

OUTCOMES OF THE 28th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 1 FEBRUARY 2025

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 9th Working Party on Temperate Tunas (WPTmT09(DP)) of the decision and requests made by the Commission at its 28th, held from 13-17 May 2024, specifically relating to the work of the WPTmT.

BACKGROUND

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:

Resolutions

- [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*

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

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2023, which have relevance for the WPTmT (IOTC–2024–S28–R):

On the status of tropical and temperate tunas

(Para. 15) The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of tropical and temperate tunas is as follows(full details are provided in Appendix 5):

Albacore tuna

No new stock assessment was carried out for albacore tuna in 2023 and so the advice is based on the 2022 assessment. Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the stock status of albacore tuna in relation to the Commission's interim BMSY and FMSY target reference points indicates that the stock is **not overfished and is not subject to overfishing**.

Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures

(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.

The complete report of the 28th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the WPTmT

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2025–WPTmT09(DP)–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 28th Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPTmT 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 WPTmT meeting.
- 2) **NOTE** the 11 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 28th Session of the Commission (consisting of 10 Resolutions and 1 Recommendations).