

OUTCOMES OF THE 24th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND THE 4TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 06 MAY 2021

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 4th Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP04) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 24th Session, held from 2-6 November 2021 as well as at the 4th Special Session of the Commission held from 8-12 March 2021, specifically relating to the work of the TCMP04.

BACKGROUND

At the 24th Session, the Commission did not **CONSIDER** any new proposals for Conservation and Management Measures (an agreement in response to the shortened, virtual nature of the meeting):

DISCUSSION

24th Session of the Commission

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2020, which have relevance for the TCMP. The following extracts from the S24 Report (IOTC-2020-S24-R) are provided here for the consideration and action of the TCMP04:

Overview of the 2019 SC22 Report and status of the stocks

(Para. 20): *The Commission **SUPPORTED** the ongoing Management Strategy Evaluation work and **NOTED** the revised workplan endorsed by the Scientific Committee in Appendix 6 of the 2019 Scientific Committee Report. The Commission particularly **NOTED** the importance of the work to specify the skipjack tuna harvest control rule as a full Management Procedure (MP) as well as the need to finalise the MP development for yellowfin tuna to provide sound management advice for this species*

Future conservation and management proposals

(Para 81): *The Commission **AGREED** that a meeting of the TCMP should be held in 2021 to continue its work on the development of management procedures. The Commission **NOTED** that the Scientific Committee in 2020 will address the previous requests of the Commission on this work and provide advice for the TCMP to discuss in 2021. The Commission also **NOTED** the MSE Task force (a subgroup of the WPM) would be meeting in March to continue its highly technical discussions on MPs. The Commission further **NOTED** that the TCMP should be held back to back with the Commission to facilitate the participation of managers at the meeting.*

The complete report of the 24th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website.

4th Special Session of the Commission

The Commission made no further general comments on Management Procedures at its Special Session (IOTC-2021-SS4-R) despite substantial discussions being held about the Yellowfin tuna stock status.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the TCMP:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2021–TCMP04–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 24th Session of the Commission and 4th Special Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the TCMP 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 TCMP meeting.