

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (S18)

LAST UPDATED: 20 MARCH 2015

#	Actions from the Eighteenth Session (1-5 June 2014)	Adopted	Responsibility	Progress	Due date
1	<p>Albacore</p> <p>S18 (para. 13): The Commission AGREED that pending the results of the 2014 albacore stock assessment, it should take a precautionary approach to the management of albacore and consider, at its 19th Session, proposals for Conservation and Management Measure to reduce fishing pressure for albacore; including the consideration of zone-based management of fishing effort.</p>	S18 (June 2014)	WPTmT and SC	<p>Completed: The 2014 stock assessment indicated that the stock is not overfished and not subject to overfishing. The complete Executive Summary for albacore may be downloaded from the IOTC website: http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-well-other-species-impacted-iotc</p>	19 th Session
2	<p>Skipjack tuna</p> <p>S18 (para. 14): NOTING that the SC expressed concerns on the ability of both the pole and line CPUE and the purse seine CPUE to reflect the dynamics of the stock, and given their major role in driving the current stock assessment results, the Commission REQUESTED that further investigation is carried out for both CPUE series.</p>	S18 (June 2014)	WPTT and SC	<p>Ongoing: WPTT assessed alternative series in the 2014 assessment of skipjack tuna for both the pole-and-line and purse seine fisheries. Both series were updated and used in the assessments, but concern still exists on the reliability of this information.</p>	
3	<p>Striped marlin</p> <p>S18 (para. 16): The Commission AGREED that it should take a precautionary approach to the management of striped marlin and consider, at its 19th Session, proposals for Conservation and Management Measures to reduce fishing pressure for striped marlin; including the consideration of zone-based management of fishing effort.</p> <p>(Para 17): The Commission AGREED that all CPCs should take a precautionary approach and immediately reduce their impact on striped marlin in the IOTC area of competence.</p>	S18 (June 2014)	WPB, SC and All CPCs	<p>Pending: Proactive/precautionary management is being called for the Scientific Committee.</p> <p>The complete Executive Summary for striped marlin may be downloaded from the IOTC website: http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-well-other-species-impacted-iotc</p>	19 th Session
4	<p>Outlook on time-area closures</p> <p>S18 (para. 23): NOTING that the objective of Resolution 12/13 was to decrease the overall pressure on the main targeted stocks in the Indian Ocean, in particular yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna, and also to evaluate the impact of</p>	S18 (June 2014)	WPTT and SC	<p>Completed: Advice was provided in 2011, 2012 and 2013. In 2014 the Commission revoked the time-area closure.</p>	SC 17

	the current time/area closure and any alternative scenarios on tropical tuna populations, the Commission REQUESTED that the SC (via the WPTT in 2014) undertake an analysis of the combined impacts of the two closed areas in the Indian Ocean (contained in Resolution 12/13 and the UK(OT) MPA), with the objective of determining the utility of closed areas in managing highly migratory species.				
5	Impacts of catching bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna juveniles and spawners. S18 (para. 27): The Commission NOTED however, that the fishery statistics available for many fleets, in particular for coastal fisheries, are not accurate enough for a comprehensive analysis as has been repeatedly noted in previous WPTT and SC reports. The Commission REQUESTED that the countries engaged in those fisheries take immediate actions to improve fishery statistics reporting to the IOTC Secretariat.	S18 (June 2014)	Working Party on Tropical Tunas and SC	Completed: Advice was provided in 2011, 2012 and 2013.	SC17
6	Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) S18 (para. 30): The Commission AGREED on the need for the Commission, its Committees and CPCs to develop a better understanding of management strategy concepts, including reference points, harvest control rules and the role of management strategy evaluation. There is also a need to explain and clarify the roles of the Commission, the SC and MSE through the process.	S18 (June 2014)	WPM, SC, all CPCs, and Secretariat	Ongoing: Discussed at the 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd workshops on Connecting the IOTC Science and Management Processes. Also at the Management Procedures Dialogue meetings prior to the S18 and S19.	S19
7	S18 (para. 31): The Commission NOTED the informal working group meeting which took place immediately prior to the S18, aimed at promoting a dialogue among scientists, managers and stakeholders on issues related to the specific formulation of management objectives that are required for a complete formulation and evaluation of management plans through MSE. The Commission AGREED to establish a specific series of workshops as detailed in Resolution 14/03.	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	Ongoing: Discussion initiated with the FAO-GEF ABNJ (Common Oceans Project) for financial support. The 2 nd such dialogue is planned prior to S19.	
8	Status of development and implementation of National Plans of Action for seabirds and sharks, and implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations. S18 (para. 36): The Commission AGREED with the request from the Scientific Committee that all CPCs without an NPOA-Sharks and/or NPOA-Seabirds expedite the development and implementation of a NPOA, and to report progress to the WPEB and SC in 2014, recalling that NPOA-Sharks are a framework that should facilitate estimation of shark catches, and development and implementation of appropriate management measures, which should also enhance the collection of bycatch data and compliance with IOTC Resolutions.	S18 (June 2014)	All CPCs and WPEB/SC	Completed: Development of an information portal on the IOTC page: http://iotc.org/science/status-of-national-plans-of-action-and-fao-guidelines	Feb 2015
9	S18 (para. 39): NOTING that the information on retained catches and discards of sharks contained in the IOTC database remains very incomplete for most	S18 (June 2014)	WPEB & All CPCs	Partially completed and Ongoing: A Shark multi-year research program	

	fleets despite their mandatory reporting status, and that catch-and-effort as well as size data are essential to assess the status of shark stocks, the Commission REQUESTED that all CPCs collect and report catches of sharks (including historical data), catch-and-effort and length frequency data on sharks, as per IOTC Resolutions, so that more detailed analysis can be undertaken for the next WPEB meeting.			has been developed and endorsed by the SC: http://iotc.org/meetings/1st-indian-ocean-shark-year-program-io-shyp01-workshop	
10	S18 (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.	S18 (June 2014)	All CPCs/Secretariat	Ongoing: Ongoing capacity building work.	
11	Review of individual CPC Compliance Status against IOTC Conservation and Management Measures S18 (para.56): The Commission AGREED that the Chair of the CoC would provide questions in writing to each of the CPCs who were not in attendance at the CoC meeting. For those CPCs who attend S18, this would be done during the last day of the meeting. For those CPCs who do not attend S18, the 'letter of feedback on compliance issues' would be sent by the IOTC Chair following the Commission meeting and would include an expression of concern given the CPCs absence from the IOTC meetings.	S18 (June 2014)	All concerned CPCs/CoC	Completed: Letter of Feedback sent to all CPCs.	
12	S18 (para. 58): The Commission ENCOURAGED Sri Lanka to continue their work in improving compliance with IOTC CMMs by their fleets and to work closely with other CPCs and the Secretariat, as they have done in 2012 and 2013.	S18 (June 2014)	Sri Lanka/ Secretariat	Ongoing: Sri Lanka have implemented a pilot observer scheme towards compliance with Resolution 11/04 and are working with the IOTC Secretariat to review, improve and roll-out the programme.	
13	QIAN YUAN (Flagged to Cambodia) S18 (Para 62): The Commission NOTED that the concerned parties have reached an agreement and would like to withdraw the request for keeping the vessel on the IOTC Provisional IUU Vessels List. On the basis of the agreement, China agreed to provide a report on its investigation, within 30 days after the 18 th Session of the Commission, on the activities of the cargo vessel <i>QIAN YUAN</i> in the IOTC area of competence, including the provision of the names and VMS tracks of the Chinese flagged fishing vessels, which received supplies from this cargo vessel.	S18 (June 2014)	China	Completed: Report of investigation received from China and circulated in Circular 2014-66 - Communication from China on <i>QIAN YUAN</i> . Response received from Mozambique and circulated in Circular 2014 - 71	30 days after the 18 th Session.
14	MAAN YIH FENG (Flagged to Taiwan, Province of China) S18 (para. 63): The Commission AGREED to retain the <i>MAAN YIH FENG</i> on	S18 (June 2014)	United Kingdom & Taiwan	Completed: Reports of investigation and actions taken were transmitted	45 days after the

	the Provisional IUU Vessels List, as provided under Resolution 11/03 para. 14, until sanctions of adequate severity have been applied and until an investigation is conducted and the report received. In the absence of these requirements the vessel should be moved onto the IUU list.		Province of China	through Circular 2014-83. The decision of the Chair of the Commission, based on the assessment of responses received, following the call for opinion from CPCs, was that the vessel should not be listed in the IUU list (cf. Circular 2014-92).	S18
15	General discussion (IUU) S18 (para. 65): NOTING the confusion among many CPCs regarding the lack of a clear definition of fishing vessels, the Commission AGREED that the Compliance Committee develop a recommendation for a clear definition for fishing vessels, fishing and fisheries related activities.	S18 (June 2014)	CPCs/Secretariat	Ongoing: The EU funded SmartFish programme of the COI has agreed to fund the study. The results will be report at the 2016 Compliance Committee meeting.	CoC 12
16	Member contributions S18 (para. 83): The Commission REQUESTED that all Members with overdue IOTC contributions finalise payment of those contributions as soon as possible so as not to hinder the operation of the IOTC. To facilitate this process, the Chair of the Commission, with the assistance of the Secretariat and the FAO Legal Department, shall conduct bilateral discussion with each of the CPCs with contributions in arrears totalling more than the previous two years, with a view to recover the outstanding contributions and further assess their interest of continued involvement in the IOTC. Responses from those CPCs should be circulated by the Secretariat to all CPCs for consideration at the 12th Session of the SCAF.	S18 (June 2014)	FAO/Secretariat/ Concerned CPCs.	Ongoing: Discussions were held with FAO legal but no definitive actions anticipated.	
17	Capacity building S18 (para. 85): The Commission AGREED that capacity building activities, including workshops on science (stock assessment), compliance with IOTC CMMs, data collection and reporting, and bridging the gap between IOTC science and management advice, be continued in 2014/15 and financially supported through the IOTC budget and through voluntary contributions from Members and other interested parties.	S18 (June 2014)	All CPCs and Secretariat.	Ongoing: A workshop was held in February 2015 to support the implementation of the ROS in Sri Lanka. A stock assessment workshop was held in Capetown, S. Africa on Sep 15 th -19 th . Three workshops on connecting the IOTC Science and Management Processes were held, Phuket (25-27 June 2014), Capetown (Sep. 20 th -22 nd , 2014) and Bangkok (Feb 10 th -12 th , 2015).	
18	Meeting participation fund (MPF) S18 (para. 88): NOTING that the Commission had directed the Secretariat to ensure that the MPF be utilised, as a first priority, to support the participation of scientists from developing Contracting Parties in scientific meetings of the IOTC, including Working Parties, rather than non-science meetings, the Commission REQUESTED that the Secretariat strictly adhere to the directives of the Commission contained in Rule XVI in the IOTC Rules of	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat/All CPCs	Ongoing: The rules are being strictly adhered to and reporting to the SCAF and Commission accordingly.	

	Procedure (2014)), including paragraph 5 which states that <i>'The Fund will be allocated in such a way that no more than 25% of the expenditures of the Fund in one year is used to fund attendance to non-scientific meetings.'</i> Thus, 75% of the annual MPF shall be allocated to facilitating the attendance of developing Contracting Parties scientists to the Scientific Committee and its Working Parties.				
19	S18 (para. 89): The Commission REQUESTED that the Secretariat seek voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and other interested groups to supplement the MPF.	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	Ongoing: Reflected in the Progress Report of the Secretariat. IOTC-2015-SCAF11-04 (available at: http://iotc.org/meetings/12th-session-standing-committee-administration-and-finance-scaf12)	
20	S18 (para. 90): The Commission AGREED that any cost savings made on the annual IOTC budget, shall also be used to further supplement the \$60,000 currently budgeted for the MPF. The priorities for the funds use shall be consistent with the 75:25 split between the science meetings (SC and its Working Parties) and non-scientific meetings of the Commission, in accordance with the Rules adopted by the Commission.	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	Ongoing: Savings made from the ICRU further supplemented the MPF in 2014. Other savings are yet to be applied to the MPF.	
21	S18 (para. 91): The Commission AGREED that the IOTC MPF exclude funding for Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, as they currently do not contribute to the IOTC budget.	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	Completed: Update included in the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014) adopted at the 18 th Session in June 2014. Available at: http://iotc.org/documents/indian-ocean-tuna-commission-rules-procedure-2014	
22	Improved Cost Recovery Uplift (ICRU) S18 (para. 93): The Commission AGREED that the ICRU related charges, applied by the FAO, be eliminated from the IOTC current and future expenditure accounts, and that the Chair of the Commission communicate this decision to FAO.	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	Ongoing: see 23	
23	S18 (para. 94): The Commission REQUESTED the Chair through the Secretariat, writes to the FAO Director General indicating its concerns regarding ICRU charges on the IOTC budget.	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	Ongoing: Chair's letter sent to the FAO DG on 18 th July 2014. A response was received from FAO on the 11 October 2014. Chair responded on 6 th November 2014. FAO has not yet responded.	
24	Progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the Performance Review Panel (Resolution 09/01 on the performance review follow-up) S18 (para. 100): The Commission AGREED to the updated version of the	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	Ongoing: Annual paper to the Committee's and the Commission.	

	document on progress made regarding the recommendations arising from the report of the Performance Review Panel, provided at Appendix XV. The Commission tasked the Secretariat with ensuring that the revised table is provided to the respective Committees in advance of their next Sessions in accordance with the IOTC Rules of Procedure for further updating.				
25	<p>Terms of reference for the second performance review of the IOTC</p> <p>S18 (para. 105): The Commission ENDORSED the amended Terms of Reference and criteria (Appendix XVI) to conduct the Second Performance Review of the IOTC and agreed on a process to start undertaking the review in 2014. The composition of the Panel will be as follows, with the IOTC Secretariat acting as facilitator of the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair with appropriate background • Contracting Parties from coastal States: Maldives, Mauritius, Oman and Seychelles • Contracting Parties from DWFN: European Union and Japan • Science expert (To be decided by the Panel Members) • NGOs: PEW and ISSF • Members from other RFMO's: WCPFC and ICCAT 	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat/ Performance Review Panel	Ongoing : Letter of nominations and other arrangements sent in Circular 2014-73.	
26	S19 (para. 107): The Commission AGREED that Panel meetings shall be held at the Secretariat in the Seychelles, with funding from the MPF to be used (if available) to cover the travel expenses of those Panel members from developing coastal Contracting Parties.	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	Ongoing : see 25	
27	S18 (para. 114): The Commission REQUESTED that all proposals from Members should include, as part of their Explanatory Statements, any budgetary consequences, as well as consideration of the feasibility of implementation by CPCs.	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	Ongoing	19 th Session
28	S18 (para. 118): The Commission NOTED that INDIA will provide feedback to the IOTC Secretariat in due course.	S18 (June 2014)	India	Pending : Letter sent to India on 9 th July clarifying the request. Awaiting feedback from India.	19 th Session
29	S18 (para. 119): The Commission CONSIDERED and ADOPTED 7 proposals (6 Resolutions and 1 Recommendation) as Conservation and Management Measures	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	Circular 2014-60 indicating the texts of seven (7) Resolutions and 1 Recommendation adopted by the Commission at its 18th Session	
30	<p>On enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers</p> <p>S18 (para. 122): The Commission ADOPTED Resolution 14/03 <i>On enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers</i> (Appendix XIX). The Resolution creates a Science and Management Dialogue process dedicated to enhance the decision making response of managers to existing Conservation</p>	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	Ongoing : Discussion initiated with the FAO-GEF ABNJ (Common Oceans Project) for financial support. The 2 nd such dialogue is planned prior to S19.	

	<p>and Management Measures as well as to the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee. The objective is to enhance communication and to foster mutual understanding between fisheries managers, stakeholders and scientists; and to promote the efficient use of scientific resources and information.</p> <p>S18 (para. 123): The Commission NOTED that financial support for any new meetings should be sourced as much as possible, from voluntary contributions by CPCs, NGOs and other bodies.</p>				
31	<p>On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels</p> <p>S18 (para. 127): NOTING the comments from Australia that the current Resolution contained anomalies concerning references to sharks, the Commission AGREED that Australia could bring forth a proposal to amend the newly adopted Resolution 14/06 for consideration at the next Session.</p>	S18 (June 2014)	Australia	Australia to provide feedback during S19.	S19
32	<p>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</p> <p>S18 (para. 143): NOTING the comment from the authors of the proposal that the lack of data shall not prevent adoption of precautionary management measures, and that the measure is in line with UN Millennium Development Goals and provisions in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and may contribute to food security in some of the coastal countries of the IOTC, the Commission REQUESTED that the Scientific Committee review proposal IOTC–2014–S18–Prop L Rev_1, and to make recommendations on the benefits of retaining non-targeted species catches, other than those prohibited via IOTC Resolutions, for consideration at the 19th Session of the Commission.</p>	S18 (June 2014)	SC	<p>Ongoing: see SC17.10</p> <p>41. NOTING the lack of expertise and resources within the WPEB and the short timeframe to fulfill this task, the SC RECOMMENDED that a consultant be hired to conduct this work and present the results at the next WPEB meeting.</p> <p>However, the IOTC Secretariat has not budgeted this project as it was consider to be a Medium priority by the SC17.</p>	SC17
33	<p>Terms of Reference of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Working Party on Compliance (WPC)</p> <p>S18 (para. 154): NOTING the comments from several developing coastal CPCs that their Compliance has improved thanks to the assistance that the IOTC Secretariat has provided through Compliance Missions, and that country-based actions are more effective than meetings, the Commission ENCOURAGED the IOTC Secretariat to continue with this work.</p>	S18 (June 2014)	Secretariat	<p>Ongoing: During the intersessional period, staff of the IOTC Secretariat have conducted CSMs in Comoros, India, Malaysia, Seychelles/Somalia, South Africa and Thailand, where a Compliance Action Plan have been developed with these CPCs. Six CPCs have benefitted from follow-up CSMs.</p>	S19
34	<p>Outcomes of the adhoc meeting on the IOTC Regional Observer Programme</p> <p>S18 (para. 158): The Commission AGREED that some of the technical aspects of the Implementation of the Transshipment at-sea programme should be reviewed at the next Compliance Committee meeting. Some participating</p>	S18 (June 2014)	CPCs	<p>Completed: The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 provisions have been included in the new ROP Contract.</p>	S19

	CPCs expressed concerns on many issues related to the implementation of the ROP and REQUESTED the Commission to establish clearer definitions, guidelines and sets of procedures, especially on minimum safety requirements of fishing vessels and carrier fishing vessels to ensure consistency and transparency.				
35	<p>Date and Place of the Commission in 2015</p> <p>S18 (para. 164): The Commission THANKED the Republic of Korea for its generous offer to host the 19th Session of the Commission (S19), the 12th Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC12) and the 12th Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF12), in the last two weeks of April 2015. The exact dates and meeting venue will be confirmed and communicated by the Secretariat at a later date.</p>	S18 (June 2014)	Rep. of Korea	Ongoing	S19