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## OUTCOMES OF THE 21<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT<sup>1</sup>, 25 SEPTEMBER 2017

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### PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 8<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Methods (WPM08) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 21<sup>st</sup> Session, held in May 2017, specifically relating to the work of the WPM.

### BACKGROUND

At the 21<sup>st</sup> Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 8 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 8 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), as detailed below:

### Resolutions

- Resolution 17/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence.*
- Resolution 17/02 *Working party on the implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM).*
- Resolution 17/03 *On establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the IOTC Area of competence.*
- Resolution 17/04 *On a ban on discards of Bigeye tuna, Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna, and non-targeted species caught by vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence.*
- Resolution 17/05 *On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by the IOTC.*
- Resolution 17/06 *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels*
- Resolution 17/07. *On the prohibition to use large-scale driftnets in the IOTC Area.*
- Resolution 17/08 *Proposal for amendment of 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.*

Pursuant to Article IX.4 of the IOTC Agreement, the above mentioned Conservation and Management Measures shall become binding on Members, 120 days from the date of the notification communicated by the Secretariat.

### DISCUSSION

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2016, which have relevance for the WPM (IOTC–2017–S21–R):

### Report of the 19th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC19)

*(Para. 22): The Commission noted the status summaries (2011-2015) for species of tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as other species impacted by IOTC fisheries (Appendix 6) and considered the recommendations made by the SC19 in its 2016 report (IOTC–2016–SC19–R, Appendix XXXVII) 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 (S21) 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.*

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**On the status of billfish**

*(Para 40) : The Commission noted that the development of a MSE of swordfish is considered as a high priority in the revised WPM Program of Work, and that possible funding has been identified to begin this activity.*

**Schedule of work for the development of management procedures for key species in the IOTC Area**

*Para. 58): The Commission noted the presentation by Australia on the schedule of work for the development of management procedures for key species in the IOTC Area (IOTC-2017-S21-14). The schedule provides information on when and how the Commission ought to be engaged in the management procedures process, and was developed with inputs from CPC's, relevant IOTC working parties, the Scientific Committee, and uses, as its basis, the work plan of the Scientific Committee.*

*(Para. 59): The Commission **ENDORSED** the schedule that was revised during S21 (provided in Appendix 9), noting it is a 'living document' to guide the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in the future. The Commission also **REQUESTED** that a budget for implementation of the schedule be reviewed by the SCAF in 2018.*

The complete report of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website: <http://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2017/07/IOTC-2017-S21-RE.pdf>

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the WPM:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2017–WPM8–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPM and **AGREE** to consider how best to provide the SC with the information it needs, in order to satisfy the Commission's requests, throughout the course of the current WPEB meeting.
- 2) **NOTE** the 8 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission (consisting of 8 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations).