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# 2<sup>nd</sup> WORKSHOP ON CONNECTING THE IOTC SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCESSES (SMWS02) The IOTC Process

**INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION**  
**Secretariat**

<http://www.iotc.org>



# THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE IOTC

- Contracting Parties (Currently 32 Members):
  17. Malaysia
  18. Mauritius
  19. Mozambique
  20. Oman
  21. Pakistan
  22. Philippine
  23. Seychelles
  24. Sierra Leone
  25. Somalia
  26. Sri Lanka
  27. Sudan
  28. Tanzania
  29. Thailand
  30. UK
  31. Vanuatu
  32. Yemen
- Australia
- Belize
- China
- Comoros
- Eritrea
- European Union
- France
- Guinea
- Iran
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Kenya
- Korea
- Madagascar
- Maldives

## Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:

1. Djibouti
2. Senegal
3. South Africa



# THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE IOTC

- Fundamentally, the IOTC is a joint decision-making mechanism with actions taken at the individual country level via a three-step process:
  - Development of scientific advice
  - Decision making based on advice received
  - National implementation and compliance with decisions made
  - Objection and withdrawal of the objection.
- Requires effectiveness at all three stages for the IOTC to work effectively and, in particular, an effective implementation of the actions agreed for them to have any effect.
- The challenge continues to be how to maintain a constructive process and a dialogue in the midst of the diversity among individual CPCs.



## FOUNDATIONS OF THE IOTC

- 1958: The Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas of 1958



UNCLOS - 1982

- Article 64: calls for the coastal State and the DWFS to cooperate, through appropriate international organizations, with the objective of ensuring the conservation and optimum utilization of these stocks **within, as well as beyond, the EEZ.**



## FOUNDATIONS OF THE IOTC

### UNCLOS - 1982

- Article 116 subjects this right to fish on the high seas to other treaty obligations, and **to the rights and duties as well as the interests of coastal states**
- Articles 117 and 118 provide for the duty to cooperate with other States whose nationals fish in the same area or for the same stocks in taking measures necessary for the conservation of those stocks. **This duty can be discharged by direct cooperation or by establishing an RFMO.**



## FOUNDATIONS OF THE IOTC

### UNFSA - 1985

- Motivated by the concern about the status of **shared stocks**, the UNFSA reinforced UNCLOS provisions for these stocks
- To seek effective and compatible conservation and management regimes both **inside and outside areas of national jurisdiction**
- Conservation and management measures should be established on the basis of a **precautionary approach** and should use reference points for establishing the level of utilisation of stocks





# INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION

1993

Following a lengthy consultation process, the IOTC Agreement to establish the IOTC was approved by the FAO Council.

## The Commission's core objectives

*The Commission shall promote cooperation among its Members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the **conservation and optimum utilization of stocks** covered by this [IOTC] Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks.*  
(Article V.1)





## INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION

### The Commission's core objectives (cont.)

*To adopt, in accordance with Article IX and **on the basis of scientific evidence**, conservation and management measures, to ensure the conservation of the stocks covered by this Agreement and to promote the objective of their optimum utilization throughout the Area.*

*(Article V.2.d)*

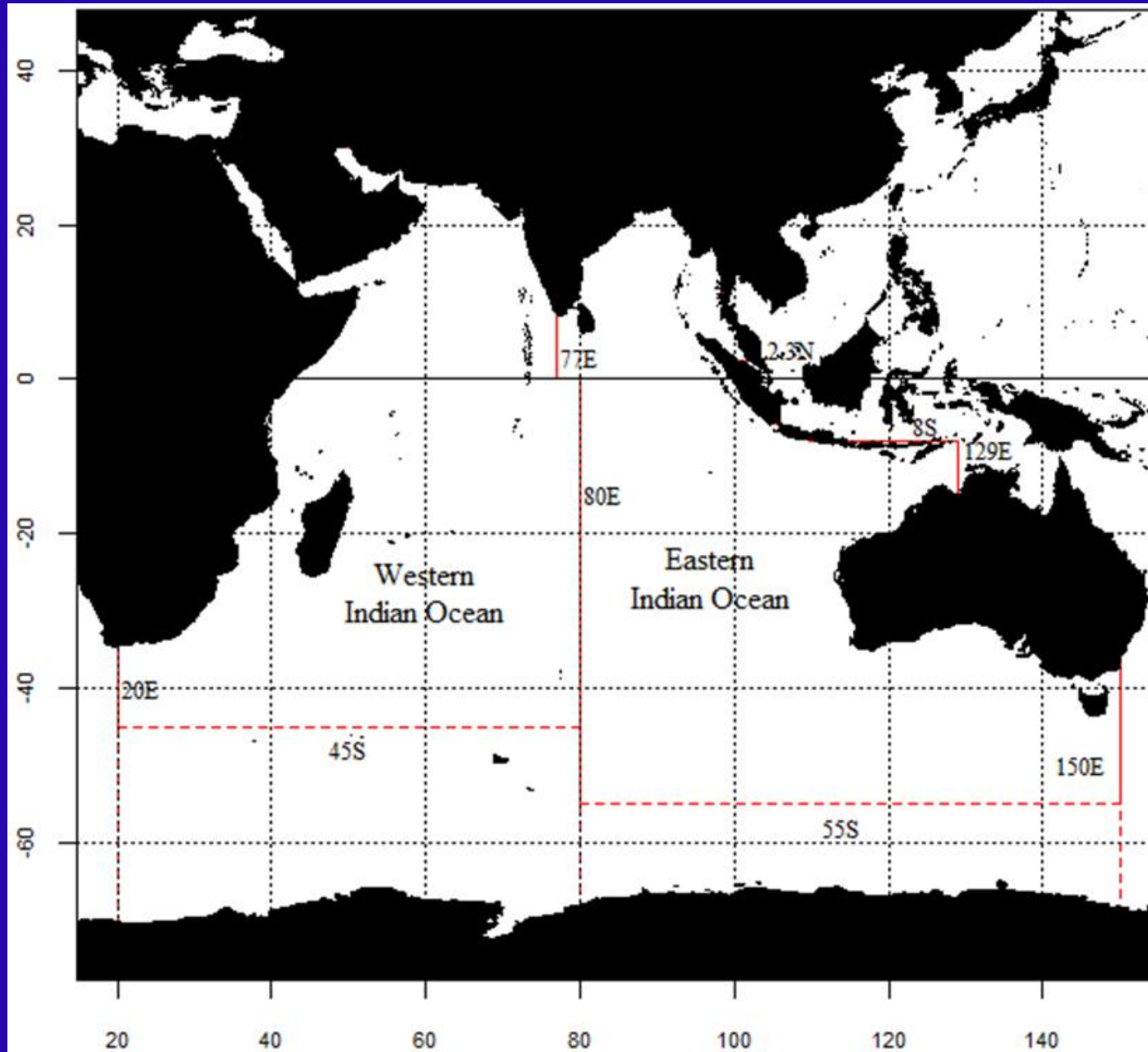






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# IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE





## IOTC area of competence

The Area of Competence of the IOTC, set out in Article II of the Agreement, is the Indian Ocean, coinciding with FAO statistical areas 51 and 57.

The Area also comprises adjacent seas north of the Antarctic Convergence to the extent that it is necessary to cover such areas to conserve and manage stocks that migrate into or out of the Indian Ocean.

The Area includes high seas and EEZs of coastal States, including non-Member coastal States



# INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION

**The IOTC is essentially based on a three-step approach:**

1. Collection of information on fisheries and scientific analysis to supply advice as needed.
2. Decision-making on the basis of the advice received.
3. Implementation and monitoring of compliance with the actions agreed.





# INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION

## Role of the Secretariat

Facilitate the implementation of the IOTC Agreement,  
including its objectives and any decisions of the  
Commission

Secretariat Strategy – 2014 – 2017





# INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION

**Commission**



**Committees (Science, Administration, Compliance)**



**Working Parties**

**(Currently only Science WPs: Billfish; Data Collection and Statistics; Ecosystems and Bycatch; Methods; Neritic Tunas; Temperate Tunas; Tropical Tunas)**





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# INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION

## Commission



Requests to: CPCs, Subsidiary bodies of the Commission, Secretariat

The Secretariat facilitates the process to ensure the requests of the Commission are met

- Communicate requests to relevant parties.
- Link and advise relevant parties to undertake work on Commission requests, CMMs etc.
- Provide scientific and compliance support as necessary to meet Commission requests.



# INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION

## Implementation

### 1) Administrative/Operational

- Information/Data: Collation, Maintenance, Validation
- Communication: Clarity, Accuracy, Timeliness



### 2) Active facilitation

- Taking the Commission's work to CPCs
- Bridging gaps in knowledge and understanding
- Offering solutions





# INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION

## DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Improved level of comprehension among IOTC CPCs on how the IOTC process works, including how science informs the management of IOTC species and ecosystems
- Increased awareness of IOTC Members to their obligations, as stipulated in the Commissions' CMMs
- Improved responsiveness by the Secretariat to the science needs of CPCs
- Improved CMMs based on rigorous scientific advice

