
PROGRESS ON REQUESTS FOR ACTION MADE BY THE COMMISSION IN 2023

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 27th Session in 2023.

BACKGROUND

In 2023, the Commission made 11 requests for action. To-date 8 of those requests have been completed and 2 are ongoing and 1 has 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 2024, letters were sent to 10 non-member coastal states.

Regarding requests from other bodies that were endorsed by the Commission in 2023:

- 6 requests for action were from the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance — 4 have been completed and 2 are ongoing (IOTC-2024-SCAF21-03).
- 8 requests for action were from the Compliance Committee — 6 have been completed, 2 are ongoing (IOTC-2024-CoC21-09).

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2024-S28-02 which provided the Commission with information on the progress made during the inter-sessional period on the requests for action made at its 27th Session in 2023.
- 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 5 On the recruitment of the new IOTC Executive Secretary		
P10	Following the recruitment process that started in May 2022, and in accordance with the IOTC Rules of Procedure, the Commission unanimously APPROVED the appointment of Dr Paul de Bruyn as the next IOTC Executive Secretary, and REQUESTED the Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division FAO to make this outcome known to the Director General of FAO.	Completed
AI 6. Determination of the status of the membership of United Kingdom “BIOT” in the IOTC		
P13	The Commission NOTED the United Kingdom’s commitment to clarify the status of its IOTC Membership before the end of the year and REQUESTED the Secretariat to notify CPCs as soon as a communication on this matter is received.	Not completed – the Secretariat is still awaiting the clarifications from the UK.
AI 9.2 Interpretation of Resolution 21/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence (Seychelles, refer to IOTC Circular 2023-21)		
P41	The Commission further AGREED that in the application of Resolution 21/01, over-catch repayment made under Resolution 19/01 should be taken into consideration and CPCs should only pay back the outstanding over-catch amount for the 2020-2021 period, rather than the full 100%. The Commission REQUESTED that the Secretariat issue a revision to the yellowfin tuna allocated catch limit for 2023	Completed — Circular 2023-47 was sent on 1 August 2023 with the revised catch limits
AI 9.4 Any remaining proposals for Conservation and Management Measures (Contracting Parties), noting that, some proposals will be considered under other agenda items, as relevant		
P62	The Commission NOTED the progress made on DFAD management at S27 and REQUESTED that the Chair and Secretariat consider how to facilitate continued discussions on the issue during the intersessional period	Ongoing. Advice on DFAD management was provided at the SC26 in December 2023. Advice will be provided by the SC chair at the current session. Intersessional discussions have not yet progressed.
P71	<p>The Commission REQUESTED the relevant Working Parties and IOTC Scientific Committee, at its 26th session, to review the latest science and best practices in other oceans and, in collaboration with the Compliance Committee as appropriate, provide advice to the Commission at S28 on technical and mitigation measures to strengthen the conservation of sharks. In particular advice on vulnerable species such as oceanic whitetip sharks, whale sharks and thresher sharks, and how to reduce the impact of tuna fisheries, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the use of wire trace as branch lines or leaders and the use of branch lines running directly off the longline floats or drop lines, known as shark lines; and the application of fins naturally attached requirements to improve monitoring of elasmobranchs, prevention of the practice of shark finning, full utilization of caught sharks and effective monitoring of compliance with existing conservation and management measures.. 	Completed — this was discussed by the WPEB in 2023 and again by the SC26.
11 Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures		

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P79	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.	Completed. The small working group met 1 February 2024. Discussions were held on how to improve this issue and will be reported to the Commission during the current session.
AI 14.1 Overview of the SCAF20 report		
P92	The Commission NOTED the SCAF's concerns with the increased budget lines determined by FAO rules and beyond the control of the IOTC (i.e. the FAO entitlement fund and FAO servicing costs) and FURTHER NOTED the SCAF's request for the Commission to consider resuming the discussion on IOTC leaving FAO.	Ongoing. The Commission has not yet held these discussions
AI 14.2 SCAF recommendations on a proposal to amend the IOTC Headquarters Agreement		
P94	The Commission APPROVED the revisions to the annex of the IOTC HQ Agreement proposed by the SCAF (Appendix 6), and requested the Executive Secretary to, forthwith, assist the Government of Seychelles and FAO to amend the current agreement.	Completed — The Secretariat has liaised with both FAO and the Government of Seychelles to facilitate the amendment.
AI 14.3 SCAF recommendations on draft rules of procedure for the IOTC Working Capital Fund		
P95	The Commission ADOPTED Rules of Procedure for the operation of the IOTC Working Capital Fund (Appendix 7) and requested the Executive Secretary to inform the FAO Finance Committee of this addition to the IOTC Financial Regulations.	Completed. The Secretariat has informed the FAO Finance Committee of the RoPs for the WCF.
AI 14.4 Adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission		
P97	The Commission REQUESTED the Executive Secretary consult with the TCAC Chairperson and find some work options that would result in the budget being reduced, and suggest these to the Heads of Delegation for consideration and intersessional approval.	Completed. After the resignation of the previous TCAC chair, the Secretariat in consultation with the Heads of Delegation outlined a path forward to appoint a new TCAC chair, including a revised budget.
AI 15.1 Cooperation with other organisations and institutions		
P105	The Commission AGREED on the text of the instruments and REQUESTED that these be sent to the respective organisations for their consideration.	Completed. Although the FAO Legal Department has requested revisions to the agreement with IOC and a cessation of the use of Collaboration Agreements with other organisations without the prior agreement of FAO and an existing MoU in place.