



## ON A MINIMUM CONSERVATION REFERENCE SIZE FOR INDIAN OCEAN YELLOWFIN TUNA IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

SUBMITTED BY SRI LANKA

### ABOUT THIS REVISION

The text of the original proposal has been updated. A version showing the changes is provided below.

**Keywords:** Yellowfin Tuna, Minimum Conservation Reference Size, Maximum Sustainable Yield, Precautionary Approach

### The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

**CONSIDERING** the objectives of the Commission to maintain stocks in perpetuity and with high probability, at levels not less than those capable of producing their maximum sustainable yield (MSY) as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors including the special requirements of developing States in the IOTC area of competence;

**BEING MINDFUL** of Article XVI of the IOTC Agreement regarding the rights of Coastal States and of Article 87 and 116 of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) regarding the right to fish on the high seas;

**RECOGNISING** the special requirements of the developing States, particularly Small Island developing States (SIDS) in Article 24, of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UNCLOS of December 1982, relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA);

**RECALLING** that Article 5, of UNFSA entitles the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks are based on best scientific evidence available and with special reference to Resolution 15/10 for a stock where the assessed status places it within the red quadrant, and with an aim to end overfishing with a high probability and to rebuild the biomass of the stock in as short time as possible;

**FURTHER RECALLING** that Article 6, of UNFSA and IOTC Resolution 12/01 *On the implementation of the precautionary approach (PA)*, requires the States to be cautious during the application of the PA when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate and this should not be a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures;

**CONSIDERING** the management recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2002-SC05-R[EN]), 6<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2003-SC06-R[EN]) and 7<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2004-SC-R[EN]), sessions of the Scientific Committee, wherein the Scientific Committee considered that *the current trend for increasing fishing pressure on juvenile yellowfin by purse seiners fishing on floating objects is likely to be detrimental to the stock if it continues, as fish of these sizes are well below the optimum size for maximum yield per recruit.*

**FURTHER CONSIDERING** the management recommendations of 8<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2005-SC-R[E]) and 9<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2006-SC-R[EN]) sessions of the Scientific Committees, wherein the Scientific Committee considered that *the current fishing pressure on juvenile yellowfin by both purse seiners fishing on floating objects and artisanal fisheries is likely to be detrimental to the stock if it continues, as fish of these sizes are well below the optimum size for maximum yield per recruit estimated in 2002.*

**FURTHER CONSIDERING** the management recommendations of 10<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2007-SC-R[E]) session of the Scientific Committees, wherein the Scientific Committee considered that *the current fishing pressure on juvenile yellowfin by both purse seiners fishing on floating objects and some artisanal fisheries is likely to be detrimental to the stock if it continues, as fish of these sizes are well below the optimum size for maximum yield per recruit estimated in 2002.*

**FURTHER RECALLING** that at the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2011-SC14-R[E]) the SC NOTED that

- the Commission, at its 15<sup>th</sup> Session requested that the Scientific Committee provide advice to the Commission that adds to the information currently available or already requested of the Scientific Committee regarding the take of juvenile yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and other species, and on alternative management measures, including an assessment of the impact of current purse seine activities, including the size/fishing capacity (and gear types i.e. mesh size etc.) of vessels, and the potential implications that may arise for tuna and tuna-like species;
- that the most direct measure of impact of fishing fleets on juveniles could be obtained by looking at the catches of juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna by gear;
- the existing statistics on catches of juvenile fish by species obtained by the various purse seine fleets fishing on FADs, in both numbers and weight, provide a measure of their impact on the stocks, and the corresponding effort statistics (number of boats, GRT and fishing days), give an indication of the capacity of this fleet, which engages, although not exclusively, on the FAD fishery

**FURTHER RECALLING** that at the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2012-SC15-R[E]) the SC NOTED that

- the most direct measure of impact of fishing fleets on juveniles could be obtained by looking at the catches of juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna by gear,
- the existing statistics on catches of juvenile fish by species obtained by the various purse seine fleets fishing on FADs, in both numbers, size (length) and weight, provide a measure of their impact on the stocks, and the corresponding effort statistics (number of boats, GRT and fishing days), give an indication of the capacity of this fleet, which engages, although not exclusively, on the FAD fishery.
- a complete analysis of the likely impact of the juveniles caught by any fishery in the Indian Ocean and of any management plan should be carried out within the context of the work on MSE that the SC has agreed to carry out in the future. This could, if necessary, also quantify the impact of such measures not only on the stocks, but also on the fleets, including likely economic impact on activities dependent on the fleets affected.

**FURTHER RECALLING** that at the 15<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2012-SC15-R[E]) and 16<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2013-SC16-R[E]) the SC NOTED that the Commission, at its 16<sup>th</sup> Session, adopted Resolution 12/13 for the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence, which superseded Resolution 10/01. Contained within Resolution 12/13 is a requirement that the SC will provide at its 2011, 2012 and 2013 plenary session, the following: c) *an evaluation of the impact on yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks by catching juveniles and spawners taken by all fisheries. The Scientific Committee shall also recommend measures to mitigate the impacts on juvenile and spawners*

**FURTHER RECALLING** that at the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2013-SC16-R[E]) the SC **RECALLED** the discussions of the previous two SC meetings that the most direct measure of impact of fishing fleets on juveniles could be obtained by looking at the catches of juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna by gear, as presented in IOTC-2012-SC15-R

**FURTHER RECALLING** that standardised CPUE index for juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna caught by the EU purse seiner fleets, be estimated and submitted to the WPTT before the next round of stock assessments of tropical tunas was included in the program of work for the Scientific Committee and its subsidiary bodies including the Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT) for 2015–2019 at the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2014-SC17-R(E)); for 2017–2021 at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee of the (IOTC-2016-SC19-R[E]) for 2018 – 2022 at the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2017-SC20-R[E]); for 2019 – 2023 at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2018-SC21-R[E]); for 2020– 24 at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2019-SC22-R[E]) and for 2021 – 2025 at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2020-SC23-R[E]).

**FURTHER RECALLING** that **NOTING** the difficulties with purse seine CPUE standardisation, the SC **REQUESTED** that the European Union place greater importance and effort into standardising their purse seine CPUE series on juveniles and adults, which would contribute to the next stock assessment for yellowfin tuna at the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (**IOTC-2015-SC18-R[E]**).

**FURTHER NOTING** that the Commission adopted the Resolution 16/01 (superseded by Resolution 17/01, then by Resolution 18/01, then by Resolution 19/01) on an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence) which was stipulated to undertake the effectiveness of the measures detailed in the resolution, taking into account all sources of fishing mortality and possible alternatives aiming at returning and maintaining biomass levels at the Commissions target level.

**FURTHER CONSIDERING** the concern of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Party for Tropical Tuna held in Seychelles, 29 October – 3 November 2018, the change in strategy by increase of usage of fish aggregating devices by the purse seine vessels to maintain catch level targets has led to a substantial increase of juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna;

**FURTHER CONSIDERING** the call by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/75 upon the States to increase the reliance on scientific advice in developing, adopting and implementing conservation and management measures and to take into account the special requirements of developing States, including SIDS as highlighted in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway;

**NOTING THAT** Article V.2b of the Agreement for the Establishment of the IOTC gives full recognition to the special interests and needs of Members in the region that are developing countries, in relation to the conservation and management and optimum utilization of stocks covered by this Agreement and encouraging development of fisheries based on such stocks;

**FURTHER NOTING THAT** Article V.2d requires the Commission to keep under review the economic and social aspects of the fisheries based on the stocks covered by this Agreement bearing in mind, in particular, the interests of developing coastal States. This includes ensuring that conservation and management measures adopted by it do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States, especially SIDS;

**RECOGNIZING FURTHER** the interactions that occur between the fisheries for yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye tuna;

**ADOPTS**, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, paragraph 1 of the IOTC Agreement, the following:

**Application**

1. This Resolution shall apply to all fishing vessels [**10.3 m and above**] targeting tuna and tuna like species in in the IOTC area of competence
2. The measures contained within this Resolution shall be reviewed by the Commission no later than at its annual Session in [**2025**].
3. Nothing in this Resolution shall be deemed to supplant or negate Resolution 15/06 (superseded by 17/04 and 19/05) on a ban on discard of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna and non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC area of competence.
4. Nothing in this Resolution shall pre-empt or prejudice future allocation of annual catch limits.
5. Nothing in this Resolution shall pre-empt or prejudice future allocation of fishing opportunities.

**Minimum conservation reference size**

6. The minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) for yellowfin tuna shall be [**92 cm**], to ensure the protection of immature fish, for the purpose of facilitating the recovery and subsequent maintenance of stock at the MSY as well as for the purpose of promoting a minimum marketing size.

**Tolerance levels**

7. The estimated proportion of the total annual catch (by number) of CPCs whose fishing vessels harvest yellowfin tuna measuring less than the MCRS shall be
  - a) equal to or less than [**40.0%**] by [**2025**];
  - b) equal to or less than [**20.0%**] by [**2030**] and thereafter.

**Over-catch of annual catch limits**

8. If over-catch of an annual catch limit for a given CPC prescribed in paragraph 7 occurs, no penalties shall be incurred.
9. Over-catch shall be reported by the CPC to the Compliance Committee, in accordance with the IOTC Rules of Procedure.

**Administration**

10. The IOTC Secretariat, under advice of the Scientific Committee, shall prepare and circulate a table of the proportion of each CPC's total annual catch as per the tolerance levels set out in paragraph 7 for the preceding year, by 30<sup>th</sup> September of the current year.
11. CPCs shall monitor the yellowfin tuna catches from their vessels in conformity with Resolution 15/01 On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence and Resolution 15/02 Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non Contracting Parties (CPCs)
12. For the purposes of the implementation of this Resolution, CPCs shall submit their catch of yellowfin disaggregated by catches taken within and outside of the Flag state's exclusive economic zone.
13. The Scientific Committee via its Working Party on Tropical Tunas shall undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the MCRS detailed in this Resolution, which is aimed at returning and maintaining fishing mortality and spawning biomass to the Commission's target levels, by 2030.
14. Each year, the Compliance Committee shall evaluate the level of compliance by CPCs with the reporting obligations and the tolerance levels deriving from this Resolution and shall make recommendations to the Commission accordingly.

## Original IOTC-2021-SS4-PropA showing changes made in rev1

**Keywords:** Yellowfin Tuna, Minimum Conservation Reference Size, Maximum Sustainable Yield, Precautionary Approach, ~~Management Procedure.~~

### The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

**CONSIDERING** the objectives of the Commission to maintain stocks in perpetuity and with high probability, at levels not less than those capable of producing their maximum sustainable yield (MSY) as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors including the special requirements of developing States in the IOTC area of competence;

**BEING MINDFUL** of Article XVI of the IOTC Agreement regarding the rights of Coastal States and of Article 87 and 116 of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) regarding the right to fish on the high seas;

**RECOGNISING** the special requirements of the developing States, particularly Small Island developing States (SIDS) in Article 24, of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UNCLOS of December 1982, relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA);

**RECALLING** that Article 5, of UNFSA entitles the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks are based on best scientific evidence available and with special reference to Resolution 15/10 for a stock where the assessed status places it within the red quadrant, and with an aim to end overfishing with a high probability and to rebuild the biomass of the stock in as short time as possible;

**FURTHER RECALLING** that Article 6, of UNFSA and IOTC Resolution 12/01 *On the implementation of the precautionary approach (PA)*, requires the States to be cautious during the application of the PA when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate and this should not be a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures;

**CONSIDERING** the management recommendations adopted by of the KOBE II, held 5<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2002-SC05-R[EN]), 6<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2003-SC06-R[EN]) and 7<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2004-SC-R[EN]), sessions of the Scientific Committee, wherein the Scientific Committee considered that *the current trend for increasing fishing pressure on juvenile yellowfin by purse seiners fishing on floating objects is likely to be detrimental to the stock if it continues, as fish of these sizes are well below the optimum size for maximum yield per recruit.*

**FURTHER CONSIDERING** the management recommendations of 8<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2005-SC-R[E]) and 9<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2006-SC-R[EN]) sessions of the Scientific Committees, wherein the Scientific Committee considered that *the current fishing pressure on juvenile yellowfin by both purse seiners fishing on floating objects and artisanal fisheries is likely to be detrimental to the stock if it continues, as fish of these sizes are well below the optimum size for maximum yield per recruit estimated in 2002.*

**FURTHER CONSIDERING** the San Sebastian, Spain, June 23—July 3 2009; implementing where appropriate a freeze on management recommendations of 10<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2007-SC-R[E]) session of the Scientific Committees, wherein the Scientific Committee considered that *the current fishing pressure on juvenile yellowfin by both purse seiners fishing on floating objects and some artisanal fisheries is likely to be detrimental to the stock if it continues, as fish of these sizes are well below the optimum size for maximum yield per recruit estimated in 2002.*

**FURTHER RECALLING** that at the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2011-SC14-R[E]) the SC NOTED that

- the Commission, at its 15<sup>th</sup> Session requested that the Scientific Committee provide advice to the Commission that adds to the information currently available or already requested of the Scientific Committee regarding the take of juvenile yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and other species, and on alternative management measures, including an assessment of the impact of current purse seine activities, including the size/fishing capacity on a (and gear types i.e. mesh size etc.) of vessels, and the potential implications that may arise for tuna and tuna-like species;
- that the most direct measure of impact of fishing fleets on juveniles could be obtained by looking at the catches of juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna by gear;
- the existing statistics on catches of juvenile fish by species obtained by the various purse seine fleets fishing on FADs, in both numbers and weight, provide a measure of their impact on the stocks, and the corresponding effort statistics (number of boats, GRT and fishing days), give an indication of the capacity of this fleet, which engages, although not exclusively, on the FAD fishery by-

**FURTHER RECALLING** that at the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2012-SC15-R[E]) the SC NOTED that

- the most direct measure of impact of fishing fleets on juveniles could be obtained by looking at the catches of juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna by gear,
- the existing statistics on catches of juvenile fish by species obtained by the various purse seine fleets fishing on FADs, in both numbers, size (length) and weight, provide a measure of their impact on the stocks, and the corresponding effort statistics (number of boats, GRT and fishing days), give an indication of the capacity of this fleet, which engages, although not exclusively, on the FAD fishery basis and such,
- a freezecomplete analysis of the likely impact of the juveniles caught by any fishery in the Indian Ocean and of any management plan should not constrain the access to, development of, and benefit from sustainable tuna fisheries by developing coastal States; be carried out within the context of the work on MSE that the SC has agreed to carry out in the future. This could, if necessary, also quantify the impact of such measures not only on the stocks, but also on the fleets, including likely economic impact on activities dependent on the fleets affected.

**FURTHER RECALLING** that at the 15<sup>th</sup> (IOTC-2012-SC15-R[E]) and 16<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2013-SC16-R[E]) the SC NOTED that the Commission, at its 16th Session, adopted Resolution ~~10/01~~12/13 for the conservation and management of tropical ~~tunatunas~~ stocks in the IOTC area of competence ~~required~~, which superseded Resolution 10/01. Contained within Resolution 12/13 is a requirement that the ~~Scientific Committee to~~SC will provide at its 2011, 2012 and 2013 plenary session, the following: c) *an evaluation of the impact on yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks by catching juveniles and spawners taken by all fisheries. The Scientific Committee was required to shall also recommend measures to mitigate the impacts on juvenile and spawners;*

~~**FURTHER CONSIDERING** the recommendations adopted by the KOBE III, held in La Jolla, California, 12–14 July 2011; considering the status of the stocks, each Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) should consider a scheme for reduction of overcapacity in a way that does not constrain the access to, development of, and benefit from sustainable tuna fisheries, including on the high seas, by developing coastal States, in particular SIDS, territories, and States with small and vulnerable economies; and transfer of capacity from developed fishing members to developing coastal fishing members within its area of competence where appropriate;~~

**FURTHER RECALLING** that at the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2013-SC16-R[E]) the SC

RECALLED the discussions of the previous two SC meetings that the most direct measure of impact of fishing fleets on juveniles could be obtained by looking at the catches of juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna by gear, as presented in IOTC-2012-SC15-R

FURTHER RECALLING that standardised CPUE index for juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna caught by the EU purse seiner fleets, be estimated and submitted to the WPTT before the next round of stock assessments of tropical tunas was included in the program of work for the Scientific Committee and its subsidiary bodies including the Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT) for 2015-2019 at the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2014-SC17-R(E)); for 2017-2021 at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee of the (IOTC-2016-SC19-R[E]) for 2018 – 2022 at the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2017-SC20-R[E]); for 2019 – 2023 at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2018-SC21-R[E]); for 2020- 24 at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2019-SC22-R[E]) and for 2021 – 2025 at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2020-SC23-R[E]).

FURTHER RECALLING that NOTING the difficulties with purse seine CPUE standardisation, the SC REQUESTED that the European Union place greater importance and effort into standardising their purse seine CPUE series on juveniles and adults, which would contribute to the next stock assessment for yellowfin tuna at the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC-2015-SC18-R[E]).

~~FURTHER CONSIDERING the recommendations of the 18th Scientific Committee held in Bali, Indonesia, 23 – 27 November 2015 and the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Scientific Committee held in Seychelles, 3 – 7 December 2018, that the catches of yellowfin tuna have to be reduced by 20% of the 2017 levels to recover the stocks to levels above the interim target reference points with 50% probability by 2027 as specified in Kobe II Strategy Matrix;~~

**FURTHER NOTING** that the Commission adopted the Resolution 16/01 (superseded by Resolution 17/01, then by Resolution 18/01, then by Resolution 19/01) on an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence) which was stipulated to undertake the effectiveness of the measures detailed in the resolution, taking into account all sources of fishing mortality and possible alternatives aiming at returning and maintaining biomass levels at the Commissions target level.

~~FURTHER CONSIDERING the management advice of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee on the limitations and uncertainties in the stock assessment;~~

**FURTHER CONSIDERING** the concern of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Party for Tropical Tuna held in Seychelles, 29 October – 3 November 2018, the change in strategy by increase of usage of fish aggregating devices by the purse seine vessels to maintain catch level targets has led to a substantial increase of juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna;

**FURTHER CONSIDERING** the call by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/75 upon the States to increase the reliance on scientific advice in developing, adopting and implementing conservation and management measures and to take into account the special requirements of developing States, including SIDS as highlighted in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway;

**NOTING THAT** Article V.2b of the Agreement for the Establishment of the IOTC gives full recognition to the special interests and needs of Members in the region that are developing countries, in relation to the conservation and management and optimum utilization of stocks covered by this Agreement and encouraging development of fisheries based on such stocks;



**FURTHER NOTING THAT** Article V.2d requires the Commission to keep under review the economic and social aspects of the fisheries based on the stocks covered by this Agreement bearing in mind, in particular, the interests of developing coastal States. This includes ensuring that conservation and management measures adopted by it do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States, especially SIDS;

**RECOGNIZING FURTHER** the interactions that occur between the fisheries for yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye tuna;

**ADOPTS**, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, paragraph 1 of the IOTC Agreement, the following:

#### **Application**

1. This Resolution shall apply to all fishing vessels [~~15~~**10.3 m and above**] targeting tuna and tuna like species in in the IOTC area of competence
2. The measures contained within this Resolution shall be reviewed by the Commission no later than at its annual Session in [~~2025~~].
3. ~~The measures contained within~~Nothing in this Resolution shall be ~~considered as supplementary~~deemed to supplant or negate Resolution ~~16/01~~15/06 (superseded by ~~Resolution 17/01, Resolution 18/01, Resolution 04 and 19/01~~05) on ~~an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Oceana~~ ban on discard of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna ~~stock~~and non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC ~~area~~area of competence.
4. ~~The measures contained within this Resolution shall be considered as supplementary to Resolution 19/XX on the allocation of fishing opportunities for IOTC species~~
5. ~~The measures contained within this Resolution shall be considered as supplementary to a formal Management Procedure (MP) for the management of the yellowfin tuna stock, when such a MP is adopted by the Commission and comes into effect.~~
- 6.4. Nothing in this Resolution shall pre-empt or prejudice future allocation of annual catch limits.
- 7.5. Nothing in this Resolution shall pre-empt or prejudice future allocation of fishing opportunities.

#### **Minimum conservation reference size**

- 8.6. The minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) for yellowfin tuna shall be [~~92~~**92 cm**], to ensure the protection of immature fish, for the purpose of facilitating the recovery and subsequent maintenance of stock at the MSY as well as for the purpose of promoting a minimum marketing size.

#### **Tolerance levels**

- 9.7. The estimated proportion of the total annual catch (by number) of CPCs whose fishing vessels harvest yellowfin tuna ~~within the exclusive economic zone of the flag state,~~ measuring less than the MCRS shall be
  - a) equal to or less than [~~30~~**40.0%**] by [~~2025~~];
  - b) equal to or less than [~~20.0%~~**20.0%**] by [~~2030~~**2030**] and thereafter.
10. ~~The proportion of the total annual catch of CPCs whose fishing vessels harvest yellowfin tuna outside of the exclusive economic zone of the flag state, measuring less than the MCRS shall be~~
  - a) ~~equal to or less than~~ [~~20.0%~~**20.0%**] by [~~2025~~];
  - e) ~~equal to or less than~~ [~~10.0 %~~**10.0 %**] by [~~2030~~**2030**] and thereafter.

#### **Over-catch of annual catch limits**

8. If over-catch of an annual catch limit for a given CPC prescribed in paragraph 7 occurs, no penalties shall be incurred.
9. Over-catch shall be reported by the CPC to the Compliance Committee, in accordance with the IOTC Rules of Procedure.



***Administration***

- ~~11.~~10. The IOTC Secretariat, under advice of the Scientific Committee, shall prepare and circulate a table of the proportion of each CPC's total annual catch as per the tolerance levels set out in ~~paragraphs 8 and 9~~paragraph 7 for the preceding year, by 30<sup>th</sup> September of the current year.
- ~~12.~~11. CPCs shall monitor the yellowfin tuna catches from their vessels in conformity with Resolution 15/01 On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence and Resolution 15/02 Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non Contracting Parties (CPCs)
- ~~13.~~12. For the purposes of the implementation of this Resolution, CPCs shall submit their catch of yellowfin disaggregated by catches taken within and outside of the Flag state's exclusive economic zone.
- ~~14.~~13. The Scientific Committee via its Working Party on Tropical Tunas shall undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the MCRS detailed in this Resolution, which is aimed at returning and maintaining fishing mortality and spawning biomass to the Commission's target levels, by 2030.
14. Each year, the Compliance Committee shall evaluate the level of compliance by CPCs with the reporting obligations and the tolerance levels deriving from this Resolution and shall make recommendations to the Commission accordingly.