
OUTCOMES OF THE 6th SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND THE 27th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 15 MAY 2023

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 4th Working Group on FADs (WGFAD04) meeting of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 6th Special Session and 27th session, held from 3-5 February and 8-12 May 2023 respectively, specifically relating to the work of the WGFAD.

BACKGROUND

At the 6th Special Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 2 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 2 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), while at the 27th Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 9 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 8 Resolutions and 1 Recommendation) as detailed below:

Resolutions

SS6

- Resolution 23/01 *On management of Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (AFADs)*
- Resolution 23/02 *On Management of Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs) in the IOTC area of competence*

S27 (note final numbering has yet to be assigned)

- Resolution 23/a *On Establishing a Voluntary Fishing Closure in the Indian Ocean for the Conservation of Tropical Tunas*
- Resolution 23/b *On Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-scale Fishing Vessels*
- Resolution 23/c *On Establishing Catch Limits for Bigeye Tuna in the Area of IOTC Competence*
- Resolution 23/d *On the Conservation of Cetaceans*
- Resolution 23/e *On Electronic Monitoring Standards for IOTC Fisheries*
- Resolution 23/f *On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries*
- Resolution 23/g *Terms of Reference for a Working Party on Socio-Economics*
- Resolution 23/h *On a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Working Group*
- Recommendation 23/i *To Enhance Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Decision Making Process*

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 discussed the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2022, which were used as the basis for many of the CMMs adopted. However, the reports from the SS6 and S27 have yet to be adopted:

RECOMMENDATION

That the WGFAD

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2023–WGFAD–04 which outlined the main outcomes of the 6th Special Session and the 27th Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WGFAD 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 and next WGFAD meetings.

