

## OUTCOMES OF THE 23<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

### PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 11<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Methods (WPM11) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 23<sup>rd</sup> Session, held in June 2019, specifically relating to the work of the WPM. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 7 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 10 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), 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 also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2018, which have relevance for the WPM (IOTC–2019–S23–R):

### Report of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (SC21)

*(Para. 29): The Commission NOTED the stock status summaries 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 Scientific Committee to the Commission. The Commission ENDORSED the Scientific Committee's 2018 list of recommendations as its own.*

### Report of the 2nd Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP02)

*(Para. 66): 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.*

(Para. 67): The Commission NOTED that a range of tuning criteria have been specified by the TCMP for the management procedures of key IOTC stocks (refer to Appendix V of the TCMP03 report). The Commission NOTED the success of the TCMP in engaging discussions on Management Procedures through the use of interactive tools.

### **10.2 Review of the need for a continuation of the TCMP**

(Para. 68): 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.

(Para. 69): 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.

The complete report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website: <https://www.iotc.org/meetings/23rd-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission>

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the WPM:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2020–WPM11–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 23<sup>rd</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 7 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission (consisting of 7 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations).