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## IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION IN 2015

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 22 APRIL 2016

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### PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during its 19<sup>th</sup> Session in 2015.

### BACKGROUND

In 2015, the Commission made seven (7) specific REQUESTs for action by a range of parties. This actions and the implementation in the inter-sessional period are detailed below.

### DISCUSSION (OF PREVIOUS REQUESTS)

#### SCIENCE:

##### 1) *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.

**Progress of Implementation:** In 2015 and 2016 to date, only the projects listed as High Priority by the Scientific Committee received funding in the IOTC Regular Budget or via extra-budgetary sources. The Scientific Committee was informed of this decision at its 18<sup>th</sup> Session held in November 2015. The list of high priority projects from the most recent Scientific Committee meeting (18<sup>th</sup> Session) are provided in Appendix XXXIVa, page 135 of the SC18 Report.

#### COMPLIANCE:

##### 2) *Letters of Feedback*

**(para. 58)** *The Commission REQUESTED* that the Chairperson provide questions in writing to each of the CPCs who were not in attendance at the CoC and S19 meetings. The 'letter of feedback on compliance issues' would be sent by the IOTC Chairperson following the Commission meeting and would include an expression of concern given the CPCs absence from the IOTC meetings. The letters should be sent not only to the Commissioner, but also other relevant authorities via appropriate diplomatic channels. The letter shall highlight areas of non-compliance to relevant CPCs, together with the difficulties and challenges being faced.

**Progress of Implementation:** In May 2015, copies of the Letters of Feedback (IOTC Reference number series 5791-5824) were sent by email to each of the IOTC Commissioners and copied to each country's FAO Representative. In addition to noting the compliance issues of concerns, for those CPCs who were absent from the IOTC meetings, the Letters of Feedback expressed disappointment at their absence.

##### 3) *CNCP applications: Djibouti*

**(para. 76)** *The Commission REQUESTED* that the IOTC Chairperson convey the disappointment of the Commission of the absence of Djibouti at the CoC12 and 19th Session of the Commission (S19), contrary to the condition on which it was admitted as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party at the 18th Session of the Commission, and that the Commission will not consider Djibouti's application for CNCP in the future if it again fails to be present at both Sessions.

**Progress of Implementation:** The Commission's request was communicated to Djibouti via formal channels, however no response has been forthcoming.

#### FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

##### 4) *Member contributions*

**(para. 87)** *The Commission REQUESTED that all Contracting Parties 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 IOTC Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Commission, shall conduct bilateral discussion with the I.R. Iran, and other Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions with a view to find a mutually satisfactory method to recover the outstanding contributions and to detail a plan of action for payment to Membership as soon as the situation allows for this financial transaction.*

**Progress of Implementation:** The IOTC Secretariat, Chairperson of the SCAF and Commission made numerous follow-up emails, letters and phone calls in 2015 and 2016 to date in an attempt to receive the overdue contributions from Members. The results of those efforts are described in the Report of the SCAF13.

##### 5) *2<sup>nd</sup> Performance Review of the IOTC (PRIOTC02)*

**(para. 108)** *NOTING the update on the 2nd Performance Review provided, the Commission REQUESTED that supporting documentation for the review should be published on the IOTC website for transparency purposes. However, the IOTC Secretariat should ensure that no 'sensitive' or 'confidential' information is placed in the public domain. The Commission would stand guided by the Panel on which documents would be placed in the public domain.*

**Progress of Implementation:** The PRIOTC02 considered this request and agreed that the supporting information used by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Performance Review Panel should be made available on the IOTC website. This was completed in association with the publication/release of the PRIOTC02 Report in mid-January 2016. The documents may be accessed as the following links:

PRIOTC02 – 1<sup>st</sup> Session: <http://www.iotc.org/meetings/2nd-performance-review-iotc-priotc02-12>

PRIOTC02 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session: <http://www.iotc.org/meetings/2nd-performance-review-iotc-priotc02-22>

##### 6) *Review process for existing 'Objections' to CMMs*

**(para. 123)** *NOTING that there is no current need for CPCs to provide a justification for an objection, the Commission REQUESTED that the 2nd Performance Review Panel consider how a justification requirement could be included as part of the objection lodgment process when the IOTC Agreement is revised.*

**Progress of Implementation:** The PRIOTC02 considered this request in detail, drawing upon the experiences and processes employed in other RFMOs (see IOTC–2015–PRIOTC02–R for details of the discussions). However, it deferred any decision on the most appropriate way to modernize the IOTC Agreement to accommodate this request to an ad-hoc Working Party on the Modernisation of the IOTC Agreement (see the recommendation PRIOTC02.01).

##### 7) *Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)*

**(para. 165)** *NOTING the importance of the work being carried out on gillnets by WWF, the Commission REQUESTED closer collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat in its implementation.*

**Progress of Implementation:** The IOTC Secretariat continues to work with the I.R. Iran, WWF and others to assist in the implementation of this ABNJ project component.

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**RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2016-S20-04 which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during its 19<sup>th</sup> Session in 2015.
- 2) **CONSIDER** whether any of the requests for action needs extending into the ensuing inter-sessional period.