

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES REQUIRING ACTION BY THE COMMISSION IN 2017

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 20 MAY 2017

PURPOSE

To inform the Commission of previous decisions contained in IOTC Conservation and Management Measures, on which the Commission agreed to take action at its 20th Session in 2016 and 21st Session in 2017, or for which action was required in previous years but has not yet occurred.

BACKGROUND

This document was prepared as a meeting document for the 20th Session of the Commission, but due to time constraints, it was not reviewed at the last Commission meeting. The document is now updated to also consider issues that require the attention of the Commission in 2017.

The Commission has considered and adopted a range of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) in the past that included both timeframes for actions to be taken and potential renewal of the CMMs upon completion of those actions. The sections below highlight CMMs that the Commission had previously agreed shall be reconsidered in 2016 and 2017.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **Resolution 15/08** *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 designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species*

Para 16 of the Resolution states:

From January 2016, CPCs shall require all artificial FADs deployed or modified by their flagged fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence to be marked in accordance with a detailed marking scheme, e.g. including FAD marking or beacon ID. The marking scheme shall be developed and considered for adoption by the Commission at its regular annual session in 2016, based on recommendations from the IOTC Scientific Committee as requested by the Commission. The marking scheme should take into account, as a minimum, the following:

- a) *All artificial FADs shall be marked with a unique identification number, based on a specific numbering system and format to be adopted by the Commission;*
- b) *The marking should be easy to read before the vessel operator engages in any artificial FAD related activity (e.g. setting on the artificial FAD, retrieving the artificial FAD, servicing the artificial FAD, fishing on the artificial FAD), but if not visible for any reason, (time of day, weather, etc.), the vessel operator shall ensure to obtain the unique artificial FAD identifier as soon as feasible;*
- c) *The marking should be easy to apply to the artificial FAD, but should be applied in such a manner that it will not become unreadable or disassociated with the artificial FAD.*

Suggested action:

Recalling that in 2015 the Commission (IOTC-2015-S19-R) noted the following:

Para. 32. *The Commission **NOTED** the advice from the Scientific Committee that as there was no scientific data requirements for the physical marking of FADs, as requested by the Commission in Para. 8 of Resolution 13/08, the Commission should adopt a marking scheme for compliance purposes and not for scientific purposes. Other information relevant to the science process is collected in logbooks.*

Thus, the Commission should task the Compliance Committee, to develop the required marking scheme.

2) **Resolution 15/11 On the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties**

This Resolution calls on CPCs to implement a limitation on their fishing capacity targeting tropical tunas, swordfish and albacore stocks, while allowing for the inclusion of vessels under construction during specific reference years, proposed by CPCs in their fleet development plans.

Para 10 of the Resolution states:

Para 10. *This Resolution is applicable during the years 2015 and 2016. The Commission shall review its implementation at the 2016 IOTC Session.*

Para 122 of IOTC-2016-S20-R states:

Para 122. *The Commission **AGREED** to extend the applicability of the Resolution for an additional year and that the Commission shall review its implementation at the 2017 IOTC Session.*

Suggested actions:

The Commission is invited to consider whether it wishes to extend the period of applicability of this Resolution.

3) **Resolution 12/06 on reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries**

Para 8 of the Resolution states:

Para. 8. *The IOTC Scientific Committee, based notably on the work of the WPEB and information from CPCs, will analyse the impact of this Resolution on seabird bycatch no later than for the 2016 meeting of the Commission. It shall advise the Commission on any modifications that are required, based on experience to date of the operation of the Resolution and/or further international studies, research or advice on best practice on the issue, in order to make the Resolution more effective.*

Suggested actions:

As the Resolution did not take effect until 1 July 2014, only limited data was available in 2015 for analysis so in 2016 the IOTC WPEB made a call for data on this topic and associated working papers for consideration at its 2016 session (circular 2016-043). The SC concluded that overall, the preliminary information available suggests that the mitigation measures may be proving effective in some cases, but there are also some aspects that need to be explored further. The Commission may examine the results of the analysis in 2017¹.

4) **Resolution 12/12 To prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC area**

This Resolution bans the use of large-scale driftnets (more than 2.5 km long) on the high seas within the IOTC area of competence.

Paragraph 6 of this Resolution states that “*The IOTC shall periodically assess whether additional measures should be adopted and implemented to ensure that large-scale driftnets are not used on the high seas in the IOTC area of competence. The first such assessment shall take place in 2013.*”

Suggested action: To consider the effectiveness of the current Resolution and agree if other steps are required to strengthen it, as the review is now 3 years overdue. Noting Proposal K, which aims to amend Resolution 12/12 *On the prohibition to use large-scale driftnets in the IOTC Area*, to be discussed at S21, the Commission should consider if the proposal will result in the strengthening of this Resolution.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2017-S21-11 which presented the previous decisions contained in IOTC Conservation and Management Measures, on which the Commission agreed to take action at its 20th Session in 2016 and 21st Session in 2017, or for which action was required in previous years but has not yet occurred; and
- 2) **CONSIDERS** how to address each of the previously agreed requirements detailed in the paper.

¹ IOTC-2016-SC19-INF02