

PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 3 NOVEMBER 2015

PURPOSE

To ensure the Scientific Committee (SC) is aware that in addition to the requests made to the SC by the Commission during its 19th Session, there are a number of decisions in the form of previous Resolutions that require a response from the Scientific Committee in 2015.

BACKGROUND

The Commission has considered and adopted a range of Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) in the past that provided clear directions to the Scientific Committee (SC). While the SC has responded to most, several remain outstanding or are ongoing. These are outlined below:

Resolution 15/10 On target and limit reference points and a decision framework

- (para. 4) The initial assessment described in points 2 and 3 shall be completed, where possible, for:
- a) Albacore and skipjack tuna by the Scientific Committee in 2015 for presentation to the Commission meeting in 2016.

Resolution 12/04 On the conservation of marine turtles

- (para. 17) The IOTC Scientific Committee shall annually review the information reported by CPCs pursuant to this measure and, as necessary, provide recommendations to the Commission on ways to strengthen efforts to reduce marine turtle interactions with IOTC fisheries.

Resolution 12/09 On the conservation of thresher sharks (Family Alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence

- (para. 7) Scientific observers shall be allowed to collect biological samples (vertebrae, tissues, reproductive tracts, stomachs, skin samples, spiral valves, jaws, whole and skeletonised specimens for taxonomic works and museum collections) from thresher sharks that are dead at haulback, provided that the samples are part of the research project approved by the IOTC Scientific Committee (or IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB)). In order to obtain the approval, a detailed document outlining the purpose of the work, number and type of samples intended to be collected and the spatio-temporal distribution of the sampling work must be included in the proposal. Annual progress of the work and a final report on completion of the project shall be presented to the IOTC WPEB and the IOTC Scientific Committee.

Resolution 11/04 On a regional observer scheme

- (para. 15) The elements of the Observer Scheme, notably those regarding its coverage, are subject to review and revision, as appropriate, for application in 2012 and subsequent years. Basing on the experience of other Tuna RFMOs, the IOTC Scientific Committee will elaborate an observer working manual, a template to be used for reporting (including minimum data fields) and a training program.

Resolution 05/05 Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC

- (para. 2) In 2006 the IOTC Scientific Committee (in collaboration with the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch) provide preliminary advice on the stock status of key shark species and propose a research plan and timeline for a comprehensive assessment of these stocks.
- (para. 5) The ratio of fin-to-body weight of sharks described in paragraph 4 shall be reviewed by the IOTC Scientific Committee and reported back to the Commission in 2006 for revision, if necessary.

Resolution 05/01 On Conservation and Management Measures for bigeye tuna

- (para. 7) The IOTC Scientific Committee be tasked to provide advice, including advice on;
- the effects of different levels of catch on the SSB (in relation to MSY or other appropriate reference point);
 - the impact of misreported and illegal catch of bigeye tuna on the stock assessment and required levels of catch reduction; and
 - evaluation of the impact of different levels of catch reduction by main gear types.

DISCUSSION

The Scientific Committee should address each of the requirements detailed above by providing advice, or alternative commentary for the Commission's consideration at its 20th Session to be held in May 2016, in La Réunion, France.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Scientific Committee **NOTE** the requests made by the Commission in each of the Conservation and Management Measures detailed in this paper, and to develop advice to the Commission in response to each request.