
PROGRESS ON REQUESTS FOR ACTION MADE BY THE COMMISSION IN 2022

PREPARED BY: SECRETARIAT

PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period on its requests for action made to the Secretariat during the 26th Session in 2022.

BACKGROUND

In 2022, the Commission made 15 requests for action. To-date 7 of those requests have been completed and 6 are ongoing and 2 have not been completed. The requests are listed below.

In accordance with Rule IX.1 of the IOTC Rules of Procedure there is a standing requirement for the Chairperson, each year, to send a letter to all non-contracting parties known to be fishing for IOTC species urging them to become a CPC. In 2023, letters were sent to 9 non-member coastal states.

Regarding requests from other bodies that were endorsed by the Commission in 2022:

- 6 requests for action were from the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance — 6 have been completed (IOTC-2023-SCAF20-03).
- 13 requests for action were from the Compliance Committee — 12 have been completed, 1 is ongoing (IOTC-2023-CoC20-14).

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2023-S27-02 which provided the Commission with information on the progress made during the inter-sessional period on the requests for action made at its 26th Session in 2022.

2) **CONSIDER** whether any of the requests for action need further instructions or guidance.

Action		Status
AI = agenda item from the report. P = paragraph number.		
AI 7.1 Regarding a procedure for the selection and recruitment of the IOTC Executive Secretary		
P18	The Commission THANKED the Small Drafting Group Chairperson, Ms Kerrie Robertson (Australia), for her contribution to the finalisation of the process; and REQUESTED the IOTC Chairperson to advise FAO about the above outcome.	Completed
AI 8. Report of the Scientific Committee		
P27	The Commission ENDORSED a data support mission to Oman, by the IOTC Secretariat. This visit would facilitate information sharing to better understand the development of Oman's fisheries which have shown a significant growth in recent years.	Not completed – the offer for a support mission was declined by Oman.
P32	The Commission NOTED that different fishing gears and fleets have differing impacts on the yellowfin tuna population. The Commission REQUESTED that the SC conduct a fisheries impact assessment to determine the individual gear/fleet effects on the yellowfin tuna stock status.	Ongoing – discussed by SC25.
P33	The Commission NOTED the TORs and Workplan endorsed by the SC for an external Peer review process for the yellowfin tuna stock assessment..... The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that, the Secretariat will endeavour to expedite the procedure to appoint the reviewers.	Completed – expert review was held 6-10 February 2023.
P40	The Commission NOTED the status of sharks presented in the Scientific Committee report and REQUESTED the SC, via its Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch, to develop research plans for the species most at risk and/or data deficient (such as shortfin mako, oceanic whitetip), to inform future decisions on action required to address data deficiencies, declining stocks, and the overall need for improved management of interactions with those species in IOTC fisheries.	Ongoing – WPEB19 (in 2023) to start on priority species.
AI 10 Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures		
P47	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.	Ongoing – the SC recommended that the virtual TCMP proposed for February 2023 be postponed and be convened early in 2024 with a special focus the MSE expected for Skipjack tuna.
P49	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.	Ongoing – workshops planned for Q3 2023.
P83	The Commission ACKNOWLEDGED further offers to support capacity building workshops and activities for MSE from WWF and ISSF (Refer also to paragraph 49).	Ongoing – workshops planned for Q3 2023.
12.1 Overview of the SCAF19 report		
P69	Formation of a Small Working Group (SWG) to draft a Rules of Procedure for the operation of the working capital fund in accordance with Regulation IV.5 of the IOTC	Completed.

Action		Status
AI = agenda item from the report. P = paragraph number.		
	Financial Regulations. Australia, Comoros, European Union Maldives and Somalia indicated that they would contribute to the SWG	
P69	The addition of a P2 level data expert to the Secretariat to better match the workload of the data section and overall, strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of data services to the Commission.	Ongoing — recruitment underway.
12.2 Programme of work and budget of the Commission		
P73	The Commission REQUESTED that any use of Working Capital Fund be reported by the Secretariat to the SCAF in the 2023 mid-year review.	Completed. Refer to IOTC-2023-SCAF20-07.
AI 13.3 Discussion on Conservation and Management Measures		
P91	The Commission REQUESTED the IOTC Chairperson to liaise with the Heads of Delegations to decide on the modalities and time of a Special Session of the Commission in the first quarter of 2023 to advance FAD issues. Some delegations expressed a reluctance to convene a special session in the absence of any new information.	Completed.
P94	The Commission AGREED to revive the Working Group on High-Seas Boarding and Inspection (WGHSBI). To this end, the Commission AGREED to the following steps: (i) France(OT) will contact Members and ascertain their interest in participating in the WG. (ii) Interested Members would work virtually on a Terms of Reference for the WGHSBI. (iii) Once a draft TOR is available, the WG will decide on the modality of the WG (virtual or in-person), and when it convenes for the first time, it will finalise the TOR before commencing its work.	Not completed — France (OT) has been unable to undertake step (i) to-date.
P100	The Commission REQUESTED that a Heads of Delegations meeting be convened by the second week of July 2022 to agree on a process to convene a series of meetings with the Contracting Parties objecting to Resolution 21/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock and other interested Contracting Parties to explore ways to address their concerns.	Completed. 3 meetings held. No Special Session planned at this stage.
14.1 Cooperation with other organisations and institutions		
P113	The Commission AGREED on the text of the instruments (provided in Appendix 12) and REQUESTED that these be sent to the respective organisations for their consideration.	Completed.