

OUTCOMES OF THE 18th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 13 JUNE 2014

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 4th Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT04) of the decision and requests made by the Commission at its 18th Session, held from 1–5 June 2014, specifically relating to the work of the WPNT

BACKGROUND

At the 18th Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 7 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (7 in total consisting of 6 Resolutions and 1 Recommendation), as detailed below:

Resolutions

- Resolution 14/01 *On the removal of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures*
- Resolution 14/02 *For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 14/03 *On enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers*
- Resolution 14/04 *Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 14/05 *Concerning a record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC area of competence and access agreement information*
- Resolution 14/06 *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels*

Recommendations

- Recommendation 14/07 *To standardise the presentation of scientific information in the annual Scientific Committee report and in Working Party reports*

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 2014–60 (10 June 2014, i.e. 8 October 2014).

DISCUSSION

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2013, which have relevance for the WPNT as follows (paragraph numbers refer to the report of the Commission (IOTC–2014–S18–R)):

Para. 37. *The Commission **AGREED** that data quality was integral to the accuracy of stock assessments. IOTC is one of the most transparent tuna RFMO's about describing the quality of the information used in its assessments. The data issues are common in other RFMO's but rarely acknowledged and described in such detail in the assessment reports.*

Para. 40. *The Commission **NOTED** some minor improvements in the quantity of fisheries statistics available to the SC and its Working Parties in 2013 but reiterated its concerns about the lack of fisheries data from some gears and fleets for target and bycatch species. Specifically, many fisheries statistics are missing or incomplete for some industrial and artisanal fisheries. As such, the Commission **REQUESTED** that all CPCs improve their data collection and reporting to the IOTC, especially taking into account that the Commission has initiated the consultation process on developing criteria for a quota allocation system.*

Para. 41. *The Commission NOTED the request from the SC to increase the IOTC Capacity Building budget line so that capacity building workshops/training can be carried out in 2014 and 2015 on the collection, reporting and analyses of catch and effort data for neritic tuna and tuna-like species. Where appropriate these training sessions shall include information that explains the entire IOTC process from data collection to analysis and how the information collected is used by the Commission to develop Conservation and Management Measures.*

Note: in relation to para 41, the Commission approved an increase in the Capacity Building budget line from US\$80,000 to US\$111,000. A total of US\$11,000 has been allocated to meet the request of para. 41 in 2014, and 36,000 in 2015.

The complete report of the 18th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website:

- English: <http://iotc.org/documents/report-eighteenth-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission>
- French: <http://iotc.org/fr/documents/rapport-de-la-dix-huitieme-session-de-la-commission-des-thons-de-l%E2%80%99oc%C3%A9an-indien>

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPNT

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2014–WPNT04–04 which outlined the main outcomes of the 18th 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.
- 2) **NOTED** the 7 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 18th Session of the Commission (consisting of 6 Resolutions and 1 Recommendation), and in particular, Recommendation 14/07 *To standardise the presentation of scientific information in the annual Scientific Committee report and in Working Party reports*, which has a direct impact on the work of the WPNT.