

OUTCOMES OF THE 28th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 06 OCTOBER 2024

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 15th Working Party on Methods (WPM15) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 28th Session, held in May 2024, specifically relating to the work of the WPM.

BACKGROUND

At the 28th Session of the Commission, 11 Conservation and Management Measures were adopted (consisting of 10 Resolutions and 1 Recommendations), as detailed below

Resolutions

S27

- [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*

Recommendations

- [Recommendation 24/11](#) *On Marine Pollution*

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 Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP) meeting in 2024, which have relevance for the WPM ([IOTC-2024-S28-R](#)):

Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP08)

[Para 85] The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 8th meeting of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) ([IOTC-2024-TCMP08-R](#)) and **ENDORSED** the following TCMP recommendations:

- Considering that all Skipjack MPs tested show good performance with respect to stock status (e.g., all showing stock biomass above the LRP with high probability) and little difference among them in other performances measures under the reference set, the TCMP **NOTED** that all MPs ensure the skipjack will be managed within safe biological limits. Therefore, the TCMP **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to

consider for adoption the EU proposal for the MP that has the following properties: (i) 50% probability of being at the skipjack target reference point in 2034-2038 (i.e., 40% B0), (ii) the stable type MP parameterisation, and (iii) an asymmetric TAC change clause.

- The TCMP **NOTED** that increased catches of skipjack will also affect yellowfin and bigeye stocks which are overfished and subject to overfishing. The TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the SC investigate and incorporate ecosystem effects in the next skipjack revision of the MP since the fishery of skipjack will impact catches in other species, such as yellowfin, bigeye, and sharks.
- Moreover, considering that in the past skipjack catches have been greater than the recommended limits, the TCMP **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to take the necessary actions to ensure that catches do not exceed the TAC when the MP is applied.
- After considering the performance and trade-off between management objectives of the six candidate management procedures of swordfish, the TCMP **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to consider for adoption the Australian proposal for a swordfish MP: MP1 or MP2. These have the following properties: a fast reacting, data-based type MP, with either 60% (MP1) or 70% (MP2) probability of being at the target reference point in 2034-2038.
- The TCMP also **NOTED** that changes in swordfish catch will also affect other species, particularly shark species. The TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the SC investigate and incorporate ecosystem effects in the next swordfish revision of the MP.

[Para 86] The Commission also **NOTED** the TCMP recommendation on the arrangements for TCMP meetings in 2025:

- Considering the progress on MSE for IOTC species, the TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that a virtual TCMP be convened early in 2025 with a special focus on albacore tuna if the SC agrees that sufficient progress has been made, and a one-day TCMP be convened back-to-back with the Commission’s Session in 2025. The TCMP also **RECOMMENDED** that the WPM(MSE) be held in March/April, and that the next TCMP meeting should include a capacity building component, taking into consideration the options suggested by the small Working Group.

[Para 87] However, **NOTING** that it was unlikely that any Management Procedure would be ready for adoption in 2025, the Commission proposed that the first meeting of the TCMP in February should only be held if deemed necessary by the SC. The Commission **AGREED** that the second meeting of the TCMP could be shortened to one day.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPM:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2024–WPM15–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 28th 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 WPM meeting.
- 2) **NOTE** the 11 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 28th Session of the Commission (consisting of 10 Resolutions and 1 Recommendation).