



OUTCOMES OF THE 27th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 01 FEBRUARY 2024

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 7th Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP07) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 27th Session, held from 8-12 May 2023, specifically relating to the work of the TCMP07.

BACKGROUND

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

- [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](#)]

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

27th Session of the Commission

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2023, which have relevance for the TCMP. The following extracts from the S27 Report (IOTC-2023-S27-R) are provided here for the consideration and action of the TCMP07:

*(Para. 76) The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 6th 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 27th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the TCMP:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2024–TCMP07–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 27th Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the TCMP 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 TCMP meeting.