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## OUTCOMES OF THE 25<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 07 OCTOBER 2021

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### PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 12<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Methods (WPM12) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 25<sup>th</sup> Session, held in June 2021, specifically relating to the work of the WPM.

### BACKGROUND

At the 25<sup>th</sup> Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 3 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 3 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), as detailed below:

### Resolutions

- Resolution 21/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence.*
- Resolution 21/02 *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels.*
- Resolution 21/03 *On harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence.*

These Conservation and Management Measures shall become binding 120 days after their distribution to all CPCs should there be no objections. The final versions of the newly agreed CMMs will be made available here in due course: <http://iotc.org/cmms>.

### DISCUSSION

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2020, which have relevance for the WPM (IOTC–2021–S25–R):

### Report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (SC23)

*(Para. 23): The Commission NOTED the stock status summaries for species of tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as other species impacted by IOTC fisheries (Appendix 5) and considered the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee to the Commission. The Commission ENDORSED the Scientific Committee's 2020 list of recommendations as its own.*

### Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP02)

*(Para. 44). The Commission NOTED that the report from the 4th meeting of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) had not yet been adopted and will be done so by correspondence. The Commission NOTED, however, that several Recommendations had been reviewed and agreed during the meeting and these were presented to the Commission by the SC Chair who co-chaired the meeting. The Recommendations were as follows:*

- *That the WPM and ad-hoc reference points working group continue to have discussions in order to provide advice on the most suitable and robust types of reference points to be used for stock status determination.*
- *That the Commission take note of this [lag inherent in the MSE processes] issue and provide feedback as to whether this is acceptable or to review different options to reduce this lag in data reporting for management advice.*
- *That the Commission endorse a request that a revised timetable to be developed by CPCs with assistance from the SC and WPM chairs along with the Secretariat and this could be presented to the SC in 2021.*

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- *The Commission continue to support capacity building initiatives through the TCMP to improve understanding and participation in the MSE process.*

*(Para 45) The Commission NOTED that further work is required on understanding the determination of stock status relative to Reference Points and endorsed the TCMP request continue the deliberations of the ad-hoc working group to continue to work on this matter intersessionally in preparation for the TCMP in 2022.*

*(Para 46) The Commission SUPPORTED the important work conducted by the TCMP and NOTED the continued support received from CPCs and the Commission to fund the activities. The Commission further NOTED the important platform provided by the TCMP for increasing dialogue between scientists and managers.*

*(Para 47) The Commission URGED the TCMP to continue with capacity building initiatives to facilitate understanding of the process and increase participation by all parties to facilitate smooth implementation of the MSE process.*

*(Para 48) India requested the Scientific Committee and TCMP consider including simulations which can differentiate between the stock in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and those on the High Seas to account for the implications of the MPs on these two components of the stocks..*

The complete report of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website: <https://iotc.org/meetings/25th-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission>

#### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the WPM:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2021–WPM12–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPM 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 WPEB meeting.
- 2) **NOTE** the 3 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (consisting of 3 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations).