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## PROGRESS ON REQUESTS FOR ACTION MADE BY THE COMMISSION IN 2019

PREPARED BY: SECRETARIAT

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### PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period on its requests for action made during the 23rd Session in 2019.

### BACKGROUND

In 2019, the Commission made 16 specific requests for actions that involved the Secretariat. To-date 12 have been completed and 4 are ongoing. The responses to these requests are given below.

The Secretariat also responded to 10 requests from the Compliance Committee and the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance that the Commission endorsed. All these requests have been completed.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2020-S24-03 which provided the Commission with information on the progress made during the inter-sessional period on the requests for action made at its 23<sup>rd</sup> Session in 2019.
- 2) **CONSIDER** whether any of the requests for action need further instructions or guidance.

Action		Status
AI = agenda item from the S23 report. P = paragraph number.		
<b>AI 4. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session</b>		
P10	The Chair invited the FAO to submit a further paper on how it proposes to implement paragraph 6 of the UNGA Resolution 73/295 bearing in mind instructions issued by the Office of Legal Affairs.	Ongoing.
<b>AI 6. Amendments to IOTC Procedures:</b>		
P16	The Commission THANKED the small drafting group for its work and REQUESTED that it monitor the GB-ITPGRFA's progress and continue consulting with the Independent Chairperson of the Council in the intersessional period with a view to ascertaining a mutually acceptable solution. The Commission REQUESTED that the Small drafting group report back to the next session of the Commission.	Completed.
P21	The Commission ADOPTED the amended Financial Regulations (Appendix 5) and REQUESTED the IOTC Chairperson to forward these to the Finance Committee of FAO for approval (a requirement under Article VI.7 of the IOTC Agreement).	Completed. Endorsed by FAO in November 2019.
P22	The Commission NOTED that two interpretations of the definition of 'arrears' (Regulation V.3 of the IOTC Financial Regulations) have been applied over time, one as a common, long-standing interpretation, and the other being a more recent interpretation used by the Secretariat; however, neither interpretation had been officially endorsed. Notwithstanding this, the Commission RECOMMENDED the Secretariat apply the following definition whereby the 'following calendar year' is to be interpreted as being the year following the budget year. Furthermore, this interpretation shall be applied by the Secretariat when considering meeting participation fund applications and in all situations where the term 'in arrears' is used, until the amended Financial Regulations have been adopted with a clarification of Regulation V.3 on the definitive interpretation of 'arrears'.	Completed.
<b>AI 7. Report Scientific Committee</b>		
P32	The Commission REQUESTED the Scientific Committee to provide advice when possible in the Kobe II strategy matrix using short term annual projections as well as the existing medium and long-term projections.	Ongoing. The SC noted the request and is implementing this request to the extent possible.
<b>AI 8. Conservation and Management Measures Proposals</b>		

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P53	Regarding PropL, the Commission REQUESTED the Secretariat to initiate a process to develop draft guidelines on how IOTC might operationalize the FAO voluntary guidelines on the marking of fishing gear. The process should utilize the expertise of IOTC technical bodies and review the guidelines by electronic means, before being made available to the Commission in 2020.	Completed. The WPICMM03 agreed for the IOTC Secretariat to develop the TOR consideration by CoC17, SCAF17 and the Commission (S24).
<b>AI 9. Report of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria</b>		
P63	The Commission AGREED that the TCAC should continue to be chaired by an independent expert elected by CPCs intersessionally. To this end, the Commission REQUESTED the Secretariat to implement the selection process provided in <a href="#">Appendix 9</a> .	Completed
<b>AI 10. Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures</b>		
P66	The Commission NOTED that further work is required on understanding the determination of stock status relative to Reference Points, and endorsed the TCMP request to form an ad-hoc working group to continue to work on this matter intersessionally in preparation for the TCMP in 2020.	Ongoing. TCMP was cancelled in 2020; but a paper on this matter is expected to be tabled at the 2020 WPM.
P68	The Commission AGREED that the TCMP should continue to meet in order to progress its work on management procedure matters and advise the Commission on management procedure-related issues, including MSE. The Commission also AGREED that while the TCMP should continue to educate participants on MSE processes, it should concentrate on advancing the development of Management Procedures for presentation to the Commission. To this end, capacity building should also continue intersessionally, and the Commission REQUESTED the Secretariat to explore possible external sources of funding to undertake this.	Completed. Capacity building held in Kenya, Korea and Seychelles during 2019-20 with funding from ISSF.
P69	The Commission NOTED that the management advice arising from the Yellowfin tuna management strategy evaluation was of concern, and if implemented would require major catch reductions to recover the stock. The Commission AGREED that more information on the options to reduce catches was required and REQUESTED the Scientific Committee and the TCMP to investigate the possibility of including an additional parameter, namely the reduction of juvenile catch, in future tunings of the management procedure in order to determine plausible ranges of juvenile catch reduction. If this parameter proves to be difficult to be included as a tuning criteria, it should be presented as a summary performance statistic. The Commission REQUESTED that the TCMP provide further advice on this issue in 2020.	Ongoing. the TCMP did not meet in 2020. The matter (related to a tuning criterion of a "parameter") will be discussed further at the 2020 WPM.

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<b>AI 11. Report of the Compliance Committee</b>		
P74	The Commission EXPRESSED its strong desire to have the Compliance team operating at full strength as soon as possible. The Commission NOTED the explanation from the Executive Secretary on the recruitment process undertaken and REQUESTED the Chairpersons of the Commission and the Compliance Committee to work with the Executive Secretary and FAO to review this process.	Completed. the Compliance Manager vacancy has been filled.
P86	The Commission NOTED the recommendation of the CoC16 (CoC16.37) on cross-listing of vessels from the seven organisations mentioned in paragraph 31 of Resolution 18/03 and AGREED that the cross-listing procedure be applied in accordance with paragraphs 33-38 of Resolution 18/03.	Completed.
<b>AI 12. Report of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance</b>		
P92	The Commission NOTED that Sierra Leone has been reintroduced to the table of contributions for 2020, following a communication from the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone indicating its desire to remain as a Member of IOTC and pay its contributions. The Commission also NOTED that Sierra Leone was not present at the Compliance Committee, the SCAF or the Commission meetings in 2019 and was still more than two years in arrears with its contributions. The Commission REQUESTED the IOTC Chairperson to write to Sierra Leone and ascertain its intentions with respect to participating in the IOTC as a Member, or possibly as a CNCP	Completed. No response from Sierra Leone to-date.
<b>AI 14. Report of the Scoping Study on the Socio-Economic Data and Indicators of IOTC Fisheries</b>		
P105	The Commission REQUESTED CPCs to, not already having done so, to send comments regarding the draft consultant's report to the Secretariat for their consideration in the final report.	Completed. No additional inputs were received, and the consultant contract was closed.
<b>AI 17. Other Business</b>		
P122	The Commission AGREED to the content of the draft Letter of Understanding with CCSBT and REQUESTED the Chairperson of the Commission to sign the letter on behalf of the Commission and send it to CCSBT for signature.	Completed.

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P129	The Commission AGREED to renew the tenure of the current Executive Secretary, Christopher O'Brien for a further two-year term. The Commission REQUESTED the Chairperson to inform the Director General of the FAO of this decision.	Completed.
<b>From the report of the 2019 Standing Committee on Administration and Finance</b>		
P27	The SCAF REQUESTED the Executive Secretary to use the FAO network to contact the three ex-members of IOTC (Belize, Guinea and Vanuatu) and attempt to obtain their outstanding contributions.	Completed. No responses received to-date.
P29	Some CPCs informed the SCAF that they are not receiving the Call For Funds sent out by FAO (invoices for the IOTC contributions) or are receiving them late. The SCAF REQUESTED the Secretariat to work with CPs to confirm the addresses being used by FAO.	Completed.
P49	The SCAF RECOMMENDED that the Secretariat report to SCAF17 on the actions it has taken in response to the improvements proposed in the Audit Report.	Completed.
<b>From the report of the 2019 Compliance Committee</b> (see also IOTC-2020-COC17-11)		
P11	P11. The CoC RECOMMENDED to the Secretariat to include this measure in the compliance report and NOTED the engagement of all present members to transmit this table for next year. <i>Re R18/07</i>	Completed.
P22	P22. The CoC RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat contact the European Union funded program ECOFISH, to determine whether there is a possibility that it support some projects of the IOTC.	Completed.
P31	Notwithstanding the timing of the WPICMM meeting and the deadline for responses, the CoC RECOMMENDED that the responses to the possible infractions be analyse by the IOTC Secretariat.	Completed.
P32	The CoC RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat recruit a new staff member to the Compliance Section and ENCOURAGED CPCs to support this process through their FAO representatives.	Completed
P39	The CoC RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat should not include the evaluation of the requirement of paragraph 1 of Resolution 10/10 in future compliance assessment, and further RECOMMENDED that a CPC submit a proposal to revise this Resolution.	Completed.
P60	The CoC RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat provide the meeting documents at the latest 15 days before the CoC.	Completed.
P98	The CoC RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat continue with those capacity building activities and strengthen activities that would allow CPCs to address the issue of mandatory statistics and the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme.	Completed and ongoing.