

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES REQUIRING ACTION BY THE COMMISSION IN 2015

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 19 MARCH 2015

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 19th Session in 2015, or for which action was required in previous years but has not yet occurred.

BACKGROUND

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 2015.

DISCUSSION

Resolution 12/11 *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, and those proposed by the developing coastal States in their fleet development plans.

This Resolution is applicable during the years 2012 and 2013 (para. 11), and thus, is currently **not applicable** in 2014 or 2015. The Resolution also states that “*the Commission shall review its implementation at the 2014 IOTC Session.*”

Suggested actions:

- 1) To consider the Resolution has expired and to add it to Resolution 14/01 *On the removal of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures*;
‘OR’
- 2) Extend the applicability of the Resolution for an additional period, while awaiting the review which is yet to take place.

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 2 years overdue.

Resolution 13/08 *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADS) management plan, including 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 8 of the Resolution states: From January 2015, 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 2014, 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:

Noting that the IOTC Scientific Committee felt that 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 etc.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2015–S19–06 which presented the previous decisions contained in IOTC Conservation and Management Measures, on which the Commission agreed to take action at its 19th Session in 2015, 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.