

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES THAT INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THE YEARS 2020 OR 2021

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PURPOSE

To draw the attention of the Commission to the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) that include a reference to the years 2020 or 2021.

BACKGROUND

Note, 2020 CMMs are included in this document because the Commission agreed not to deliberate on CMMs referencing 2020 during its annual session in 2020, due to limitations imposed on meeting procedures by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission has the following existing CMMs that make references to the year 2020 or 2021.

2020

1. Resolution 19/01 On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Para 2. The measures contained within this Resolution shall be considered as interim measure and will be reviewed by the Commission no later than at its annual Session in 2020.

Comment: Resolution 19/01 remains in place. The Heads of Delegations agreed not to consider new or revised CMMs in 2020.

Para 10. Exceptionally for 2019 and 2020, Small Island Developing States CPCs that contributed less than 4 % of the total yellowfin catch of the Indian Ocean in 2017, shall reduce their purse seine catch by 7.5 % of 2018 levels.

Comment: This measure was intended to expire after 2020.

Para 16. CPCs shall gradually reduce supply vessels by 31 December 2022 as specified below in (a), (b), and (c). Flag States shall submit the status of reducing the use of supply vessel as part of the report of Implementation to the Compliance Committee. **b)** From 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020: 2 supply vessels in support of not less than 5 purse seiners, all of the same flag State.

Comment: This measure was intended to be ongoing.

2. Resolution 16/11 On port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Para 3.3: Each CPC may utilise the e-PSM system, available via the IOTC website, to implement this Resolution. A trial period of three years from 2016 will be provided to allow for the delivery of a complete training programme and further improvement and development. CPCs shall encourage all stakeholders (vessel representatives, port States and flag States) to utilise, to the greatest extent possible, the e-PSM application to comply with this Resolution and provide feedback and inputs contributing to its development until 1st January 2020. At the sixteenth session of the Compliance Committee the success of this application shall be evaluated and consideration shall be given to making the use of this application mandatory and defining a period for implementation. After this date the possibility to submit an advance request for port entry manually in accordance with Article 6 will remain, should access to the Internet not be possible for any reason.

Comment: Document IOTC-2021-CoC18-12, which reviews amongst other capacity building initiatives, capacity building activities related to the e-PSM application and its usage, recommends that the Compliance Committee notes the success of the e-PSM application and, in line with Para 3.3 of Resolution 16/11, consider making a recommendation to S25 on the mandatory use of the application including definition of a period for implementation.

3. Resolution 13/09 On the conservation of albacore caught in the IOTC area of competence

Para 3. To advise the Commission, by end of 2014 at the latest: b) On potential management measures having been examined through the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process. These management measures will therefore have to ensure the achievement of the conservation and optimal utilisation of stocks as laid down in article V of the Agreement for the establishment of the IOTC and more particularly to ensure that, in as short a period as possible and no later than 2020, (i) the fishing mortality rate does not exceed the fishing mortality rate allowing the stock to deliver MSY and (ii) the spawning biomass is maintained at or above its MSY level.

Comment: More time is required to deliver on this element. Advice from most recent albacore stock assessment is pessimistic and falls outside the ranges in the MSE, therefore the operating modelling in the Management Procedure needs to be re-conditioned. The WPTmT will meet in 2021, therefore advice will not be ready for the Commission until 2022. The revised Scientific Committee plan for MSE gives an updated timeline for the albacore assessment.

4. Resolution 15/10 On target and limit reference points and a decision framework

Para 9. As soon as advice from the IOTC Scientific Committee regarding the appropriateness of TRPs and LRPs, as required under Annex 1, is available to the Commission, and where possible no later than at the IOTC Commission meeting in 2020, this Resolution will be reviewed with the view to adopting revised TRPs and LRPs.

Comment: More time is required to deliver on this element. TRPs (target reference points) and LRPs (limit reference points) are still being reviewed under the Scientific Committee's (2020) plan. Currently, generic reference points are being used but they may not be appropriate for each species. The time need to complete the work will be different for each species and as such the MSE's are being undertaken on different time-lines.

2021

5. Resolution 19/02 Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan

FAD Tracking and Recovery Procedures

Para 25. The Commission shall establish a DFAD tracking and recovery policy at its annual session in 2021, on the basis of recommendations from the ad-hoc FAD working group. The policy shall define DFAD tracking, reporting of lost DFADs, arrangements to alert coastal States of derelict/lost DFADs at risk of beaching in near real-time, how and who recovers the DFADs, how the recovery costs are collected and shared.

Comment: The ad-hoc FAD working group is due to meet for the second time from 4-6 October 2021. This issue will be addressed at that time.

6. Resolution 19/03 On the conservation of mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence

Para 11. CPCs, unless clearly demonstrate that intentional and/or incidental catches of mobulids do not occur in their fisheries, shall develop, with the assistance from the IOTC Secretariat where required, sampling plans for the monitoring of the mobulid rays catches by the subsistence and artisanal fisheries. The sampling plans, including their scientific and operational rationale, shall be reported in the national scientific reports to the Scientific Committee, starting in 2020, which will provide its advice on their soundness by 2021 at the latest. The sampling plans, where required, will be implemented by the CPCs from 2022 onward taking into account the Scientific Committee advice.

Comment: Due to the shortened virtual meetings currently being held by the scientific WPs, the amount of work possible during each WP meeting has been greatly reduced and only a few key items have been addressed. In 2020, the WPEB focused on the shortfin mako stock assessment. Despite this, the WPEB discussed a document on

safe handling and release guidelines for ETP species in gillnet fisheries. This does not directly address the sampling but does incorporate the handling of species encountered in subsistence fisheries. This will provide the foundation for future discussions on how the information on these encounters can be accurately recorded and provided to national research institutes for submission to the IOTC Secretariat.

7. Resolution 19/06 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels

Para 21. The provision of Paragraph 20 will be rescheduled in consultation with the IOTC Secretariat as a two-year pilot project to be started in 2019. The results of the project, including data collection, reports and the effectiveness of the project shall be examined in 2021 by the IOTC Compliance Committee on the basis of a report prepared by Indonesia and analysis by the IOTC Secretariat. This review shall include whether the programme offers the same level of assurances as those provided by ROP. It shall also explore the feasibility of obtaining an IMO number for the vessels concerned. The extension of the project or the integration of the project into ROP programme shall be subject to a new decision of the Commission.

Comment: The extension of the project or the integration of the project into ROP programme will be subject to a new decision by the Commission, based on the recommendation of 18th Session of the Compliance Committee after its consideration of documents IOTC-2021-CoC18-04c and IOTC-2021-CoC18-04c Add1.

8. Resolution 18/02 On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with iotc fisheries

Scientific Research

Para 6. In light of the results of the next stock assessment of blue shark in 2021, the Scientific Committee shall provide advice, if possible, on options for candidate limit, threshold and target reference points for the conservation and management of this species in the IOTC Convention area.

Para 7. The Scientific Committee shall also provide advice, at the latest by 2021, on potential management options for ensuring long-term sustainability of the stock, such as mitigation measures to reduce the mortality of blue shark, improving selectivity of fishing gears, spatial/temporal closures or minimum conservation sizes.

Final Provisions

Para 8. Based on the review and the results of the next stock assessment, updated reported catch information by each CPC and taking into account the Scientific Committee's advice, the Commission shall consider, at its 2021 meeting, the adoption of conservation and management measures, which could include the catch limit for each CPC to be decided taking into account the most recent reported catch information or bycatch mitigation such as a ban on wire trace/shark line for blue shark as appropriate.

Comment: The WPEB is due to meet for from 6-10 September 2021 to carry out the blue shark assessment. A data preparatory meeting, in preparation of the assessment, has already been held. In September, updated scientific advice will be drafted for use in the development of management actions for this species.

9. Resolution 18/04 On BIOFAD experimental project

Para 5. The Project Consortium will make available to the IOTC Scientific Committee the results of the project at the latest two months in advance of its 2020 meeting. The Scientific Committee will analyse the outcomes of the project and provide scientific advice on possible additional FAD management options for consideration by the Commission in 2021.

Comment: Results of the BIOFAD project were presented to the WPEB and WPTT in 2019. Since that time no new updates have been provided.

10. Resolution 16/02 On harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence***Review and exceptional circumstances***

Para 12. The HCR, including the control parameters, will be reviewed through further Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), but no later than 2021 (i.e. five years from its implementation). Subject to the result of that review the current HCR may be refined or replaced with an alternative HCR.

Comment: A consultant has been working on redefining the current HCR as a fully specified Management Procedure (MP). This is being done in consultation with the WPM, WPTT and TCMP. A revised timeframe for finalising MSE for key IOTC species was endorsed by the SC in 2020 taking into account the complexities of the process.

11. Resolution 16/10 To promote implementation of IOTC conservation and management measures***Special fund for capacity building***

Para 2. The Special Fund for Capacity Building shall be utilized, over the next five (5) years (2017–2021), focus on, inter alia, (i) to improve data collection in developing CPCs and (ii) to develop capacity in implementation of CMMs.

Para 3. At its plenary meeting in 2021, the Commission shall decide the next priority areas for the period from 2022-2026.

Comment: The capacity building needs in the areas of science, data and compliance are continually assessed by the IOTC working parties. Recommendations for capacity building activities made by the working parties are considered by the Scientific Committee or the Compliance Committee, and final recommendations are made to the Commission. Once endorsed by the Commission, the Secretariat facilitates the implementation of the capacity building activities. This ongoing process could be considered by the Commission to be adequately identifying and addressing the priority areas mentioned in para 3.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- a) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2021-S25-04 which lists the references to the years 2020 or 2021 made in existing CMMs.
- b) **CONSIDER** any actions to be taken in response to the above CMMs.