



OUTCOMES OF THE 23rd SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 18 JUNE 2020

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 10th Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT010) of the decision and requests made by the Commission at its 23rd Session, held from 17–21 June 2019, specifically relating to the work of the WPNT. It must be noted that due to the global Covid pandemic, the 2020 session of the Commission (S24) has been postponed until November and so no new updates are available since 2019.

BACKGROUND

At the 23rd Session of the Commission, 7 Conservation and Management Measures were adopted, as detailed below:

Resolutions

- Resolution 19/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of competence.*
- Resolution 19/02 *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 19/03 *On the conservation of mobulid species caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence.*
- Resolution 19/04 *Concerning the IOTC Record of Vessels Authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence.*
- Resolution 19/05 *On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, and non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence.*
- Resolution 19/06 *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels.*
- Resolution 19/07 *On vessel chartering in the IOTC Area of Competence.*

These Conservation and Management Measures shall become binding 120 days after their distribution to all CPCs. The final versions of the newly agreed CMMs will be made available here in due course: <http://iotc.org/cmms>

DISCUSSION

The Commission made a number of comments related to the work of the WPNT. However, the Commission report has yet to be adopted. As such the comments provided below are general observation made by the Commission which have yet to be formalised.

Consideration of management measures related to Neritic tunas

The Commission noted the complications inherent in data collection and analysis for several coastal fisheries and species and in particular, those for neritic tunas. This affects the Scientific Committee's ability to provide management advice for these species and fleets. Coastal states were encouraged to reflect on the problems they have in data collection so that they can be addressed. The Commission also noted the advice from the WPNT and the need to make management decisions based on this advice.

The Commission again noted that neritic tuna are vital resources for the coastal States and reiterated its concerns made in recent years that fewer management measures are being applied to the neritic species compared to other IOTC species. The Commission expressed further concern about the overall lack of information on neritic tunas, and

again strongly encouraged the coastal States to improve data collection and reporting, and develop measures to underpin sustainable management of IOTC neritic species

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the WPNT

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2020–WPNT10–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPNT 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 WPNT meeting.
- 2) **NOTE** the 7 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 23st Session of the Commission (consisting of 7 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations).