



## OUTCOMES OF THE 8th TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 1 APRIL 2025

### PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 9<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP09) of the outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP08), held in May 2024, relating to the work of the TCMP.

### BACKGROUND

The TCMP08 meeting reviewed progress and results of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) work on major IOTC tuna species, discussed elements of the Management Procedures that require a decision by the Commission, and included the presentation of MSE results. The Technical Committee on Management Procedure was intended as a formal communication channel to facilitate the exchange of information and views between fishery scientists and managers.

### DISCUSSION

The TCMP discussed the progress of MSE for skipjack tuna and swordfish, and the actions for considerations of proposals of skipjack tuna and swordfish management procedures. The following extracts from the TCMP08 Report are provided here for the consideration:

(Para. 26) 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% B<sub>0</sub>), (ii) the stable type MP parameterisation, and (iii) an asymmetric TAC change clause.

(Para. 27) 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.

(Para. 28) 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.

(Para. 44) 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.

(Para. 45) 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. 51) The TCMP **NOTED** the limited engagement of coastal states in the discussion of MSE work at the meeting. The TCMP acknowledged that the importance of ongoing capacity building to enhance awareness and understanding of MP development among coastal countries. Therefore, the TCMP **RECOMMENDED** the allocation of resources to support capacity-building efforts, to bolstering the participation and contribution of coastal countries in the MSE process.

(Para. 56) 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 considerations of the options suggested by the small Working Group.

#### RECOMMENDATION/s

That the TCMP:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2025–TCMP09–03 which outlined the outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee on Management Procedure, and **AGREE** to consider how best to provide the commission with the information it needs, in order to satisfy the Commission's requests, throughout the course of the current TCMP meeting.