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## **CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES THAT INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THE YEAR 2025**

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### **PURPOSE**

To draw the attention of the Commission to the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) that include a reference to the year 2025.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Commission has the following 10 CMMs that make references to the year 2025.

#### **1. Resolution 24/01 On climate change as it relates to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission**

Para 10. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall:

c) at its 28th annual meeting in 2025, review and propose amendments to its own Terms of Reference and those of its subsidiary bodies to meet the scientific needs stipulated in this Resolution.

Para 11. At its annual session in 2025, the Commission shall consider whether to add climate change as a standing agenda item thereafter.

#### **Comment:**

- *The SC will be reminded to address the proposed amendments to its Terms of Reference in December 2025.*
- *The Commission will discuss the need to add climate change as a standing agenda item during the S29 session.*

#### **2. Resolution 24/02 On management of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADS) in the IOTC area of competence**

Para 3. The IOTC Secretariat shall develop and maintain an electronic register for all instrumented buoys deployed in the IOTC area of competence (DFAD Register). The proper functioning of the DFAD Register shall be tested with a selection of vessels during the second semester of 2025. The DFAD Register shall be effective as of 1 January 2026.

Para 7. The IOTC Secretariat shall present the structure and functioning of the DFAD Register at the annual Session of the Commission in 2025. The IOTC Secretariat shall start the implementation of the DFAD Register unless decided otherwise by the Commission.

Para 21. CPCs with flag vessels fishing on DFADs shall submit to the IOTC Executive Secretary, once in 2025 for the currently operating fleet and once in the first year of operation for future fleets in their annual Implementation Report, a DFAD Management Plan for the use of DFADs and associated technologies in accordance with the Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans as provided for DFADs in Annex II. If there is a change in the information provided in Annex II, CPCs shall submit an amendment of their DFAD Management Plan in their annual Implementation Report.

Para 40. As of 1 January 2026, and with the specific objective to collect information on how to mitigate DFAD loss and abandonment, in addition to the marking of the instrumented buoy referred to in paragraph 39, CPCs shall ensure that their vessels do only deploy DFADs that are permanently marked with a specific IOTC DFAD unique identifier. The IOTC Secretariat shall attribute the DFAD unique identifier to the CPC, which shall communicate the identifier to the master of the vessel. The marking shall be separate from the instrumented buoy. The standards for the individual marking of DFADs shall be developed by the IOTC Scientific Committee, following preparatory work by the WGFAD and in close collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat, at the latest at its 2025 session.

#### **Comment:**

- *The IOTC Secretariat has utilised funds provided via a voluntary contribution by the EU to contract experts to develop a prototype of the DFAD register. This will be presented to the Commission at the S29 session.*
- *2025 DFAD management plans have been submitted, as of 11.02.2025 by European Union (France/Italy & Spain), Republic of Korea, Tanzania.*  
*Note that 2024 DFAD management plans were submitted by European Union (France/Italy & Spain; 14.03.2024), Japan (14.02.2024), the Republic of Korea (11.03.2024), Mauritius (14.03.2024), Seychelles (17/03/2022) and Tanzania (21/03/2024).*
- *The SC will be reminded to address the issue of gear marking at its session in December 2025. CPCs are strongly encouraged to provide input to the SC at that time.*

### **3. Resolution 24/05 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels**

Para 28. The provisions in paragraph 27 will be rescheduled as a two-year continuation of the pilot that was started in 2017 and will continue in consultation with the IOTC Secretariat and associated experts. The continuation of the pilot project will be started in 2023. The pilot project is aiming to be integrated into the ROP by 2025, thus it would be the last extension period for the pilot project. The observer report shall be submitted regularly to the Secretariat, no later than 30 days after the end of the observer deployment. The observer shall observe the compliance requirement of the carrier and fishing vessels and indicate it in the report. The results of the project, including data collection, reports and the effectiveness of the project shall be examined annually by the IOTC Compliance Committee on the basis of a report prepared by Indonesia and analysis by the IOTC Secretariat through an independent assessment. This review shall include whether the programme offers the same level of assurances as those provided by the ROP. It shall also explore the feasibility of obtaining an IMO number for the vessels concerned. The integration of the project into the ROP shall be subject to a new decision of the Commission. Information and data collected by Indonesia as part of the pilot project relating to the transshipment of southern bluefin tuna will be shared with the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, consistent with existing IOTC sharing arrangements under the CCBST/ IOTC MOU.

#### **Comment:**

- *Integration of the pilot project into the ROP in 2025 is being assessed. A consultant has been hired by the Secretariat to determine the feasibility of this integration. The results of that consultation will be presented to the Compliance Committee in 2025.*

### **4. Resolution 24/07 On a management procedure for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence**

Para 10. The MP will be run for the first time in 2025 to estimate the TAC for the period 2027-2029.

#### **Comment:**

- *The SC will run the skipjack MP and provide the outputs at its session in December 2025.*

### **5. Resolution 24/08 On a management procedure for swordfish in the IOTC area of competence**

Para 9. Allocation of the TAC among CPCs will take place according to a process agreed external to this measure no later than the end of its 29th session in 2025.

Para 10. The Commission will develop a mechanism to constrain catch to the MP derived TAC for swordfish no later than 2025, if an allocation scheme has not yet been agreed and implemented by the Commission.

#### **Comment:**

- *This will be discussed by the Commission at its 29<sup>th</sup> session. Currently, no allocation for swordfish has been agreed and therefore the provisions under paragraph 10 may apply.*

### **6. Resolution 23/01 On the management of anchored fish aggregating devices (AFADS)**

Para 18. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall, no later than at its annual session in 2025, provide a set of relevant indicators that would allow monitoring the effects of AFAD fisheries and assessing the efficiency of existing/additional/alternative AFAD management options.

#### **Comment:**

- *The SC will be reminded of the need to address this issue at its session in December 2025.*

### **7. Resolution 23/03 On establishing a voluntary fishing closure in the Indian Ocean for the conservation of tropical tunas**

Para 2. This resolution will be effective from 1st January 2024. The measures contained within this Resolution shall be considered as interim measures and will be reviewed by the Commission no later than at its annual Session in 2025.

**Comment:**

- *No additional advice has been provided by the SC in 2024. The Commission will need to review the Resolution at the S29.*

### **8. Resolution 23/04 On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence.**

Para 14. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall develop a table as shown in Annex 2 that quantifies the expected impact on maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and SSBMSY for bigeye tuna resulting from replacing fishing mortality/catches of any major fishing gear/fishery (e.g., Longline, DFAD fisheries, AFAD fisheries, Purse seine on free school, other fisheries) for consideration by the Commission at its 2025 Session. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall also provide advice on FAD management options, including on, limits on FADs sets, that may be necessary to achieve a replacement of fishing mortality of FAD fisheries with free school fisheries. This analysis shall be conducted for DFADs and AFADs fleets separately.

**Comment:**

- *The SC were not able to address this issue in 2024 as they were focused on the new stock assessment for yellowfin tuna. As such the SC are working towards presenting preliminary results to the special session of the Scientific Committee to be held in February 2025.*

### **9. Resolution 23/06 On the conservation of cetaceans**

Para 7. The Commission requests that the IOTC Scientific Committee develop best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of encircled cetaceans, taking into account those developed in other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and that these guidelines be submitted to the Commission meeting for endorsement by 2025 at the latest.

Para 12. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall review information on the status of cetaceans in the IOTC area of competence and provide recommendation or advice to the Commission no later than 2025 to identify appropriate measures that Commission shall take to mitigate negative effects of the interactions with cetaceans by the IOTC fisheries.

**Comment:**

- *The safe handling and release guidelines were discussed by the WPEB and passed on to the WPDCS for comment. The SC noted that the WPDCS had discussed and reviewed the summary on best practice guidelines for safe handling and release of small cetaceans and recommended the Commission to consider these guidelines when developing conservation measures for cetaceans. The agreed guidelines are found in document [IOTC-2024-WPDCS20-21](#)*

### **10. Resolution 22/03 On a management procedure for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence.**

Para 10. The Commission will develop a mechanism to constrain catch to the MP derived TAC for bigeye tuna no later than 2025, if an allocation scheme has not yet been agreed and implemented by the Commission.

Para 13. The IOTC, through the Technical Committee on Management Procedures, is requested to review the need for, and if necessary, develop at latest by 2025, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should those exceptional circumstances be found to occur

**Comment:**

*Para 10 was directly addressed in Resolution 23/04. The SC has provided advice on exceptional circumstances*

*since 2023.*

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Commission:

- a) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2025-S29-04 which lists the references to the year 2025 made in existing CMMs.
- b) **CONSIDER** any actions to be taken in response to the above CMMs.