

REVIEW OF CURRENT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES RELATING TO NERITIC TUNA SPECIES

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 16 JUNE 2013

PURPOSE

To encourage the Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT) to review some of the existing Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) relating to neritic tunas, noting the CMMs contained in document IOTC–2013–WPNT03–04; and as necessary to 1) provide recommendations to the Scientific Committee on whether modifications may be required; and 2) recommend whether other CMMs may be required.

BACKGROUND

In addition to the CMMs outlined in document IOTC–2013–WPNT03–04, neritic tunas in the Indian Ocean are currently subject to several other Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission. In an attempt to focus the efforts of the WPNT, it is our aim to have participants annually review one of the key CMMs based on scientific advice, or which match current requests from the Commission. At next year's meeting, an alternative CMM may be presented for discussion.

Resolution 10/02: *mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPC's)*. This resolution sets out mandatory minimum requirements for the annual submission of fisheries statistics to the IOTC Secretariat. This resolution applies to all tuna and tuna-like species.

DISCUSSION

As part of best practice, the WPNT is obliged to review existing CMMs and consider whether their science-based components need to be modified or updated. If this is the case, then the WPNT should provide clear, science-based recommendations for the SC's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

Noting the information contained in working paper IOTC–2013–WPNT03–04, the WPNT should aim to provide recommendations to the SC that clearly outline whether changes to Resolution 10/02 are required, and/or to recommend whether other CMMs may be required.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: *Resolution 10/02 Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPC's)*

APPENDIX A

RESOLUTION 10/02 MANDATORY STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC MEMBERS AND COOPERATING NON- CONTRACTING PARTIES (CPC'S)

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

GIVEN that the Agreement for the implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) encourages coastal States and fishing States on the high seas to collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, inter alia, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort.

NOTING that the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing provides that States should compile fishery-related and other supporting scientific data relating to fish stocks covered by subregional or regional fisheries management organizations and provide them in a timely manner to the organization.

RECALLING the commitment made by members under Article V of the IOTC Agreement to keep under review the conditions and trends of the stocks and to gather, analyse and disseminate scientific information, catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation and management of the stocks and to fisheries based on the stocks covered by the Agreement.

COGNISANT that the above commitment can only be achieved when members meet the requirements of Article XI of the IOTC Agreement i.e. to provide statistical and other data and information to minimum specifications and in a timely manner.

ACKNOWLEDGING that the IOTC Scientific Committee has repeatedly stressed the importance of the timeliness of data submissions.

GIVEN that the activities of supply vessels and the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet.

CONSIDERING the provisions set forth in *Resolution 08/01 on mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting parties (CPCs)*, adopted by the Commission in 2008;

CONSIDERING the deliberations of the 12th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee held in Victoria, Seychelles from 30 November to 4 December 2009

ADOPTS, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, paragraph 1 of the IOTC Agreement, the following:

1. CPC's shall provide the following information to the IOTC Secretariat according to the timelines specified in paragraph 6:
2. **Nominal catch data:**
Estimates of the total annual catch by species and gear for all species under the IOTC mandate.
3. **Catch and effort data:**
 - a) **For surface fisheries:** catch weight by species and fishing effort shall be provided by 1° grid area and month strata. Purse seine fishery data shall be stratified by fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects). The data shall be extrapolated to the total national monthly catches for each gear. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely.
 - b) **Longline fisheries:** catch by species, in numbers or weight, and effort as the number of hooks deployed shall be provided by 5° grid area and month strata. Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely. For

the work of relevant working parties under the IOTC Scientific Committee, longline data should be of a resolution of 1° grid area and month or finer. These data would be for the exclusive use of IOTC scientists, subject to the approval of the data owners and IOTC Resolution 98/02 *Data confidentiality policy and procedures*, and should be provided for scientific use in a timely fashion.

- c) **For coastal fisheries:** available catch by species, fishing gear and fishing effort shall be submitted frequently and may be provided using an alternative geographical area if it better represents the fishery concerned.

These provisions, applicable to tuna and tuna-like species, shall also be applicable to the most commonly caught shark species and, where possible, to the less common shark species. CPC's are also encouraged to record and provide data on species other than sharks and tunas taken as bycatch.

4. **Size data:**

Size data shall be provided for all gears and for all species covered by the IOTC mandate according to the guidelines set out by the IOTC Scientific Committee. Size sampling shall be run under strict and well described random sampling schemes which are necessary to provide unbiased figures of the sizes taken. Sampling coverage shall be set to at least one fish measured by ton caught, by species and type of fishery, with samples being representative of all the periods and areas fished. Alternatively, size data for longline fleets may be provided as part of the Regional Observer Scheme where such fleets have at least 5% observer coverage of all fishing operations. Length data by species, including the total number of fish measured, shall be submitted by a 5° grid area by month, by gear and fishing mode (e.g. free swimming schools or schools in association with floating objects for the purse seiners). Documents covering sampling and raising procedures shall also be provided, by species and type of fishery.

5. Given that the activities of supply vessels and the use of **Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)** are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet, the following data shall be provided:

- a) The number and characteristics of supply vessels: (i) operating under their flag, (ii) assisting purse seine vessels operating under their flag, or (iii) licensed to operate in their exclusive economic zones, and that have been present in the IOTC Area.
- b) Number of days at sea by supply vessels by 1° grid area and month to be reported by the flag state of the supply vessel.
- c) The total number and type of FADs set by the supply vessel and purse seine fleet per quarter. Types of FADs are defined as 1) drifting log or debris, 2) drifting raft or fad with a net, 3) drifting raft or fad without a net, 4) other (e.g. Payao, dead animal etc). All types monitored by a tracking system.

These data would be for the exclusive use of IOTC scientists, subject to the approval of the data owners and Resolution 98/02 *Data confidentiality policy and procedures*, and should be provided in a timely fashion.

6. **Timeliness of data submission to the IOTC Secretariat:**

- a) Longline fleets operating in the high seas shall provide provisional data for the previous year no later than 30 June. Final data shall be submitted no later than 30 December.
- b) All other fleets (including supply vessels) shall submit their final data for the previous year no later than 30 June.
- c) In case where the final statistics cannot be submitted by that date, at least preliminary statistics should be provided. Beyond a delay of two years, all revisions of historical data should be formally reported and duly justified. These reports should be made on forms provided by the Secretariat and reviewed by the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee will advise the Secretariat if revisions are then accepted for scientific use.

7. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 08/01 on *Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting parties (CPCs)*.