

## OUTCOMES OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 06 OCTOBER 2023

### PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 14<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Methods (WPM14) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 27<sup>th</sup> Session, held in May 2023, specifically relating to the work of the WPM.

### BACKGROUND

At the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission, 9 Conservation and Management Measures were adopted (consisting of 8 Resolutions and 1 Recommendations), as detailed below

### Resolutions

S27

- Resolution 23/3 *On Establishing a Voluntary Fishing Closure in the Indian Ocean for the Conservation of Tropical Tunas* [[Download here](#)]
- Resolution 23/4 *On Establishing Catch Limits for Bigeye Tuna in the Area of IOTC Competence* [[Download here](#)]
- Resolution 23/5 *On Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-scale Fishing Vessels* [[Download here](#)]
- Resolution 23/6 *On the Conservation of Cetaceans* [[Download here](#)]
- Resolution 23/7 *On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries* [[Download here](#)]
- Resolution 23/8 *On Electronic Monitoring Standards for IOTC Fisheries* [[Download here](#)]
- Resolution 23/9 *On a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Working Group* [[Download here](#)]
- Resolution 23/10 *Terms of Reference for a Working Party on Socio-Economics* [[Download here](#)]

### Recommendations

- Recommendation 23/11 *To Enhance Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Decision Making Process* [[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 2022, which have relevance for the WPM (IOTC-2023-S27-R):

### Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (SC24)

*(Para. 31): 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 2022 list of recommendations as its own.*

### Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP03)

*[Para 76] The Commission NOTED the report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) (IOTC-2023-TCMP06-R) and ENDORSED the following TCMP recommendation:*

- The TCMP **NOTED** the recommendation by the SC that it is advisable to have focused dialogue with managers on those MSEs which are more advanced such as that for SKJ and SWO. The TCMP therefore **RECOMMENDED** that a virtual TCMP is convened early in 2024 with a special focus on the MSEs for SKJ and SWO, and that it be held back-to-back with the WPM(MSE) meeting.

[Para 77] The Commission **SUPPORTED** the work conducted by the TCMP and its role in providing science-based advice for management. However, the Commission **AGREED** that the dialogue in the TCMP has become too technical and has limited the involvement of managers in recent years, as most of the discussions take place among the technical experts.

[Para 78] The Commission **URGED** the TCMP to continue with capacity building initiatives to facilitate understanding of the process and increase participation by all parties with the aim of managers being better able to contribute to the implementation of the MSE process. The Commission **ACKNOWLEDGED** that an MSE capacity building workshop is planned to be held in September 2023.

[Para 79] The Commission **REQUESTED** the MSE developers to communicate the results of their analyses in a less technical manner and **ENDORSED** the creation of a small working group to discuss and agree on ways to improve communication between the scientists and the managers. This could include modifying the existing templates for presentation of MSE outputs to increase understanding and better meet the needs of the managers.

The complete report of the 27<sup>th</sup> 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–2023–WPM14–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 9 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (consisting of 8 Resolutions and 1 Recommendation).