

Joint Submission: Updated Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Management Advice

13 October 2023

IOTC Secretariat
Blend Seychelles Building
Providence, PO Box 1011
Victoria Mahé - SEYCHELLES

Dear Secretariat,

We are sending this paper for submission in advance of the upcoming 25th Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT25) meeting taking place on 30th October 2023 in San Sebastian.

The Commission has an interim plan for the rebuilding of the yellowfin stock, with catch limitations based on 2014/2015 levels (Resolution 21/01, which superseded 19/01, 18/01 and 17/01). Some of the CPCs subject to catch reductions have achieved a decrease in catches in 2020 in accordance with the levels of reductions specified in the Resolution; however, these reductions were offset by increases in the catches from CPCs exempt from and some CPCs subject to limitations on their catches of yellowfin tuna.

At the 25th Session of the scientific committee, management advice was provided on catch reduction scenarios for yellowfin and the probabilities of being above SBMSY level under a FMSY level by 2023 and 2030, as well as the probabilities of breaching the biological and F limit reference points (IOTC-2022-SC25-ES04).

No new stock assessment was carried out for yellowfin tuna in 2022, so this advice is based on the 2021 assessment. However, since this management advice was provided, and noting particularly that we are reaching the end of 2023, **we wish to respectfully request that the Working Party advise the Scientific Committee to update this management advice.** Specifically, we would appreciate understanding how the risk profile may have changed now that the requisite catch reductions were not achieved.



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Tuna Protection Alliance

Transparently updating the scientific advice in light of changed circumstances is important for ensuring the best available science continues to inform management of this important stock. Consumers prefer to purchase their seafood from sustainable sources, and the market is looking for progress to be made on Yellowfin Tuna. Tuna processors and retailers have undeniable purchasing power as well as multiple sourcing options. Their sourcing policies require them to look for well-managed fisheries. In the current situation, Indian Ocean yellowfin risks becoming an unattractive proposition for market actors who wish to source tuna responsibly.

We would be grateful if the Working Party on Tropical Tuna could address this question during its upcoming deliberations.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Umair Shahid (WWF)
Florie Loth (TUPA)
Daniel Suddaby (GTA)



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