadlines set in the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014) to finalise the Compliance Reports. The Commission AGREED to allow an additional seven days following the deadline for CPCs to finalise their comments on the draft Compliance Reports.	Being implemented.
10	P63. Noting the lack of some of the mandatory information required to be submitted for the inclusion of vessels into the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels, the Commission RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat shall not register new vessels without LOA on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.	Being implemented.
11	P64. The Commission further RECOMMENDED that Resolution 15/04 be revised next year to introduce a clear procedure and criteria to determine when a vessel shall, or shall not, be included in the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels.	This matter was considered by the WPICMM in March 2018. No proposal for a revision of Res15/04 was received in 2018.
12	P66. The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat analyse the fleet development plans submitted in relation to Resolution 15/11, notably those introducing new vessels/capacity, and for CPCs to provide information on the reasons why they have not been able to implement their fleet development plans and to detail a way forward	Completed.

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13	P68. The Commission RECOMMENDED that IOTC should work further on a scheme for the assessment of compliance that develops a structured approach for cases of infringements and better reflects critical compliance issues and partial compliance.	A proposal to revise the TOR of the CoC was received in 2018.
14	P71. The Commission RECOMMENDED that concerns about carrier vessels flagged to non-CPCs that are involved in at-sea transshipment operations in the IOTC area of competence be addressed by submitting a proposal to amend Resolution 14/06 for this purpose.	Res 14/06 has been superseded by Res17/06. There is a proposal to amend Res 17/06 in 2018; however, the proposal does not address the matter of carrier vessels flagged to non-CPCs.
15	P73. The Commission RECOMMENDED those CPCs who have not submitted their national 'Reports of Implementation' for 2016 (Eritrea, Guinea, India, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Yemen, Bangladesh and Djibouti), to do so within 30 days after the end of the Commission meeting. The Chair of the CoC, with the assistance of the IOTC Secretariat shall follow-up with each such CPC.	Completed. The required follow-up was made, but no reports were received.
16	74. The Commission RECOMMENDED that the 'Letter of Feedback on compliance issues' be sent to CPC's by the IOTC Chairperson following the Commission meeting; and this letter will also reflect the Commission's concerns, if the CPC was not participating in relevant IOTC meetings.	Completed.
17	75. The Commission noted that many CPCs are failing to provide nominal catch data and RECOMMENDED that the feedback letter also remind these CPCs of the serious consequences of not providing these data under Resolution 16/06 (i.e. this may result in the Commission prohibiting those CPCs from retaining the concerned species in future).	Completed.
18	P76. The Commission RECOMMENDED that the responses to the feedback letters should be made available to all CPCs at future Compliance Committee meetings.	Completed.
19	P77. The Commission REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat reach out to Country Representatives to the FAO or the FAO Representatives in country, to better understand the reasons for the lack of engagement by certain CPCs with the Commission; and, where possible, for the IOTC Secretariat to undertake missions to assist these CPCs.	Ongoing.
20	P79. The Commission RECOMMENDED that Oman provide the results of investigations of possible infractions identified by the IOTC Observers.	Completed.
21	83. The Commission further REQUESTED the Chair of the Commission to express the concerns of the Commission to India over the lack of information at hand during COC14 and S21 deliberations relating to the cases of the vessels removed from the IOTC Provisional IUU Vessels List.	Completed.

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22 87. The Commission expressed its disappointment that India had not provided its information earlier, as foreseen in the procedures for the review of IUU vessels listing, and RECOMMENDED that the Chair of the Commission write to India and express the Commission concerns about its delayed response and engagement to these serious matters.	Completed – see above.
23 90. The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat continue with its capacity building activities and strengthen activities that would allow CPCs to address the issues of mandatory statistics and the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme	Ongoing.
24 106. The Commission was of the opinion that the text of paragraph 5 of Resolution 15/11 was ambiguous and needed to be redrafted in much clearer language should this Resolution be amended in the future.	A proposal to revise Res 15/11 was received in 2018; however, this does not address paragraph 5.
25 107. The Commission also noted that the extension of the applicability Resolution 15/11 needed to be reviewed, and RECOMMENDED that the WPICMM discuss this.	Completed.
26 114. Where required, the Commission RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat assist CPCs to recover and report data sets for the sport and recreational fisheries.	Ongoing.
27 116. With a view to further reducing IUU fishing, the Commission REQUESTED that the Technical Committee on the Performance Review consider, and report back to the Commission, on the matter of sharing and cross-listing of IUU lists with other RFMOs in order to combat IUU activities globally.	Completed. A proposal for cross listing of IUU lists was received in 2018.
28 119. The Commission AGREED to defer IOTC-2017-S21-PropG <i>Working party on socio-economic aspect of the fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence</i> (Seychelles). The Commission noted the dearth of information available on the social and economic aspects of tuna fisheries in general, and expressed its desire to begin to collect relevant social and economic information, and use it when both developing and evaluating IOTC management measures. To this end the Commission REQUESTED the Secretariat to implement a scoping study to identify what types of social and economic data are most relevant to CPCs and IOTC, and how these data can be obtained. This is expected to include information about the past and present socio-economic conditions and indicators in IOTC fisheries of CPCs including <i>inter alia</i> the socio-economic contribution to the fisheries, respective economic dependence on fish stocks, economic and social importance of the fishery, contribution to national food security needs, domestic consumption, income from exports and employment.	Ongoing. The OFCF is leading a project (in collaboration with the Secretariat) to derive a method for evaluating the economic and social contributions derived from the use of fish resources. This work will also examine the types of socio-economic information available from IOTC members. A proposal for a scoping study of socio-economic indicators of IOTC fisheries was received in 2018.

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AI12. Performance Review of the IOTC		
29	P133. The Commission noted paper IOTC-2017-S21-08_Rev1 which outlined the progress on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the report of the 2nd Performance Review Panel (Appendix A of the aforementioned report), and RECOMMENDED that this be discussed at the TCPR meeting.	Completed.
AI13. Conservation and Management Measures		
30	P136. The Commission AGREED to extend the applicability of the Resolution 15/08 for an additional year, and REQUESTED the Compliance Committee to complete this task and provide a draft FAD marking scheme for its consideration at S22.	The FAO is currently developing a global FAD marking scheme that will presented a COFI in 2018. The results of this work may have application to IOTC.
31	P138. The Commission AGREED to extend the applicability of Resolution 15/11 for an additional year; however, the Commission also AGREED that Resolution 15/11, as it currently stands, may not be extended beyond 2018. Some CPCs highlighted that they would work to table a resolution proposal on capacity in 2018.	A proposal to revise Res 15/11 was received in 2018.
AI14. Other Business		
32	P148. The Commission acknowledged its long term partnership with the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF). Since 2002 IOTC and OFCF have collaborated to strengthen data collection, reporting and dissemination. To date, around 20 countries have received assistance. The Commission noted that OFCF is generously offering to extend the current MOU with IOTC for another year and REQUESTED the Secretariat to work with OFCF to achieve this end.	Completed.
33	P151. The Commission REQUESTED the Secretariat develop a 'Letter of Intent' to describe the specific nature of cooperation between IOTC and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The Commission AGREED that this will be circulated to all CPCs for final approval prior to signature by the IOTC Executive Secretary.	No progress since S21.