
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES THAT INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THE YEAR 2022

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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 year 2022.

BACKGROUND

The Commission has the following existing CMMs that make references to the year 2022.

1. Resolution 21/01 On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Para 2. This resolution will be effective from 1st January 2022. 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 2022.

Para 9. In respect of paragraph 8, and recalling paragraph 4, for conservation purposes three CPCs have agreed exceptionally for 2022 (or 1 year) not to exceed yellowfin tuna catches at different levels (*France (OT) 500t; Philippines 700t; and the United Kingdom 500t*).

Para 14. If over catch of an annual limit for a given CPC listed in paragraph 5 to 13 occurs, catch limits for that CPC shall be reduced as follows:

- b. over-catch in 2022 and following years, 100% of that over-catch shall be deducted from the following two years' limit, unless;
- c. over-catch for that CPC has occurred in two or more consecutive years, in which case 125% of the over-catch shall be deducted from the following two years limit.

Para 18. CPCs shall gradually reduce supply vessels (*for the purpose of this resolution, the term "supply vessel" includes "support vessel"*) in purse seine operations targeting tropical tuna, by 31st December 2022 as specified below in (a) and (b). Flag States shall submit the status of reducing the use of supply vessel as part of the report of Implementation to the Compliance Committee.

- a. From 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024: 3 supply vessels in support of not less than 10 purse seiners, all of the same flag State (*The subparagraph (a) shall not apply to CPCs which use only one supply vessel*).

Para 21. Without prejudice to Article 16 of the IOTC Agreement, CPCs shall encourage phasing out or convert gillnet fishing vessels to other gears, considering the huge ecological impact of these gears and fast track the implementation of Resolution 17/07 "On the Prohibition to use large-scale driftnets in the IOTC", noting that large-scale driftnets are prohibited in the IOTC Area of Competence from 1 January 2022.

2. Resolution 21/03 On harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Para 11. The catch limit shall by default, be implemented in accordance with the allocation scheme agreed for skipjack tuna by the Commission. In the absence of an allocation scheme, the HCR shall be applied as follows:

- c) The Commission may consider to develop and adopt Conservation and Management Measure(s) to ensure catches of skipjack tuna are maintained at or below the overall catch limit established by the HCR and to apply fishing mortality reductions if the stock falls below the Threshold level (i.e $B_{curr} < 0.4B_0$), with due consideration to the aspirations and special requirements of Developing Coastal States and Small Island Developing States, no later than the annual session of the IOTC in 2022.

Para 16. The Commission shall review this measure at its annual session in 2022, or before if there is reason and/or evidence to suggest that the skipjack tuna stock is at risk of breaching the LRP.:

3. Resolution 19/01 On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence — binding on Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Madagascar, Oman and Somalia only

Para 16. CPCs shall gradually reduce supply vessels (*for the purpose of this resolution, the term “supply vessel” includes “support vessel”*) 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.

- a) From 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019: 1 supply vessel in support of not less than 2 purse seiners, all of the same flag State (*The subparagraphs (a) and (b) shall not apply to flag States which use only one supply vessel*).
- 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.
- c) No CPC is allowed to register any new or additional supply vessel on the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels after 31 December 2017.

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

Para 18. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, the use of natural or biodegradable materials in FAD construction should be promoted. CPCs shall encourage their flag vessels to use biodegradable FADs in accordance with the guidelines at Annex V with a view to transitioning to the use of biodegradable FADs, with the exception of materials used for the instrumented buoys, by their flag vessel from 1 January 2022. CPCs shall, from 1 January 2022, encourage their flag vessels to remove from the water, retain onboard and only dispose of in port, all traditional FADs encountered (e.g. those made of entangling materials or designs). The reference year prescribed above shall be reviewed in light of the Scientific Committee’s recommendation pursuant to Resolution 18/04 On BioFAD experimental project.

Para 27. This resolution shall be reviewed by the Commission, at the latest, at its session in 2022, based on recommendations from the Scientific Committee.

Comment:

The 2nd meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on FADs (WGFAD) was held in October 2021 to discuss FAD management issues. Although the meeting was productive in advancing the discussion on FAD issues, a lack of agreement meant that little concrete advice was presented to the Scientific Committee. As such, the Scientific Committee does not have recommendations for revising this Resolution at this time.

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

Para 7. Notwithstanding paragraph 3, in the case of mobulid rays that are unintentionally caught by artisanal fishing, the vessel should report the information on the accidental catch to the responsible governmental authorities, or other competent authority, at the point of landing. Mobulid rays unintentionally caught may only be used for purposes of local consumption. This derogation will expire in 1 January 2022.

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:

In 2020, the WPEB16 discussed mobulid issues, including the impacts of IOTC fisheries on these species. Since 2020, all CPCs have been reporting mobulid interactions with their fleets, and where no interactions occur, they have justified this observation. No CPCs have requested assistance to develop sampling plans to monitor these species.

6. Resolution 19/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence.

Para 3. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (hereinafter referred to as "CPC") shall submit electronically, to the IOTC Executive Secretary for those vessels referred to 1(a) and for those vessels referred to 1(b), the list of its AFVs that are authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence. This list shall include the following information:

- j) Total volume of fish hold(s) (in m3). This requirement will be effective from 1 January 2022;

Para 4. For vessels not authorized to operate outside the EEZ of the flag CPC, requirement 3(p) will be effective after 1 January 2022.

7. Resolution 18/01 On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence — binding on India only

Para 3. Purse seine:

- c) Supply vessels: Supply vessels shall be gradually reduced by 31st December 2022 as specified below in (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). Flag States shall submit plans for reducing the use of supply vessel to the Scientific Committee no later than 31st December 2017.
- ii. From 1st of January 2020 to 31st December 2022: 2 supply vessels in support of not less than 5 purse seiners, all of the same flag State.
- iii. No CPC is allowed to register any new or additional supply vessel on the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels after 31st December 2017.
- iv. Any further reduction as from 2022 shall be determined by the Commission in light of the advice of the Scientific Committee.

8. Resolution 17/07 On the prohibition to use large-scale driftnets in the IOTC area (does not apply to Pakistan)

Para 2. The use of large-scale driftnets (*Large-scale driftnets" are defined as gillnets or other nets or a combination of nets that are more than 2.5 kilometres in length whose purpose is to enmesh, entrap, or entangle fish by drifting on the surface of, or in, the water column*) on the high seas within the IOTC area of competence shall be prohibited. The use of large-scale driftnets in the entire IOTC area of competence shall be prohibited by 1 January 2022.

Para 3. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non-Contracting party (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) shall take all measures necessary to prohibit their fishing vessels from using large-scale driftnets while on the high seas in the IOTC area of competence. They shall take all measures necessary to prohibit their fishing vessels from using large-scale driftnets in the entire IOTC area of competence by 1 January 2022.

9. 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-2022-S26-06 which lists the references to the year 2022 made in existing CMMs.
- b) **CONSIDER** any actions to be taken in response to the above CMMs.