
OUTCOMES OF THE 22nd SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT¹, 10 OCTOBER 2018

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 9th Working Party on Methods (WPM09) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 22nd Session, held in May 2018, specifically relating to the work of the WPM.

BACKGROUND

At the 22nd Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 10 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 10 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), as detailed below:

Resolutions

- Resolution 18/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence*
- Resolution 18/02 *On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries*
- Resolution 18/03 *On establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the IOTC Area of Competence*
- Resolution 18/04 *On bioFAD experimental project*
- Resolution 18/05 *On management measures for the conservation for the conservation of billfish, striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish*
- Resolution 18/06 *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels*
- Resolution 18/07 *On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC*
- Resolution 18/08 *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including a limitation on the number of FADs, more detailed specifications of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved fad design to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species*
- Resolution 18/09 *On a scoping study of socio-economic indicators of IOTC fisheries*
- Resolution 18/10 *On vessel chartering in the IOTC Area of Competence.*

Pursuant to Article IX.4 of the IOTC Agreement, the above-mentioned Conservation and Management Measures shall become binding on Members, 120 days from the date of the notification communicated by the Secretariat.

DISCUSSION

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2017, which have relevance for the WPM (IOTC–2018–S22–R):

Report of the 20th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC20)

*(Para. 26): The Commission **NOTED** the stock status summaries for species of tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as other species impacted by IOTC fisheries ([Appendix 5](#)) and considered the recommendations made by the SC20 in its report that related specifically to the Commission. The Commission **ENDORSED** the SC 2017 list of recommendations as its own, noting the additional activities requested by the Commission at this meeting.*

On the status of billfish

¹ secretariat@iotc.org

*(Para 50): The Commission **NOTED** that, in accordance with the MSE work program endorsed at the 21st Session of the Commission, the swordfish MSE was initiated in 2017.*

Report of the 2nd Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP02)

*(Para 74): The Commission **NOTED** that the Harvest Control Rule was implemented for skipjack tuna through Resolution 16/02 and **ENCOURAGED** CPCs to begin to develop management proposals for other IOTC species that are based on TCMP outputs and advice once the results of the current MSE analyses are reviewed and endorsed.*

The complete report of the 22nd Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website: <http://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2018/06/IOTC-2018-S22-RE.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPM:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2019–WPM09–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 22nd Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPM and **AGREE** to consider how best to provide the SC with the information it needs, in order to satisfy the Commission’s requests, throughout the course of the current WPEB meeting.
- 2) **NOTE** the 10 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 22nd Session of the Commission (consisting of 10 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations).