OUTCOMES OF THE 24th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 17 JUNE 2021

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 11th Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT11) of the decision and requests made by the Commission at its 24th Session, held from 2–6 November 2020, specifically relating to the work of the WPNT. The 25th Session of the Commission was held from the 7 – 11 June 2021, however the report from that meeting has yet to be adopted. The Commission discussion on neritic tunas was very limited in 2021 although the Commission did endorse the Recommendations from the 23rd Session of the Scientific Committee (SC23).

BACKGROUND

Due to the shortened nature of the meeting, as well as its virtual format, Members agreed not to discuss or adopt any new management measures in 2020. Therefore, at the 24th Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 0 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures:

DISCUSSION

(Para 28) The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of neritic tunas (***in 2020***) is as follows (full details are provided in Appendix 6 of the Commission report (IOTC-2020-S24-R)):

Kawakawa A stock assessment was not undertaken for kawakawa in 2019 and the status is determined on the basis of the last assessment conducted in 2015, which used catch data from 1950 to 2013. Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the kawakawa stock for the Indian Ocean is classified as not overfished and not subject to overfishing.
Longtail tuna No new stock assessment for Longtail tuna was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2017 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. Based on the weight-of-evidence currently available, the stock is considered to be both overfished and subject to overfishing.
Indo-Pacific king mackerel No new stock assessment for Indo-Pacific king mackerel was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2016 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. Given that no new assessment was undertaken in 2019, the WPNT considered that stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY target reference points remains unknown.
Narrowed-Barred Spanish mackerel No new stock assessment for Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel was carried out in 2019, thus, the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2017 assessment and other indicators presented in 2019. Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the stock appears to be overfished and subject to overfishing.
Bullet tuna

No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for bullet tuna in the Indian Ocean, and due to a lack of fishery data for several gears, only preliminary stock status indicators can be used. Stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY reference points remains unknown.
Frigate tuna No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for frigate tuna in the Indian Ocean, and due to a lack of fishery data for several gears, only preliminary stock status indicators can be used. Stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY reference points remains unknown.

Although the report of the 25th Session of the Commission has not been formally adopted, the stock status summaries provided by the SC in its 23rd Session were endorsed. These are provided in document IOTC-2021-WPNT-03.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the WPNT

1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2021–WPNT11–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 24th Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPNT 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 WPNT meeting.
2) **NOTE** that 0 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) were adopted at the 24th Session of the Commission (consisting of 0 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations).