

OUTCOMES OF THE 25th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 15 MARCH 2022

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 8th Working Party on Temperate Tunas (WPTmT08(DP)) of the decision and requests made by the Commission at its 25th, held from 7-11 June 2021, specifically relating to the work of the WPTmT.

BACKGROUND

At the 25th 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*

Pursuant to Article IX.4 of the IOTC Agreement, the above-mentioned Conservation and Management Measures shall become binding on Members, 120 days from the date of the notification communicated by the Secretariat.

DISCUSSION

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

On the status of tropical and temperate tunas

(Para. 18) The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of tropical and temperate tunas is as follows (full details are provided in Appendix 5):

Albacore tuna

A new stock assessment was carried out for albacore in 2019 to update the assessment undertaken in 2016. The stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY target reference points indicates that the stock is not overfished but is subject to overfishing.

Development of management procedures

Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures

(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.
- 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 25th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the WPTmT

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2022–WPTmT08(DP)–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 25th Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPTmT 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 WPTmT meeting.
- 2) **NOTE** the 3 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 25th Session of the Commission (consisting of 3 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations).