

## CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES REQUIRING ACTION BY THE COMMISSION IN 2019

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### PURPOSE

To inform the Commission of matters and actions contained in IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) which require the Commission's attention.

### BACKGROUND

The Commission has adopted CMMs that have set timeframes for actions to be taken. The CMMs that require attention in 2019 are listed below.

#### **1. Resolution 18/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of competence.**

Para 12. The measures contained within this Resolution shall be considered as interim measure and will be reviewed by the Commission no later than at its annual Session in 2019.

*Comment: In 2019, the Commission will consider IOTC-2019-S23-PropB, PropK and PropS which propose to supersede Resolution 18/01. IOTC-2019-S23-PropP proposes a management procedure for yellowfin tuna.*

#### **2. Resolution 18/06 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large scale vessels**

Para 21. The provision of Paragraph 20 will be implemented in consultation with the IOTC Secretariat as a two-year pilot project. The results of the project, including data collection, reports and the effectiveness of the project shall be examined in 2019 by the IOTC Compliance Committee on the basis of a report prepared by Indonesia and analysis by the IOTC Secretariat. This review shall include whether the programme offers the same level of assurances as those provided by ROP. It shall also explore the feasibility of obtaining an IMO number for the vessels concerned. The extension of the project or the integration of the project into ROP programme shall be subject to a new decision of the Commission.

*Comment: The pilot project was to examine transshipment at sea by eight Indonesian wooden carrier vessels. However, Indonesia has not been able to implement the project due to its national policy on the banning of transshipment in the Indonesia fisheries management area. Indonesia is proposing to reschedule the implementation of the pilot project to be started in 2019 until 2021 and to be reported in 2021. Please refer to IOTC-2019-S23-PropC.*

#### **3. Resolution 18/09 On a scoping study of socio-economic data and indicators for IOTC fisheries**

Para 2. the Commission shall review the results of the scoping study and determine if a permanent Working Party on the Socio-Economic Aspects of the Fisheries the IOTC Area of the Competence is needed, at its 23rd Session in 2019.

*Comment: The start of the scoping study was delayed, consequently the expected delivery of drafts of the report to the Commission according to the proposed schedule was not possible. However, a presentation of the findings is scheduled for the Commission in 2019.*

#### **4. Resolution 17/05 On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries management by IOTC**

Para 3c) CPCs are encouraged to consider to progressively implement the measures described in subparagraph 3 a) to all shark landings. Paragraph 3 will be revisited by the Commission in its 2019 Annual Meeting in light of recommendations from the Scientific Committee, using the best available science and case studies from other CPCs already prohibiting the removal of shark fins on board vessels.

*Comment: In 2019 the WPICMM considered the results of an analysis on the status of compliance with the shark finning measures. The WPICMM noted there is currently a lack of data to undertake any meaningful assessment on how CPCs are implementing these measures. In 2019, the CoC will also discuss this matter. In 2018, both the WPCDS and SC discussed possible means to improve the submission of complete, accurate and timely catch records for sharks. This matter has been deferred to the next meeting of the WPEB, noting that the focus would be on data improvement.*

#### **5. Resolution 16/02 On harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC Area of competence**

Para 16. The Commission shall review this measure at its annual session in 2019, or before if there is reason and/or evidence to suggest that the Skipjack tuna stock is at risk of breaching the limit reference point.

*Comment: No conservation and management measures have been proposed for skipjack tuna in 2019.*

#### **6. Resolution 16/03 On the second performance review follow-up**

Para 2. To improve the functioning of the IOTC and to address its deficiencies, including the possible need to amend the IOTC Agreement, an ad-hoc Technical Committee (Terms of Reference in Annex II) will be set up with the objective of preparing a Program of Work with concrete actions on the recommendations, including priorities, proposed timelines, budgets, and a possible text of a new agreement. The Technical Committee shall complete its work by October 2019 in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

*Comment: Draft Agreement text will be provided to the Commission in 2019. However, the development of the Agreement text is at a crossroads, and a decision on the institutional link with FAO is required if the TCPR is to be able to undertake further work.*

#### **7. Resolution 16/09 On establishing a Technical Committee on Management Procedures**

Para 8. The need for a continuation of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures shall be reviewed no later than at the Annual Session of the Commission in 2019.

*Comment: This matter is an item in the S23 Agenda.*

#### **8. Resolution 15/03 On the vessel monitoring system (VMS)**

Para 2. Those CPCs currently without a VMS for any additional vessel now meeting the criteria for inclusion in the VMS obligation since Resolution 06/03 was superseded, as defined in paragraph 1 above, shall submit an implementation plan to the Compliance Committee in April 2016 that sets out a phased approach to full implementation of their national VMS obligation within a maximum of 3 years, i.e. by April 2019, with at least 50% of all qualifying vessels compliant by September 2017

*Comment: Based on the Compliance Assessment carried out in 2018, three CPCs (Bangladesh, India and Iran) were required to submit a VMS plan. As of May 2019, Bangladesh and India have not submitted the required plans.*

*Iran has submitted a plan, but information provided by Iran to the Secretariat indicates that they are not currently achieving the target coverage (IOTC-2019-CoC16-CQ10).*

#### **9. Resolution 12/06 on reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries**

Resolution 12/06 called for an analysis of the impact of the measures on seabird bycatch to be prepared by S20 (2016). In 2017, the Commission acknowledged that there was little information available in 2016 for the Scientific Committee to fully review the effectiveness of the mitigation measures outlined in Resolution 12/06, and agreed to extend the due date until such a time that more information is available.

*Comment: The Scientific Committee has scheduled the next phase of this review to take place in 2020 in line with the WPEB programme of work.*

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Commission:

- a) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2019-S23-08 which alerts the Commission the need for actions on some CMMs due to the expiry of specified timelines.
- b) **CONSIDER** how to address each of the previously agreed requirements detailed in this paper.