
**ON AN INTERIM PLAN FOR REBUILDING THE INDIAN OCEAN YELLOWFIN TUNA STOCK IN THE IOTC
AREA OF COMPETENCE**

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Explanatory Memorandum

This proposal aims at substantially curbing the yellowfin tuna catches by improving the effectiveness and fairness of the approach adopted by Resolution 19/01 while taking into account the needs of the developing States.

Under Resolution 19/01, only nine CPCs are subject to catch limitation while the remaining CPCs do not have limits in their catches of yellowfin tuna. As a result, the total catch reduction expected by Resolution 19/01 have not been met and catches have increased by more than 5% from 2014/2015 levels. More worrying is that since 2016, the total catch of yellowfin tuna has been constantly above C_{MSY} level of 403 000 MT as currently estimated by the IOTC Scientific Committee (SC).

At its 23rd Session in December 2020, the SC confirmed that the yellowfin tuna stock is overfished and subject to overfishing. The SC highlighted that F_{2017} was 20% above the target reference point and recommended to reduce catches to a level at least below the C_{MSY} estimate to start a real rebuilding of the stock and waiting for the stock assessment of 2021.

In order to reduce catches of yellowfin tuna in line with the scientific advice, the EU is proposing a new draft Resolution extending the obligations of Resolution 19/01 with the aim to share in a fair and equitable manner the burden of conservation among all active fleets.

Main principle of the approach described in this proposed Resolution:

- For those CPCs already covered by Resolution 19/01, the obligations remain in place and an additional reduction is required
- For those CPCs, harvesting more than 2000 MT and not previously covered by Resolution 19/01 catch reductions are introduced using as a baseline the average of catches for the period 2017 – 2019.
- Equitable decreasing share of reductions between bigger and smaller harvesters, in order to limit the burden of reduction for smaller harvesters;
- Subsistence fisheries are excluded by the overall mechanism

~~The scheme of catch limits introduced in this proposal can be visually summarised as follow:~~

Moreover, this proposal also introduces a regular reporting of catches to effectively monitor the catches of each CPCs and the total catches of yellowfin tuna. Taking into account the particularity of each gear, it is proposed to establish a monthly reporting of catches for purse seine fleet and a trimestral reporting for other fleets.

The existing payback mechanism in Resolution 19/01 for those fleets exceeding their fishing limits is retained in this proposal to maintain accountabilities on CPCs not respecting the catch limits.

The Scientific Committee is also tasked to further develop the scientific knowledge for possible future development towards a more integrated fisheries management framework for tropical tunas as well as to update the information and scientific advice on further mitigation measures for incidental catches of cetaceans in the region.

Keywords: Yellowfin tuna, Kobe process, MSY, precautionary approach

RESOLUTION 21/XX
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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 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 UN Convention of the Law of the Sea regarding the right to fish on the high seas;

RECOGNISING the special requirements of the developing States, particularly Small Island developing States in Article 24, of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea 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 *On target and limit reference point and a decision framework* 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, requires the States to be cautious during the application of precautionary approach when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate and this should not be a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the systematic consideration given to the recommendations adopted by the KOBE II, held in San Sebastian, Spain, June 23 – July 3 2009; implementing where appropriate a freeze on fishing capacity on a fishery by fishery basis and such a freeze should not constrain the access to, development of, and benefit from sustainable tuna fisheries by developing coastal States has led to the constant increase of coastal States fishing opportunities that nowadays amount to more than 70% of overall yellowfin tuna catches;

FURTHER CONSIDERING the report by International Council for the Exploration of Sea and FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (2006), Gillnets are considered to be one of the least catch controllable and least environmentally sustainable gears for the fishery of highly migratory species;

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT the catch limitations based on 2014/2015 levels, as prescribed by the interim plan for the rebuilding the yellowfin stock (Resolution 19/01 *On a interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence*), have not been met and catches have increased, in 2019, by 5,22% from those levels and current catches are above MSY level of 403 000 MT as currently estimated by the IOTC Scientific Committee;

CONSIDERING THAT around 47% of yellowfin tuna catches are currently not subject to Resolution 19/01 and that there is a high risk that CPCs not subject to Resolution 19/01 maintain or increase their average catches, in line with the consistent increasing trend recorded over the recent years, thus determining overall catches continue exceeding the MSY level.

NOTING THAT the 23RD IOTC Scientific Committee (7-11 December 2020) confirmed that the yellowfin tuna stock is overfished and subject to overfishing and recommended that, as a precautionary measure to reduce overfishing, catches should be reduced to a level at least below the C_{MSY} estimate (403 000 MT) from the 2018 assessment until new information, based on the 2021 stock assessment and its associated projections, is available;

FURTHER NOTING that F_{2017} was 20% above the target reference point F_{MSY} which would imply an overall reduction of catches by 16.7% to meet the reference point F_{MSY} assuming that biomass has remained stable, this further explains the need to reduce catches below the C_{MSY} estimate;

CONSIDERING THAT the most recently estimated spawning biomass was 17% lower than the target B_{MSY} and well above the limit reference point of $0,4 B_{MSY}$;

RECALLING THAT the Commission at its 23rd Session in 2019 endorsed the recommendations of the 3rd Session of the IOTC Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) including the time span of minimum 10 years to rebuild the yellowfin tuna stock. This approach is justified to avoid both notable disruptions for the industry, in the short term, and negative effects on the quality of the CPUE needed for a correct functioning of the Management Procedure under development.

CONSIDERING THAT, in the absence of a scientific advice providing catch projections to guide the rebuilding of the stock of yellowfin tuna, and pending the forthcoming new assessment in 2021 whose results will not be implementable before 2023, an immediate overall reduction of catches of approximately 54% below MSY is in line with the scientific advice as well as balanced and adequate to the conservation and rebuilding perspectives of the stock. In practice it would be a reduction of 15% with respect to 2019 and a reduction by 12% with respect to catches of 2017. ~~12 with respect to 2019 and a likely reduction with respect to foreseeable catches of 2021.~~ A mix of differentiated catch reductions and stabilization by gears and fisheries shall be implemented to reach this objective;

CONSIDERING THAT the IOTC Scientific Committee emphasizes that the Commission should ensure that any revision of the management measure could effectively achieve any prescribed catch reduction to ensure the effectiveness of the management measure;

RECALLING the entry into force of paragraph 2 of Resolution 17/07 *on the prohibition to use large-scale driftnets in the IOTC area* on 1 January 2022, prohibiting the use of large-scale driftnets of more than 2.5 kilometres in length in the entire IOTC area of competence;

CONSIDERING THAT highly migratory tropical tunas live in all regions of the Indian Ocean, from the coastal areas to the high sea, and are harvested by all kind of fishing vessels, from the subsistence and coastal artisanal fisheries to industrial fisheries, a sound management for the sustainable harvesting of this stock shall involve all the different components in an equitable manner;

CONSIDERING the multispecies nature of tropical tuna fisheries and variability between gears, regions and period of the year it is advisable to task the IOTC scientific committee to identify a specific coefficient(s) expressing the minimum ratio of yellowfin tuna annual catches to the total volume in metric tons of tropical tuna catches by fishery with the aim to provide some quantitative guidance helping the CPCs in their internal validation of tropical tuna catches by species recorded by their fishing fleets thus improving the reliability of data reported to the IOTC;

NOTING THAT supply vessels contribute to the increase in effort and fishing efficiency of purse seiners and that the number of supply vessels has increased significantly over the years Resolution 19/01 stipulated a mechanism valid to control and reduce their numbers as well as way of operating. It is however not yet clear whether supply/support vessels concur to increase effort and fishing efficiency of vessels using fishing gears other than purse seiners. It is therefore advisable to have an updated scientific reflection on whether and how a technological creep had been occurring for the different fishing gears exploiting the tropical tunas;

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 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as highlighted in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway;

NOTING THAT Article V (2)(b) of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission give 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(2)(d) 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 Small Island Developing States;

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 active ~~flag-fishing~~ vessels harvesting tuna or tuna like species ~~in the Indian Ocean of a Contracting Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CPCs), registered on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels or authorized to fish for tuna and tuna like species managed by the IOTC~~ regardless of their length and area of operation, other than those carrying out subsistence fishery¹.
- ~~2.~~ The measures contained within this Resolution shall be considered as interim measures and will be reviewed by the Commission no later than at its annual Session in 2022.
- ~~3.~~ Notwithstanding paragraph 2, this Resolution shall be reviewed when a formal Management Procedure for the management of yellowfin tuna stock is adopted by the Commission and in effect.
- ~~2.4.~~ Nothing in this resolution shall pre-empt or prejudice future allocation of fishing opportunities.

Catch limits

- ~~3.5.~~ As of January 1, 2022 CPCs shall ensure that flag vessels reduce their catch of yellowfin tuna according to paragraphs ~~4, 5, 6, 7, 8~~ and ~~7-9~~ of this resolution.
- ~~4.6.~~ Purse seine:
 - ~~4.1-6.1.~~ CPCs whose purse seine catches of yellowfin reported for 2014 were above 5000 MT shall reduce their purse seine catches of yellowfin by ~~18-20~~ % from the 2014 levels.
 - ~~6.2.~~ Any CPC to whom paragraph ~~4.6.1~~ does not apply and whose purse seine catches of yellowfin exceeded the threshold limits in any subsequent year between 2017 and 2019, shall reduce their yellowfin catches to the levels prescribed by paragraph ~~4.6.1~~ from the year the threshold was reached.
 - ~~4.2-6.3.~~ Developing Coastal States covered by paragraph 6.1 or 6.2 shall reduce their yellowfin catches by 17%.
 - ~~4.3-6.4.~~ CPCs whose Purse seine catches of yellowfin reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included were on average equal or below 5000 MT and above 2000 MT shall reduce their purse seine catches of yellowfin tuna by 10 % from the average level reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included.

[¹ A subsistence fishery is a fishery where the fish caught are consumed directly by the families of the fishers rather than being bought by middle-(wo)men and sold at the next larger market, in accordance with the FAO Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 382. Rome, FAO. 1999. 113p. DEFINITION PROVIDED IN RESOLUTIONS: 16/02 ON HARVEST CONTROL RULES FOR SKIPJACK TUNA IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE AND RESOLUTION 19/03 ON THE CONSERVATION OF MOBULID SPECIES CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE.]

~~6.5.~~ CPCs not subject to catch limits under paragraphs ~~46.1~~ to ~~4.3-6.4~~ shall endeavour to maintain their annual catches of yellowfin within the average level reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included.

~~4.4.~~

~~5.7.~~ Gillnet:

~~7.1.~~ CPCs whose Gillnet catches of yellowfin reported for 2014 were above ~~2000-5000~~ MT and which were already covered by Resolution 19/01 shall reduce their Gillnet catches of yellowfin by ~~15-20~~ % from the 2014 levels.

~~7.2.~~ Developing Coastal States covered by paragraph 7.1 shall reduce their yellowfin catches by 17% from the 2014 levels.

~~5.1.~~

~~5.2.7.3.~~ Any CPC to whom para ~~57.1~~ does not apply and whose Gillnet catches of yellowfin reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included were on average above 5000 MT shall reduce their Gillnet catches of yellowfin by 12 % from the average level reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included.

~~5.3.7.4.~~ CPCs whose Gillnet catches of yellowfin reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included were on average equal or below 5000 MT and above 2000 MT shall reduce their Gillnet catches of yellowfin tuna by 8 % from the average level reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included.

~~5.4.7.5.~~ CPCs not subject to catch limits under paragraphs ~~57.1~~ to ~~5.3.7.4~~ shall endeavour to maintain their annual catches of yellowfin within the average level reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included.

~~6.8.~~ Longline:

~~8.1.~~ CPCs whose Longline catches of yellowfin reported for 2014 were above 5000 MT shall reduce their Longline catches of yellowfin by ~~15-20~~ % from the 2014 levels.

~~8.2.~~ Developing Coastal States covered by paragraph 8.1 shall reduce their yellowfin catches by 17% from the 2014 levels.

~~6.1.~~

~~6.2.8.3.~~ Any CPC to whom para ~~68.1~~ does not apply and whose Longline catches of yellowfin reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included were on average above 5000 MT shall reduce their longline catches of yellowfin tuna by 12% from the average level reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included.

~~6.3.8.4.~~ CPC whose Longline catches of yellowfin reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included were on average equal or below 5000 MT and above 2000 MT shall reduce their Longline catches of yellowfin by 8% from the average level reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included.

~~6.4.8.5.~~ CPCs not subject to catch limits under paragraphs ~~68.1~~ to ~~6.3.8.4~~ shall endeavour to maintain their annual catches of yellowfin within the average level reported for the period between ~~2017-2014~~ and 2019 included.

7.9. CPCs' other gears:

7.1.9.1. CPCs whose catches of yellowfin from other gears reported for 2014 were above 5000 MT and which were already covered by Resolution 19/01 shall reduce their other gear catches of yellowfin by 10 % from the 2014 levels.

7.2.9.2. Any CPC to whom para 7.1.9.2 does not apply and whose catches of yellowfin from other gears reported for the period between 2017-2014 and 2019 included were on average above 5000 MT shall reduce their other gears catches of yellowfin tuna by 8% from the average level reported for the period between 2017-2014 and 2019 included.

7.3.9.3. CPCs whose catches of yellowfin from other gears reported for the period between 2017-2014 and 2019 included were on average equal or below 5000 MT and above 2000 MT shall reduce their other gears catches of yellowfin tuna by 4% from the average level reported for the period between 2017-2014 and 2019 included.

7.4.9.4. CPCs not subject to catch limits under paragraphs 7.1.9.1 to 7.3.9.4 shall endeavour to maintain their annual catches of yellowfin within the average level reported for the period between 2017-2014 and 2019 included.

8.10. In applying the catch reductions by gears in provisions in paragraphs 4.6.1, 5.7.1, 6.8.1, 7.9.1, Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries can either choose between catches of yellowfin tuna reported for either 2014 or 2015.

9.11. Those CPCs subject to catch limits under paragraphs 4.6 to 7.9 and which have increased their catches of more than [30%] in 2019 with respect to 2014 shall apply an additional reduction of 5%.

10.12. For CPCs not subject to catch limits under paragraphs 4.6 to 7.9, if the annual catches of yellowfin reported for the period between 2018 and ~~2021~~20 included reach one of the thresholds referred in paragraphs 4.6 to 7.9, a catch limit shall be established for those CPC for the following years in accordance with paragraphs 4.6 to 7.9.

11.13. Flag States will determine appropriate methods for achieving these catch reductions, which could include inter alia capacity reductions, effort limits, and will report to the Secretariat in their annual Implementation Report, the measures they have taken.

Over catch of annual limit

12.14. Any CPC that have not respected the catch reductions established in paragraphs 4.5, 6.7,8 and 7.9 in a given year, shall implement, in the following year, an additional reduction corresponding to 100% of the over-catch.

13.15. Over-catch for that fleet has occurred in two or more consecutive years, in which case 125% of the over-catch shall be deducted from the following two years limit.

14.16. CPCs shall inform the Commission through the IOTC Compliance Committee of any reductions in the following year because of over catch in their annual implementation Report.

15.17. The revised limits will apply in the following year and CPCs compliance shall be assessed against the revised limits reported to the IOTC Compliance Committee.

Supply Vessels

~~16:18.~~ CPCs shall gradually reduce supply vessels by 31 December 2022 as specified below in paragraphs ~~16:18~~, ~~17:19~~, ~~18:20~~ and ~~19:21~~. Flag States shall submit the status of reducing the use of supply vessel as part of the annual Implementation report to the IOTC Compliance Committee.

~~17:19.~~ From 1 January 2020 onwards: 2 supply vessels in support of not less than 5 purse seiners, all of the same flag State.

~~18:20.~~ No CPC is allowed to register any new or additional supply vessel on the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels with respect to the list already available at 31 December 2017.

~~19:21.~~ A single purse seine vessel shall not be supported by more than one single supply vessel at any point of time~~At any given time, a single purse seine vessel shall not be supported by more than one single supply vessel during its fishing activities.~~

~~20:22.~~ Complementary to Resolution 19/02 *On procedures on a Fishing Aggregating Devices (FADs) Management Plan* and to Resolution 15/02 *On mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*, CPC flag States shall report annually before the 1st of January for the coming year of operations which Purse seiners are served by each supply vessel. This information will be published on the IOTC website.

Gillnet

~~21:23.~~ Without prejudice to Article 16 of the IOTC Agreement, CPCs shall encourage phasing out of gillnet fishing vessels for highly migratory stocks and fast track the implementation of Resolution 17/07 *On the prohibition to use large-scale driftnets in the IOTC*.

~~22:24.~~ CPCs shall set their gillnets at 2m depth from the surface in gillnet fisheries by 2023 to mitigate ecological impacts of gillnets.

~~23:25.~~ CPCs are encouraged to increase their observer coverage or field sampling in gillnet fishing vessels by 10% using alternative data collection methodologies (electronic or human) verified by the IOTC Scientific Committee by 2023.

~~24:26.~~ CPCs shall report the level of implementation of para ~~20:22-23-25~~ to the IOTC Compliance Committee in the annual Implementation report and to the IOTC Scientific Committee in the national scientific report.

Administration and IOTC Scientific Committee activity

~~25:27.~~ The Secretariat, under advice of the IOTC Scientific Committee, shall prepare and circulate a table of allocated catch limits disaggregated in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraphs 3-14 in December of every year.

~~26:28.~~ For the purposes of the implementation of this resolution, each CPC shall, by 15 February of each year, notify to the Executive Secretary the list of active flag vessels, which have fished for yellowfin tuna in the IOTC area of competence.

~~27:29.~~ The Executive Secretary shall report each year these lists of active vessels to the IOTC Compliance Committee and to the IOTC Scientific Committee in the form of aggregated statistics concerning fishing fleets capacity metrics.

- ~~28.30.~~ 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)* and will provide a summary of most-recent yellowfin catches for the consideration of the IOTC Compliance Committee.
- ~~29.31.~~ CPCs shall report monthly to the Secretariat the provisional amount of tropical tunas (by species) caught by flag purse seiners and large longline vessels (LOA 24m or greater), increasing to weekly when 80% of their catch limits have been caught.
- ~~30.32.~~ CPCs shall report quarterly to the Secretariat the provisional amount of tropical tunas (by species) caught by flag vessels other than those subject to paragraph 28, within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made.
- ~~31.33.~~ When a CPC reaches 80% of its catch limit, the Executive Secretary shall inform that CPC, with a copy to all other CPCs. The concerned CPC shall close the fishery for its flag vessels when the total catch of its flag vessels is equivalent to 100% of its catch limit. Such CPC shall notify promptly the Executive Secretary of the date of the closure.
- ~~32.34.~~ Each year, the IOTC Compliance Committee shall evaluate the level of compliance with the reporting obligations and the catch limits deriving from this Resolution and shall make recommendations to the Commission accordingly.
- ~~33.35.~~ At its 2021 Session, the IOTC Scientific Committee shall advice on coefficient(s), including their variability, expressing the minimum ratio of yellowfin tuna annual catches to the total volume in metric tons of tropical tuna catches by fishery on the basis of the data provided for the time period 2014 – 2020. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall advice on the soundness and relevance of such coefficient(s) to be used as a tool to manage tropical tuna catches, notably as a minimum value when reporting yellowfin tuna catches-.
- ~~34.36.~~ *The Scientific Committee shall develop a work plan with a view to establish the scientific knowledge, through also MSE testing, to advise the Commission on possible developments of the tropical tuna fisheries management framework integrating input control as well as output control measures in addition to current catch limitation measures with a view to restore or maintain tropical tuna stocks size above levels able to deliver maximum sustainable yields. The Scientific Committee and Technical Committee on Management Procedures shall continue to establish the scientific basis, through MSE testing, to advise the Commission on initial candidate management procedures, integrating input control, output control, and current catch limitation measures, to restore or maintain tropical tuna stocks above levels able to deliver maximum sustainable yields. On this basis, in 2022, the Commission shall review these candidate management procedures and, if possible in 2023 and at the latest in 2024, select a management procedure for adoption and implementation, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. The Scientific Committee and the TCMPs are also requested to develop criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances, taking into account, inter alia, the need for an appropriate balance between specificity versus flexibility in defining exceptional circumstances, and the appropriate level of robustness to ensure that exceptional circumstances are triggered only when necessary.*
- ~~35.37.~~ At its 2021 Session, the IOTC Scientific Committee shall develop a table and comparative graphs for consideration by the Commission that quantifies the expected impact on MSY, BMSY, SBMSY and relative stock status for yellowfin resulting from reductions of the individual proportional contributions of longline, FAD purse seine, free school purse seine, gillnet, baitboat/handline fisheries to the total catch.
- ~~36.38.~~ At its 2021 Session, the IOTC Scientific Committee, with the support of the IOTC Secretariat, shall provide an updated analysis of the development of the fishing capacity (N°, engine power, GRT) of the active fishing vessels, including supply/support vessels, by flag and fishing gear over the last 20 years. This fishing capacity overview shall be complemented by an analysis of the modifications of the fishing vessels and gears characteristics, of the fishing practices and of the electronic equipment occurred over the last 20 years in the

region with a view to describe and understand the development and changes of the fishing power by fishing gear/practice;

~~37.39.~~ At its 2021 Session the IOTC Scientific Committee, with the support of the IOCT Secretariat, shall provide updated information on trends of incidental catches of cetaceans by fisheries and regions under the IOTC remit. The Scientific Committee shall in particular advise whether the management measures implemented so far are adequate and effective to reduce incidental catches of cetaceans to the lowest possible level and, where necessary, to advise on alternative or complementing measures. In case of lack of solid data, the Scientific Committee shall advise on the measures, and on their intensity, to be implemented to overcome the problem.

~~38.40.~~ The measures contained within this Resolution shall be reviewed by the Commission no later than at its Session in 2022 based on the results of the next yellowfin tuna stock assessment and subsequent advice by the 24th IOTC Scientific Committee.

~~39.41.~~ This Resolution supersedes Resolution 19/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence.*