



DRAFT: OUTCOMES OF THE 28TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND THE 26TH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RELATING TO THE WGEMS

UPDATED: MAY 2024

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 4th Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WGEMS04) of the recommendations arising from the 28th Session of the IOTC Commission held from 13-17 May 2024 and the 26th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee (SC) held from 4-8 December 2023, specifically relating to the work of the WGEMS.

1. Any Relevant Outcomes from the 28th Session of the Commission

At the 28th Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 11 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 10 Resolutions and 1 Recommendations) as detailed below (the report of S28 has yet to be finalised):

- Resolution 24/01 *On Climate Change as It Relates to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission*
- Resolution 24/02 *On Management of Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in the IOTC Area of Competence*
- Resolution 24/03 *On Establishment a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the IOTC Area of COMPETENCE*
- Resolution 24/04 *On a Regional Observer Scheme*
- Resolution 24/05 *On Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels*
- Resolution 24/06 *On a Ban on Discards of Bigeye Tuna, Skipjack Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, and Non-Targeted Species Caught by Vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorisation That Operate in the IOTC Area of Competence*
- Resolution 24/07 *On a Management Procedure for Skipjack in the IOTC Area Of Competence*
- Resolution 24/08 *On a Management Procedure for Swordfish in the IOTC Area of Competence*
- Resolution 24/09 *To promote compliance by nationals of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures*
- Resolution 24/10 *On the Promotion of the Implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures*
- Recommendation 24/11 *On Marine Pollution*

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.

2. Updates from the 26th Session of the Scientific Committee

Below find an extract from the Report of the SC relating to WGEMS.

7.6.1 Update on WGEMS03

(para. 144) The SC **NOTED** the report of the 3rd ad hoc working group meeting on Electronic Monitoring Standards (IOTC-2023-WGEMS03-R). The meeting was attended by 89 participants (cf. 104 in 2022).

(para. 145) The SC **ACKNOWLEDGED** the discussions regarding the outcomes of the WGEMS, including feedback on the challenges required to collect ROS data through EMS, and the outputs of a desk study on alternative data collection mechanisms for IO artisanal fisheries.

(para. 146) **ACKNOWLEDGING** that Res. 23/08 requires the revision of the ROS data fields, the SC **ENDORSED** the request of setting up an intersessional working group (either by correspondence, or remotely) convening interested WPDCS and WGEMS participants to discuss and review:

- a) The scientific need for each ROS data field (as proposed by the ROS expert workshop of 2018)
- b) The status (mandatory / mandatory when feasible / optional) of each ROS data field
- c) The possibility of adding EMS-specific elements to the list of ROS mandatory data fields
- d) The inclusion of proper mechanisms / classifications, within the ROS data fields, to better capture details on fins naturally attached to sharks
- e) The summary of capabilities, advantages, and drawbacks of collecting ROS data fields through alternative methods such as EMS, human onboard observers, port-sampling, self-reporting, etc. (as well as a combination of these).

and **REQUESTED** that this group reports to the next session of the WGEMS and WPDCS