
OUTCOMES OF THE 26th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 04 OCTOBER 2022

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 13th Working Party on Methods (WPM13) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 26th Session, held in May 2022, specifically relating to the work of the WPM.

BACKGROUND

At the 26th Session of the Commission, 4 Conservation and Management Measures were adopted (consisting of 4 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), as detailed below

Resolutions

- Resolution 22/01 *On climate change as it relates to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 22/02 *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 22/03 *On a Management Procedure for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 22/04 *On a Regional Observer Scheme* [[download here](#)]

Conservation and Management Measures become binding 120 days after their distribution to all CPCs. The final versions of the newly agreed CMMs will be made available in due course at <http://iotc.org/cmms>

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 WPM (IOTC–2022–S26–R):

Report of the 24th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC24)

(Para. 41): 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 and considered the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee to the Commission. The Commission ENDORSED the Scientific Committee's 2021 list of recommendations as its own.

Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP03)

(Para. 46). The Commission NOTED that the report from the 5th 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:

- *The TCMP NOTED that both candidate MPs for BET, reviewed by the SC, are acceptable and meet the management objectives for the stock. As such the TCMP RECOMMENDED that the Commission discuss them both and consider selecting one MP for adoption.*
- *The TCMP NOTED that CPCs require time to process the outputs of the SC in order to fully explore and understand the advice provided using the MSE process. To facilitate this, the TCMP RECOMMENDED that the Commission endorse holding a virtual TCMP meeting early each year with a view to discuss or narrow down the alternative candidate MPs proposed by the SC, providing sufficient time for CPCs to discuss the*

outputs of the SC and consider developing proposals based on them. The TCMP would then meet again physically prior to the Commission.

(Para. 47). The Commission SUPPORTED the important work conducted by the TCMP and ENDORSED the Recommendation to hold a virtual meeting early in the year. This would be included in the schedule of meetings from 2023.

(Para. 48). 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. 49). The Commission ACKNOWLEDGED an offer by the PEW Charitable Trusts to support capacity building workshops and activities for MSE. The Commission REQUESTED the Secretariat to liaise with PEW to coordinate these activities.

The complete report of the 26th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website [[here](#)]

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPM:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2022–WPM13–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 26th 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 4 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 26th Session of the Commission (consisting of 4 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations).