

## OUTCOMES OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT<sup>1</sup>, 29 SEPTEMBER 2015

### PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 6<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Methods (WPM06) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 19<sup>th</sup> Session, held from 27 April – 1 May 2015, specifically relating to the work of the WPM.

### BACKGROUND

At the 19<sup>th</sup> Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 11 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 11 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), as detailed below:

### Resolutions

- Resolution 15/01 *On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 15/02 *On mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*
- Resolution 15/03 *On the vessel monitoring system (VMS) programme*
- Resolution 15/04 *Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 15/05 *On conservation measures for striped marlin, black marlin and blue marlin*
- Resolution 15/06 *On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, and a recommendation for non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 15/07 *On the use of artificial lights to attract fish to drifting fish aggregating devices*
- Resolution 15/08 *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including a limitation on the number of FADs, 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*
- Resolution 15/09 *On a fish aggregating devices (FADs) working group*
- Resolution 15/10 *On target and limit reference points and a decision framework*
- Resolution 15/11 *On the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties*

Pursuant to Article IX.4 of the IOTC Agreement, the above mentioned Conservation and Management Measures became binding on Members, 120 days from the date of the notification communicated by the IOTC Secretariat in IOTC Circular 2015–049 (i.e. 10 September 2015).

### DISCUSSION

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2014, which have relevance for the WPM as follows (paragraph numbers refer to the report of the Commission (IOTC–2015–S19–R):

Para. 10. *The Commission **CONSIDERED** the list of recommendations made by the SC17 (Appendix VI) from its 2014 report (IOTC–2014–SC17–R) that related specifically to the Commission. The Commission **ENDORSED** the list of recommendations as its own, while taking into account the range of issues outlined in this Report (S19)*

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and incorporated within Conservation and Management Measures adopted during the Session and as adopted for implementation as detailed in the approved annual budget and Program of Work.

### **Meeting Participation Fund**

Para. 37. The Commission **NOTED** that the MPF was used to fund the participation of a reduced number of national scientists to the Working Parties in 2014 (49 in 2014; 58 in 2013; 42 in 2012), all of which were required to submit and present a working paper at the meeting.

Para. 38. The Commission **NOTED** that at its 2014 meeting, the Scientific Committee had recommended that the Meeting Participation fund be maintained into the future and increased back to its original allocation of \$200,000 per year (see recommendations SC17.34, para. 119). As per the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), the SC had reminded the IOTC Secretariat that the MPF budget should be spent at the ratio of 75:25 (science: non-science meetings) which would equate to US\$150,000 science: US\$50,000 non-science meeting.

Para. 39. The Commission **AGREED** that the MPF budget remains important and therefore provisions according to the estimated needs will be integrated into the budget.

### **Consultants**

Para. 40. **NOTING** the Scientific Committee's attempts to prioritise the various projects and consultancies which it had requested funding for in 2016, in particular, that the High priority projects were those which it felt must be undertaken in 2016, the Commission **REQUESTED** that only those High priority projects listed in the Scientific Committee budget be funded by the Commission's regular budget, with exceptions detailed in other areas of the S19 report.

### **Outcomes of the Management Procedures Dialogue (MPD02)**

Para 157. The Commission **NOTED** that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Management Procedures Dialogue (MPD02) was held in Busan, Rep. of Korea on 26 and 28 April 2015. The MPD is mandated under Resolution 14/03 on enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers. Concepts of what the IOTC is developing to ensure the long term sustainability of the resource and the fishery were discussed, and put in the context of the Precautionary Approach to fisheries. The content of the workshop are available on the IOTC website: <http://iotc.org/meetings/management-procedures-dialogue-mpd02>

Para 158. The Commission **NOTED** that the discussions were aimed at providing clarification of the various elements of a Management Procedure, and how the process of Management Strategy Evaluation is utilised to assess the performance of candidate Management Procedures in fulfilling the management objectives identified in consultation with CPC's. The roles of the managers and scientists in this process were also discussed.

Para. 159. The Commission **NOTED** the overviews of the current status of the Management Strategy Evaluation process for albacore and skipjack tuna, supported by an exercise to illustrate how a Management Procedure can be tuned on the basis of performance measures that evaluate the degree that the different objectives are met.

Para 160. The Commission **NOTED** that the MPD02 workshop summary report would be available in the coming weeks, and that it would include options for the Scientific Committee, and its relevant subsidiary bodies, to use a range of statistics as a first approximation to measure status, yield, safety, and stability in the evaluation of an initial set of candidate management procedures. The summary report would also include next steps in the process which would need to be undertaken over the coming years.

Para. 161. The Commission **NOTED** the summary of the workshop outcomes presented during the Session, as provided in [Appendix XXVIII](#). The Report of the MPD02 will be circulated to participants in the coming weeks.

The complete report of the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website:

- English: [www.iotc.org/documents/report-19th-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission](http://www.iotc.org/documents/report-19th-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission)
- French: [www.iotc.org/fr/documents/rapport-de-la-19e-session-de-la-commission-des-thons-de-l%E2%80%99oc%C3%A9an-indien](http://www.iotc.org/fr/documents/rapport-de-la-19e-session-de-la-commission-des-thons-de-l%E2%80%99oc%C3%A9an-indien)

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the WPM:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2015–WPM06–04 which outlined the main outcomes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPM and **AGREE** to consider how best to provide

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the SC with the information it needs, in order to satisfy the Commission's requests, throughout the course of the current WPM meeting.

- 2) **NOTE** the 11 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (consisting of 11 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), and in particular, Resolution 15/10 *On target and limit reference points and a decision framework* which has a direct impact on the work of the WPM.