

OUTCOMES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 03 JULY 2013

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the Third Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT03) of the decision and requests made by the Commission at its Seventeenth Session, held from 6–10 May 2013, specifically relating to the work of the WPNT

BACKGROUND

At the 17th Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 11 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (11 in total consisting of 11 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), as detailed below:

Resolutions

- Resolution 13/01 *On the removal of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures*
- Resolution 13/02 *Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 13/03 *On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 13/04 *On the conservation of cetaceans*
- Resolution 13/05 *On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*)*
- Resolution 13/06 *On a scientific and management framework on the Conservation of sharks species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries*
- Resolution 13/07 *Concerning a record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC area of competence and access agreement information*
- Resolution 13/08 *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including more detailed specification of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species*
- Resolution 13/09 *On the conservation of albacore caught in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 13/10 *On interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework*
- Resolution 13/11 *On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna and non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels 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 in IOTC Circular 2013–49 (17 May 2013), i.e. 14 September 2013.

Although there were no new proposals considered during the 16th Session which specifically addressed neritic tunas, several of those adopted have a more general relevance to the work of the WPNT, as discussed below:

Resolutions

Resolution 13/02 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence

Resolution 13/03 On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence

Resolution 13/11 On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna and non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC area of competence

DISCUSSION

The Report of the Seventeenth Session of the Commission is currently being adopted via correspondence and is expected to be available for download from the IOTC website in English or French in the coming weeks.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPNT **NOTE** paper IOTC–2013–WPNT03–04 which outlined the main outcomes of the Seventeenth Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPNT 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 WPNT meeting.

That the WPNT **NOTED** the 11 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the Seventeenth Session of the Commission (consisting of 11 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), and in particular the following three CMMs which have a direct impact on the work of the WPNT: Resolution 13/02 *Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence*; Resolution 13/03 *On the recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence*; Resolution 13/11 *On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna and non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC area of competence*.