



Report of the 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Reunion, 13-17 April 2025

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ACRONYMS

AFAD	Anchored fish aggregating device
“BIOT”	“British Indian Ocean Territory”
BMSY	Biomass which produces MSY
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CNCP	Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, of the IOTC
CoC	Compliance Committee of the IOTC
CPs	Contracting Parties
CPCs	Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
DFAD	Drifting fish aggregating device
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAD	Fish aggregating device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMSY	Fishing mortality at MSY
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HCR	Harvest control rule
ICRU	Improved Cost Recovery Uplift
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPNLF	International Pole and Line Foundation
ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
LRP	Limit reference point
LSTLV	Large-scale tuna longline vessel
MPF	Meeting participation fund, of the IOTC
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OFCF	Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OPRT	Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries
OT	Overseas Territories
PEW	PEW Charitable Trust
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SC	Scientific Committee of the IOTC
SCAF	Standing Committee on Administration and Finance of the IOTC
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SBMSY	Spawning or ‘adult’ equilibrium biomass at MSY
SWIOFC	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
TCAC	Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria of the IOTC
TCMP	Technical Committee on Management Procedures
TCPR	Technical Committee on Performance Review
TRP	Target referent point
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WPEB	Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch of the IOTC
WPICMM	Working party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures
WPM	Working Party on Methods of the IOTC
WPTmT	Working Party on Temperate tunas of the IOTC
WPTT	Working Party on Tropical Tunas of the IOTC
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (a.k.a World Wildlife Fund)

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report uses the following terms and associated definitions.

Level 1: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:

RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION: Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

Level 2: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a CPC, the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:

REQUESTED: This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalise the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

Level 3: General terms to be used for consistency:

AGREED: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 or level 2 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be considered/adopted by the next level in the Commission's structure.

NOTED/NOTING: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference.

Any other term: Any other term may be used in addition to the Level 3 terms to highlight to the reader of an IOTC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. However, other terms used are considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3, described above (e.g. **CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED**).

CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION**TWENTY NINE, AS OF 17 APRIL 2025**

AUSTRALIA
BANGLADESH
CHINA
COMOROS
EUROPEAN UNION
FRANCE (OT)
INDIA
INDONESIA
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
JAPAN
KENYA
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF
MADAGASCAR
MALAYSIA
MALDIVES
MAURITIUS
MOZAMBIQUE
OMAN
PAKISTAN
PHILIPPINES
SEYCHELLES
SOMALIA
SOUTH AFRICA, REP. OF
SRI LANKA
SUDAN
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
THAILAND
UNITED KINGDOM
YEMEN

COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION**TWO, AS OF 17 APRIL 2025**

LIBERIA
PANAMA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was opened by the IOTC Chairperson Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Rep. of Korea). Unfortunately, the Chairperson could not attend the meeting in person and therefore handed over the chairing responsibilities to the 1st Vice-Chair, Mr Adam Ziyad (Maldives).

The Commission **ADOPTED** the amendments to the Rules of Procedure (revised text included in [Appendix 10](#)).

The Commission **RECALLED** that in 2024, it was AGREED that an election for the SC chair should take place at the next session of the SC in 2024 (IOTC-2024-S29-R, para 30). The Commission **NOTED** that, at its 27th Session, the SC called for nominations for the position of the Chairperson of the SC. Dr Toshihide Kitakado (Japan) was nominated and elected as Chairperson of the SC for one more year.

The Commission **AGREED** that any CPC could request the Commission to consider delaying the implementation of the dFAD register, if the dFAD register cannot be concluded by 1 January 2026, through an intersessional decision process.

The Commission **ADOPTED** the 2025 IOTC IUU Vessels List. All CPCs shall be required to take the necessary measures regarding the IUU Vessels List, in accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution 24/03.

The Commission **ADOPTED** the programme of work and budget for 2026, the indicative budget for 2027 ([Appendix 7](#)), and the schedule of contributions for 2026 as provided in [Appendix 8](#), **NOTING** that the Programme of Work for the IOTC Secretariat is based on the assumption that the nature and extent of the activities undertaken by the IOTC Secretariat will remain within the current scope.

The Commission **ADOPTED** the schedule of meetings for its subsidiary bodies for 2026 as detailed in [Appendix 9](#), noting the Scientific Committee, in December 2025, will finalise the dates of the science meetings.

The Commission **AGREED** to renew the CNCP status of Liberia, until the end of the 30th Session of the IOTC (S30).

The Commission **NOTED** the application for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) status from Panama. The Commission **AGREED** to grant the CNCP status to Panama, until the end of the 30th Session of the IOTC (S30).

The Commission **AGREED** to accept the invitation to be a collaborating entity with the organisers of the ANFACO World Tuna Conference.

The Commission **ADOPTED** the following fourteen Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs):

[Resolution 25/01](#) *On climate change as it relates to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.*

[Resolution 25/02](#) *On the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) programme.*

[Resolution 25/03](#) *On establishing catch limits for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence.*

[Resolution 25/04](#) *On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence.*

[Resolution 25/05](#) *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels.*

[Resolution 25/06](#) *On a Regional Observer Scheme.*

[Resolution 25/07](#) *On a management procedure for swordfish in the IOTC area of competence.*

[Resolution 25/08](#) *On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC.*

[Resolution 25/09](#) *On the conservation of shortfin and longfin mako sharks caught in association with IOTC fisheries.*

[Resolution 25/10](#) *On establishing a Technical Committee on Management Procedures.*

[Resolution 25/11](#) *On Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.*

[Resolution 25/12](#) *On the promotion of the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.*

[Recommendation 25/13](#) *On promoting the objectives of IOTC through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement (The agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction).*

[Recommendation 25/14](#) *On the limitation of fishing capacity.*

1. Opening of the Session

1. The 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was opened by the IOTC Chairperson Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Rep. of Korea). Unfortunately, the Chairperson could not attend the meeting in person and therefore handed over the chairing responsibilities to the 1st Vice-Chair, Mr Adam Ziyad (Maldives).
2. Mr Costas Kadis, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, Mrs Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Ministre de la Transition écologique, de la Biodiversité, de la Forêt, de la Mer et de la Pêche, France and Mrs Huguette Bello présidente du conseil régional de La Réunion, provided the opening addresses.
3. The 29th Session of the Commission was held in a hybrid format, with delegations present physically in the meeting room, and other participants attending by videoconference.

2. Letters of credentials

4. Letters of Credentials were received from 27 Contracting Parties and 1 Cooperating Non-contracting Party (Liberia). Neither Yemen nor Sudan participated. The list of CPC participants is provided in [Appendix 1](#).
5. The Executive Secretary reminded CPCs that the content of the letters of credentials should be in accordance with the template provided in Appendix I of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.

3. Admission of Observers

6. Pursuant to Article VII of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, the Commission admitted 23 Observers (including the invited experts), in accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2023).
7. In addition, representatives of three invited coastal states who are not members of the IOTC attended the meeting remotely (Egypt, Myanmar and Timor-Leste).
8. Panama was admitted as an observer pending the discussion on their application for CNCP status in accordance with the IOTC Rules of Procedure.
9. The list of participants, as listed in the letters of credentials, is provided in [Appendix 1](#).

4. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Session

10. The adopted agenda (IOTC-2025-S29-01b) is provided in [Appendix 2](#). The documents presented to the Commission are listed in [Appendix 3](#).

5. Determination of the status of the membership of United Kingdom in the IOTC

11. The Commission **NOTED** the joint statement from the United Kingdom and Mauritius, which is included in [Appendix 4](#), and deferred a decision on the status of the membership of the United Kingdom in the IOTC to its next session.

6. Update on the implementation of decisions of the Commission in 2024 (S28)

12. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2025-S29-02 which provided the Commission with information on the progress made during the inter-sessional period on the requests for action made at its 28th Session in 2024.

7. Amendments to the IOTC Rules of Procedure

13. The Commission **NOTED** document IOTC-2025-S29-06 on Amending the IOTC Rules of Procedures, Appendix V.
14. The Commission **ADOPTED** the amendments to the Rules of Procedure (revised text included in [Appendix 10](#)).

7.1 Amendments to other processes and procedures

15. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2025-S29-08 submitted by Japan on the operation of IOTC's meetings which provided some comments and suggestions to improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of IOTC's meetings. The Commission **NOTED** the intention of Japan to defer the discussions on this paper to the next session of the IOTC while a review of IOTC meeting operation is conducted inter-sessionally.

16. The Commission **REQUESTED** that a small informal working group, open to any interested party, but involving at a minimum the Commission Chair and Vice-Chairs, and those of the CoC, SCAF and SC as well as other relevant subsidiary bodies, with support from the IOTC Secretariat, undertake a comprehensive review of IOTC meeting operations. This review should include at a minimum, the following topics:
- the current structure of the annual meeting series (CoC, SCAF, TCMP, and Commission meetings);
 - the topics raised in paper IOTC-2025-S29-08;
 - the annual meeting calendar and meeting formats.
 - potential amendments to the IOTC Rules of Procedure that might be required to improve the IOTC's meetings and their structure.

8. Report of the Scientific Committee

17. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 27th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC) (IOTC-2024-SC27-R) which was presented by the SC Chair, Dr. Toshihide Kitakado (Japan). A total of 141 delegates and other participants, comprising 120 delegates from 24 Contracting Parties and 21 delegates from 15 observer organisations, including Invited Experts participated in SC27, held in Cape Town, South Africa.
18. The Commission **NOTED** that all scientific working group and working party meetings taking place in 2024 had been successfully held, utilizing a hybrid format.
19. The Commission **NOTED** that 27 National Reports were submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2024 by CPCs and that this was a slight increase when compared with the 25 National Reports submitted in 2023.

The status of tropical and temperate tunas

20. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of tropical and temperate tunas are as follows. Full stock status summaries are available [[here](#)]:

Bigeye tuna

No new stock assessment was carried out for bigeye tuna in 2024 and so the advice of status of stock is based on the 2022 assessment. On the weight-of-evidence available, the bigeye tuna stock is determined to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**. A bigeye Management Procedure (Res. 22/03) was used to provide a recommendation on the TAC for 2024-2026.

Yellowfin tuna*

A new stock assessment was carried out for yellowfin tuna in 2024. Overall stock status estimates differ substantially from the previous assessment. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the yellowfin tuna stock is determined to be **not-overfished** and **not-subject to overfishing**. It is noted that there are still important uncertainties relating to the data used for this stock assessment, in particular, relating to the 2024 CPUE standardization, that need to be reviewed and resolved in 2025, which are recognised in the SCs catch limit advice. Noting the pending advice to be provided by the SC to the 2026 Commission meeting on the need, if any, to update the yellowfin tuna stock assessment in 2026, results of the K2SM should not be considered as catch advice until the uncertainties in the CPUE index are resolved.

Skipjack tuna

No new stock assessment was carried out for skipjack tuna in 2024 and so the advice is based on the 2023 assessment. Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the skipjack tuna stock is determined to be **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**. The catch limit calculated applying the HCR specified in Resolution 21/03 is 628, 606 t for the period 2024-2026. In 2024, the Commission adopted Resolution 24/07 on a management procedure for skipjack. The MP is scheduled to be implemented in 2025 to provide TAC advice for 2027-2029.

Albacore tuna

No new stock assessment was carried out for albacore tuna in 2024 and so the advice is based on the 2022 assessment. The stock status 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**.

*noting the caveats highlighted in the following paragraphs

21. The Commission **NOTED** that the 2024 yellowfin tuna stock assessment estimated that the stock is **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**, with an 86% probability of the stock being in the Kobe Green quadrant. This was more optimistic than previous stock assessments, which estimated the stock was overfished and subject to overfishing. Pending review and resolution of uncertainties relating to the 2024 CPUE standardisation, the Commission **NOTED** that this could be a positive sign that the rebuilding plans and efforts by some CPCs to reduce catches have been effective.
22. The Commission **NOTED** that the change in the stock status estimates for yellowfin tuna led to intensive discussions during the scientific meetings. These discussions investigated potential reasons behind the more optimistic estimates. Concerns were expressed by some CPCs regarding the reliability and transparency of the abundance index used in the stock assessments.
23. The Commission **NOTED** that substantial effort has been dedicated to the assessment, with a large number of scenarios investigated, including biological factors, the influence of length composition data, and CPUE data. A wide range of advanced diagnostics were examined.
24. The Commission **NOTED** that an expert involved in the external review was part of the assessment team, the assessment addressed many recommendations from the external review and was more stable than previous assessments..
25. The Commission **NOTED** that investigations by the WPTT and SC revealed that the large change in the joint CPUE series for longline fleets in 2024 was the main driver of the positive assessment outcome. This change in CPUE was largely attributed to modifications in the standardization methods.
26. Given the substantial uncertainty and potential issues with the joint CPUE series for longline fleets and its influence on the assessment outcome, the Commission **REQUESTED** that the SC investigate and resolve the uncertainties in relation to the CPUE standardization, and provide feedback to the Commission at S30 in 2026. This work is critical to review and confirm the validity of the 2024 yellowfin tuna stock assessment.
27. The Commission **NOTED** that:
 - a. the joint CPUE group will convene in late April to investigate yellowfin tuna CPUE indices, in addition to its work on bigeye tuna.
 - b. the CPUE group has proposed measures to increase the transparency and openness of the workshop, in response to SC recommendations. This includes allowing the Secretariat and external experts to participate in and review the standardization procedures during the workshop. This represents a significant improvement over past practice.
28. The Commission **AGREED** that that CPUE indices are extremely important in the assessment of tropical tunas, including yellowfin tuna. Therefore, it is crucial to allow external expert input into the standardisation process to enhance the credibility and confidence in the resulting abundance indices.
29. The Commission **NOTED** the new approach used in the assessment, which scaled the MSY reference points based on recent average recruitment and **REQUESTED** that this approach be further examined by the SC in 2025. This is the first time such an approach has been used for an IOTC species. However, the SC has raised concerns about potential model artifacts that may cause recruitment to deviate from the long-term average. As this approach could be applied to other species, a thorough investigation is needed to ensure its appropriateness.

The status of neritic tunas

30. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of neritic tunas are as follows. Full stock status summaries are available [[here](#)]:

Kawakawa

No new stock assessment was conducted for longtail in 2024 and so the results are based on the results of the assessment carried out in 2023 which examined a number of data-limited methods (CMSY). Based on

the weight-of-evidence available, the kawakawa stock for the Indian Ocean is classified as **overfished but not subject to overfishing**.

Longtail tuna

A new assessment was carried out in 2023 using data-limited assessment techniques (CMSY). Based on the weight-of-evidence currently available, the stock is considered to be both **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

Indo-Pacific king mackerel

A new assessment was conducted in 2024 using the data-limited techniques (CMSY and CMSY++). Based on the weight-of-evidence currently available, the stock is considered to be **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**.

Narrowed-Barred Spanish mackerel

No new stock assessment was conducted in 2024 for narrow-barred Spanish mackerel and so the results are based on the results of the assessment carried out in 2023 which examined a number of data-limited methods. Based on the CMSY assessment, the stock appears to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

Bullet tuna

A new assessment was carried out in 2024 using data-limited techniques (CMSY, LB-SPR, and FishBlicc). However, the catch data for bullet tuna are very uncertain given the high percentage of the catches that had to be estimated due to a range of reporting issues. Stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY reference points remains **unknown**.

Frigate tuna

A new assessment was carried out in 2024 using data-limited techniques (CMSY, OCOM, LB-SPR and FishBlicc). However, the catch data for frigate tuna are very uncertain given the high percentage of the catches that had to be estimated due to a range of reporting issues. Stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY reference points remains **unknown**.

31. **NOTING** the advanced stock assessments that have been carried out for the tropical tuna species and some sharks, the Commission **ENCOURAGED** further analysis of data poor stocks such as neritic and marlin species. The Commission **NOTED** that data poor methods are generally required for neritic species due to data quality issues. The Commission further **NOTED** that no assessments are planned for neritic species this year so work can focus on preparing and improving the important datasets that can be used for assessments in the future.

The status of billfish

32. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of billfish are as follows. Full stock status summaries are available [\[here\]](#): **Adopted**

Swordfish

No new stock assessment was carried out for swordfish in 2024, thus the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2022 assessment. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2023, the stock is determined to be **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**.

Striped Marlin

A new stock assessment was carried out for striped marlin in 2024, based on two different models: JABBA, a Bayesian state-space production model (age-aggregated); and SS3, an integrated model (age-structured) (using data up to 2022). On the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the stock status of striped marlin is determined to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

Blue Marlin

No new stock assessment was carried out for blue marlin in 2024, thus the stock status is determined on the basis of the 2022 assessment. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2022, the stock is determined to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

Black Marlin

A new stock assessment was carried out for black marlin in 2024, based on JABBA, a Bayesian state-space production model (using data up to 2022). On the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the stock status of black marlin is determined to be **not overfished** but **subject to overfishing**.

Indo-Pacific sailfish

No new stock assessment was carried out for Indo-Pacific Sailfish in 2024, thus the stock status is determined on basis of the 2022 stock assessment based on JABBA (using data up to 2019). On the weight-of-evidence available in 2022, the stock status of Indo-Pacific sailfish is determined to be **not overfished nor subject to overfishing**.

33. The Commission **ACKNOWLEDGED** the improvements in stock assessments for certain billfish species, such as black marlin, which were attributed to enhancements in the quality of reported catch data and **EMPHASISED** the need to develop improved methodologies for assessing billfish fisheries, particularly for data-poor species, and to apply suitable assessment techniques where data availability allows.
34. The Commission **NOTED** that, in response to the recommendation by the SC to review the applicability and the effectiveness of the provisions within Resolution 18/05, Australia indicated that they plan to put forward a proposal to the 30th Session of the Commission to update the catch limits based on the latest stock assessments and projections for the billfish species.

Matters related to ecosystems, bycatch and the status of sharks

35. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of sharks are as follows. Full stock status summaries are available [\[here\]](#):

Blue shark

No new stock assessment was carried out for blue sharks in 2024 and so the results are based on the assessment carried out in 2021 using an integrated age-structured model (SS3) (using data up to 2019). On the weight-of-evidence available in 2021, the stock status is determined to be **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**.

Shortfin mako shark

In 2024 a stock assessment was carried out for the shortfin mako shark in the IOTC area of competence, using data until 2022. Considering the characterized uncertainty, and on the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the shortfin mako shark stock is determined to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

Other shark species

There are no quantitative stock assessments and limited basic fishery indicators currently available for other shark species in the Indian Ocean therefore their stock status remains **unknown**.

36. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the consideration of operational, economic and social impacts of mitigation approaches be confined to the WPSE, not the WPEB (which considers scientific matters).

Scientific Committee Recommendations

37. The Commission **NOTED** the stock status summaries for species of tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as other species impacted by IOTC fisheries and considered the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee to the Commission. The Commission **ENDORSED** the Scientific Committee's 2024 list of recommendations as its own.
38. The Commission **RECALLED** that in 2024, it was **AGREED** that an election for the SC chair should take place at the next session of the SC in 2024 (IOTC-2024-S29-R, para 30). The Commission **NOTED** that, at its 27th Session, the SC called for nominations for the position of the Chairperson of the SC. Dr Toshihide Kitakado (Japan) was nominated and elected as Chairperson of the SC for one more year.
39. The Commission **NOTED** that the SC also called for nominations for the position of the Vice Chairperson of the SC (Dr Gorka Merino from the EU could no longer serve in this role due to personal commitments). Dr Fayakun Satria (Indonesia) was elected as Vice-Chairperson of the SC for the next biennium. The Commission **NOTED** that

the new Vice Chairperson would work closely with the outgoing Chairperson to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities after the next meeting of the SC.

40. The Commission **ENDORSED** those officials elected for the SC and its subsidiary (scientific) bodies for the coming years, as listed in Appendix 7 of the 2024 Scientific Committee Report.
41. The Commission **NOTED** that Resolution 16/07 *On the use of artificial lights to attract fish* (which prohibits using artificial lights for the purpose of aggregating tuna and tuna-like species) requires further clarifications as to which fishery/gear this measure should apply. The Commission **REQUESTED** CPCs to provide proposals to revise the resolution.
42. The Commission **ACKNOWLEDGED** that Indonesia has completed the work undertaken to re-estimate the tuna catches from Indonesian fisheries. The revised catches have been endorsed by the WPDCS and SC. The Commission **NOTED** that given the importance of Indonesia's fisheries and their large volume of tuna catches, this catch reconstruction work is important to the scientific work of this Commission. The Commission also **REQUESTED** Indonesia to work with the Secretariat and to ensure that the estimation methodologies are automated. The Commission also **NOTED** the need for other fishing fleets such as Oman, which the Commission has raised concerns regarding the reported catch data, to initiate and undergo a similar process to reconstruct the catch data.
43. The Commission **URGED** all CPCs to actively participate in IOTC Scientific Committee's subsidiary body meetings.
44. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2024-SC27-18 which provided the draft updated IOTC Strategic Science Plan for 2025-2029 for the Commission to consider.
45. The Commission **NOTED** the first IOTC Strategic Science Plan 2020 - 2024 was developed in 2018 and adopted by the Commission, at its 23rd session.
46. Following a similar review process, an update of the Strategic Science Plan for 2025 – 2029 was presented to the SC in 2024, for review. The plan was then disseminated to the Commission via Circular 2025-01 in January 2025 with comments due by 28 February 2025. The comments received from Members have been addressed in the final draft.
47. The Commission **NOTED** the updated Strategic Science Plan incorporated requests made to the SC from recent resolutions and reflected emerging research activities within the IOTC scientific community. It included a proposed timetable for meetings from 2025 to 2029, and schedules for running stock assessments and the adopted MPs.
48. **NOTING** the importance of this work in communicating targets, objectives and indicators for monitoring progress on scientific work of the IOTC to the Commission, the Commission **ENDORSED** the IOTC Strategic Science Plan 2025-2029.

9. Conservation and Management Measures

9.1 *Current Conservation and Management Measures that include a reference to the year 2025.*

49. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2025-S29-03 which provided the Commission with information on the current Conservation and Management Measures that include a reference to the year 2025.
50. The Commission **ENCOURAGED** all CPCs to read this document to review the items that require action. Many of the items have been addressed through previous Resolutions or are due to be addressed by the SC, so no further inputs are required at this stage.
51. The Commission **REQUESTED** that this information should be presented to the WPICMM in the future due to that group's role in reviewing existing CMMs. This would give CPCs time to review the Resolutions and coordinate on updating and addressing these issues.
52. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2025-S29-10_Rev1 which provided information on the design and specifications of the IOTC dFAD register which is required under Resolution 24/02.

53. The Commission **NOTED** the progress that has been made with the development of the dFAD register and the work undertaken by the developers to finalize and establish the dFAD register by the 1 January 2026 deadline.
54. **NOTING** the technical nature of the development, the Commission **AGREED** that an informal working group would be formed to help answer questions and potentially advise the developers during the development phase, and that the group should be open to any interested party. Discussions would be held online and in a format that the developers would find most useful. Any actions taken should be documented for transparency and accountability.
55. The Commission **DISCUSSED** the potential for a delay in implementation past 1 January 2026, with some CPCs suggesting there was limited time available to develop and test the dFAD register. Two options were discussed, the first being to commit specific resources (utilising the Commission's working capital fund), for the project to ensure it is delivered on time and to specification, and the second was for an intersessional decision of the Commission to delay implementation.
56. The Commission **AGREED** that any CPC could request the Commission to consider delaying the implementation of the dFAD register, if the dFAD register cannot be concluded by 1 January 2026, through an intersessional decision process.

9.2 Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement

57. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2025-S29-04 which provided the Commission with information on the objections to several IOTC Resolutions (received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement) and how these Resolutions are therefore subsequently applied.

9.3 Proposals for new or revised Conservation and Management Measures (noting that some proposals will be considered under other agenda items, as relevant)

58. The Commission **NOTED** document IOTC-2025-S29-09 which provided comments from the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya with regards to the Allocation of Fishing Opportunities for Stocks of Tropical Tunas by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.
59. The Commission **NOTED** that this paper may be taken into consideration when discussing future yellowfin tuna management measures and catch limits.
60. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a total of twenty-eight (28) proposals for Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) of which twenty five (25) were tabled by Contracting Parties and three (3) were proposed by subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
61. The Commission **ADOPTED** the following fourteen Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs):
Resolution 25/01 On climate change as it relates to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission [[download here](#)]
62. The basis of this resolution was Proposal I which provided a revision to Resolution 24/01.
Resolution 25/02 On the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) programme [[download here](#)].
63. The basis of this resolution was Proposal W which provided a revision to Resolution 15/03.
Resolution 25/03 On establishing catch limits for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence [[download here](#)].
64. The basis of this resolution was Proposal Y.
65. The proposal was put to a vote which passed with a two thirds majority.
66. The Commission **NOTED** the stated intention and rights of India, Korea, Somalia and Comoros to object to this Resolution in the future in accordance with the IOTC Agreement.
67. The Commission **NOTED** a statement by Korea which was provided as document IOTC-2025-S29-REF07.
Resolution 25/04 On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence [[download here](#)].
68. The basis of this resolution was Proposal F which provided a revision to Resolution 23/04.

69. The Commission **NOTED** the stated intention and right of Somalia to object to the Resolution in the future in accordance with the IOTC Agreement.

[Resolution 25/05 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels](#) [[download here](#)].

70. The basis of this resolution was Proposal AC which consolidated Proposals A, B, O and AA which provided a revision to Resolution 24/05.

[Resolution 25/06 On a Regional Observer Scheme](#) [[download here](#)].

71. The basis of this resolution was Proposal M which provided revisions to Resolution 24/04.

[Resolution 25/07 On a management procedure for swordfish in the IOTC area of competence](#) [[download here](#)].

72. The basis of this resolution was Proposal U which provided revisions to Resolution 24/08.

[Resolution 25/08 On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC](#) [[download here](#)].

73. The basis of this resolution was Proposals E, K and T which provided a consolidated revision to Resolution 18/02, Resolution 17/05, Resolution 13/05, Resolution 13/06 and Resolution 12/09.

74. The Commission **NOTED** the stated intention and rights of India and Somalia to object to this Resolution in the future in accordance with the IOTC Agreement.

75. The Commission **NOTED** Japan's concern that, although conservation and management measures should be based on scientific rationale, the prohibition of shark lines lacked advice from the Scientific Committee and should not be considered a precedent for future conservation and management measures.

76. The Commission **NOTED** a statement from the EU regarding the adoption of this Resolution ([Appendix 5](#))

77. The Commission **NOTED** that the United Kingdom's acceptance of this proposal did not set a precedent for its future position on shark finning, as it continued to consider the landing of all sharks with their fins naturally attached to be the most effective approach to combatting the removal of fins and discarding of carcasses at sea.

[Resolution 25/09 On the conservation of shortfin and longfin mako sharks caught in association with IOTC fisheries](#) [[download here](#)].

78. The basis of this resolution was Proposal Q.

79. The Commission **NOTED** the objection to the Resolution by Somalia.

[Resolution 25/10 On establishing a Technical Committee on Management Procedures](#) [[download here](#)].

80. The basis of this resolution was Proposal AB which provided revisions to Resolution 16/09.

[Resolution 25/11 On Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing](#) [[download here](#)].

81. The basis of this resolution was Proposal Z which provided revisions to Resolution 10/11.

[Resolution 25/12 On the promotion of the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures](#) [[download here](#)].

82. The basis of this resolution was Proposal C which provided a consolidated revision to Resolution 24/10 and Resolution 17/02, and revoked Resolution 15/09, Resolution 18/09, Resolution 16/03, Resolution 14/02 and Resolution 05/03 which were deemed obsolete.

[Recommendation 25/13 On promoting the objectives of IOTC through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement \(The agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction\)](#) [[download here](#)].

83. The basis of this recommendation was Proposal R.

[Recommendation 25/14 On the limitation of fishing capacity](#) [[download here](#)].

84. The basis of this recommendation was Proposal D.

85. The Commission also **CONSIDERED** the following proposals:

IOTC-2025-S29-PropG *Proposal on high seas boarding and inspection scheme.*

86. The Commission **NOTED** the indication from many CPCs that:

- a. UNFSA mandates collaboration between flag States and other nations for enforcing conservation measures at subregional and regional levels and that Article 21 of the UNFSA allows its parties to conduct boarding and inspection operations in any high seas area covered by a subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement if such organization or arrangement has not established its own procedures within two years of the UNFSA adoption (UNFSA Article 21(3)).
- b. parties to the UNFSA already have the authority to board and inspect fishing vessels flying the flag of another party to the UNFSA, whether or not that country is a CPC of the applicable subregional or regional fisheries management organization for the high seas area in consideration, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with conservation and management measures (UNFSA Article 21(1)).
- c. the proposal provides contemporary, clear and detailed procedures to facilitate the exercise of their rights as parties of the UNFSA and of the basic procedures for boarding and inspection as described in UNFSA Article 22.
- d. Further, with the exception of Pakistan these CPCs rejected the view of some CPCs that IOTC does not have a legal basis to establish its own HSBI procedures, noting it was well within the functions and purpose of the Commission and its Agreement as per the advice of the FAO (Legal Office) presented in the 19th Session of the Compliance Committee, and further noted that UNFSA itself directs its Parties to establish HSBI procedures through RFMOs (Article 21(2)).

87. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2025-S29-PropG on a high seas boarding and inspection scheme, was **DEFERRED**.

IOTC-2025-S29-PropH *On establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the IOTC area of competence (cf Res 24/03)*

88. The Commission **NOTED** the indication from the proponents that the proposal sought to categorize and classify dFADs that drift into EEZs of coastal states without the permission of the coastal state as ones engaged in IUU fishing.

89. The Commission **NOTED** the disagreement among CPCs over whether dFADs should be classified as engaging in IUU fishing when they drift into the EEZs of coastal states. Some CPCs argued that this constitutes IUU fishing, while others disagreed.

90. The Commission **NOTED** that Resolution 24/02 already includes a provision requiring notification to the flag state and coastal state if the DFADs are lost, and if an active buoy is deactivated while within a Coastal State's EEZ.

91. The Commission **NOTED** the concern expressed by those CPCs that use dFADs that in their opinion the proposal disproportionately targeted their fisheries. Those CPCs suggested that measures have been adopted in recent years to manage and mitigate the impacts of dFADs, including the establishment of the dFAD register, which is scheduled for implementation in 2026. Other CPCs disagreed with this opinion expressed by those CPCs.

92. The Commission **NOTED** that Some CPCs raised concerns about dFADs drifting into their EEZs, attracting fish away from areas accessible to artisanal fisheries and thereby reducing the availability of these fish to local fishers.

93. The Commission **NOTED** that while many CPCs acknowledged the negative impact of lost dFADs, others cautioned that the proposal might unintentionally incentivize operators to deactivate dFADs as they near EEZs, when they might not have otherwise done so, potentially increasing the number of abandoned dFADs and engaging in IUU fishing.

94. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2025-S29-PropH on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the IOTC area of competence, was **DEFERRED**.

IOTC-2025-S29-PropJ *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence (cf Res 21/01)*

95. The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs expressed concern about using historical data as a reference point on which to base catch limits, and that this would limit the fleet development aspirations of many developing states.
96. The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs believe that the adoption of a Resolution for yellowfin in 2025 would be premature, given the review that will be undertaken on the yellowfin tuna stock assessment and the joint CPUE series that is driving the assessment. Those CPCs expressed their opinion that the findings of the SC's review should be incorporated into any updated management measure.
97. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2025-S29-PropJ on an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence, was **DEFERRED**.

IOTC-2025-S29-PropL *On the prohibition to use driftnets (cf. Res 17/07)*

98. The Commission **NOTED** that many CPCs expressed concern about the potential impact of a driftnet ban on coastal communities that depend on these low-cost gears for their livelihoods and food security. They emphasized the importance of assessing the socio-economic consequences of such measures, and that the proposal would disproportionately affect vulnerable small-scale fishers, which have historically accounted for higher catch levels. These CPCs also highlighted the need for a transitional period to allow coastal communities to adopt more selective fishing gears and for CPCs to develop adequate monitoring capacities.
99. The Commission **NOTED** that several measures aimed at reducing bycatch in gillnet fisheries of vulnerable species, such as sharks, cetaceans and turtles, show promising results. These include the use of LED lights, acoustic devices and sub-surface setting of gillnets. The Commission further **NOTED** that the use of LED lights has been repeatedly raised due to ambiguity in Resolution 16/07, which does not clearly specify the types of gear to which it applies. As a result, conducting trials with this mitigation method could potentially be interpreted as a breach of the Resolution.
100. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2025-S29-PropL on the prohibition to use driftnets, was **DEFERRED**.

IOTC-2025-S29-PropN *Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Res 19/04)*

101. The Commission **NOTED** a pilot project carried out by the EU where vessels were used to collect dFADs before they drifted into the EEZs of CPCs.
102. The Commission **NOTED** the importance of dFAD retrieval to avoid environmental impacts.
103. The Commission **NOTED** that Some CPCs expressed that these vessels would need to be closely monitored to ensure that they are not undertaking any activities normally carried out by supply vessels and to ensure that they are not servicing and/or deploying dFADs.
104. The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs expressed concern that these vessels may effectively increase the capacity of existing supply vessels as they will be carrying out some of the work that supply vessels normally conduct in support of a CPC fishing fleet. This would contradict the objective of Resolution 24/02 which aimed to reduce the number and the capacity of supply vessels.
105. The Commission **NOTED** that several CPCs asked that the EU share the results of the pilot project that evaluated the effectiveness of this activity and that the SC should review the potential impacts of this activity on fishing capacity.
106. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2025-S29-PropN concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence, was **DEFERRED**.

IOTC-2025-S29-PropP *On crew labour standards*

107. The Commission **NOTED** the opinion of some CPCs that:
- a. issues such as labour standards are more appropriately addressed at the national level, rather than through the IOTC, or at the other international organizations, such as IMO and ILO;

- b. many CPCs have already implemented relevant legislation and guidelines;
- c. some CPCs wanted to exempt artisanal fleets from such requirements, citing the practical challenges of implementation;
- d. a uniform set of standards may not be suitable for all members or fisheries.

108. The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs questioned the suitability of addressing this type of work within the WPSE as proposed and suggested that the Commission would be a more appropriate forum for these discussions.

109. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat launch a study to identify existing national, regional, and international labour standards applicable in the IOTC area of competence. The IOTC Secretariat will furthermore present a benchmark and comparative analyses of the existing labour condition standards throughout RFMOs and within IOTC membership. The study shall be broken down into fleet segments. The work should initially focus on high-seas and large-scale fishing vessels (i.e. vessels on the RAV). The outcomes of this study shall be discussed at the next Commission meeting in 2026 or at the WPICMM if available before, for the potential establishment of ad hoc working group as required. This will be undertaken provided that funding is available.

110. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2025-S29-PropP On crew labour standards, was **DEFERRED**

IOTC-2025-S29-PropS *Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCS)*

111. The Commission **NOTED** the concern expressed by some CPCs about the additional burden that this proposal would place on their scientific staff, particularly with regard to reporting catches by EEZ or high seas areas—an especially challenging task for CPCs with long historical time series.

112. The Commission **NOTED** the opinion expressed by some CPCs that while a similar requirement exists under the WCPFC, the context in that region differs, as most longline catches occur on the high seas, whereas the majority of purse seine catches are taken within EEZs due to existing access agreements.

113. The Commission **NOTED** the request from some CPCs for flexibility in proposed Resolutions of this nature, citing difficulties in meeting the associated data collection and reporting requirements. In particular, those CPCs highlighted the challenge of collecting size data at a rate of one fish per tonne of catch. Those CPCs suggested incorporating transitional provisions and considering exemptions for artisanal gears.

114. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2025-S29-PropS on mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCS), was **DEFERRED**.

IOTC-2025-S29-PropV *Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorized to operate in the IOTC area of competence*

115. The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs expressed concern about being able to implement some of the provisions in the proposal on the provisions ensuring that the call sign is visible on the vessel. Some CPCs claimed that many vessels in their fleet are too small to add these details and that it might also be impractical to display the call sign as required due to the design of the vessel, while others claimed that the fishing industry is reluctant to make such changes. A suggestion was made to include a transitional period and to add exemptions for vessels only operating within EEZs.

116. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2025-S29-PropS concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorized to operate in the IOTC area of competence, was **DEFERRED**.

IOTC-2025-S29-PropX *On an interim catch distribution for yellowfin tuna (cf Res 21/01)*

117. The Commission **NOTED** the opinion of some CPCs that the proposal's reference years for determining catch limits wasn't what they wanted, that they couldn't figure out the catch limit calculations, the overcatch penalty system wasn't what they could agree to, and the potential of this proposal to limit the aspirations of CPCs was an issue.

118. The Commission **NOTED** the concerns regarding the uncertainty around the 2024 stock assessment for yellowfin tuna and the opinion of several CPCs that the adoption of a Resolution for yellowfin in 2025 would be premature.
119. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2025-S29-Prop on an interim catch distribution for yellowfin tuna, was **DEFERRED**.

10. Report of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria

10.1 Overview of the TCAC13 and TCAC14 Reports

120. The Commission **NOTED** the reports of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC) (IOTC-2024-TCAC13-R and IOTC-2025-TCAC14-R) which were presented by the independent TCAC Chair, Dr. Quentin Hanich. The 13th Session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC13) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 21 to 24 October 2024 in hybrid format, while the 14th Session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC14) was held by videoconference, from 6 to 7 February 2025.
121. The Commission **THANKED** the independent Chair for the work he had undertaken since taking over the role in 2024 and **NOTED** the progress that had been made on several key issues and in particular the development of a workplan to guide the deliberations of future TCAC meetings.
122. The Commission **ENDORSED** the workplan presented by the Chair and contained in Appendix 4 of the TCAC14 report (IOTC-2025-TCAC14-R) as well as the Recommendations and Requests made by the TCAC as reflected in paragraphs 77 and 78 of the TCAC13 report (IOTC-2024-TCAC13-R).

11. Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures

123. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 9th meeting of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) (IOTC-2025-TCMP09-R) and **ENDORSED** the following TCMP recommendations:
- *(Para. 34). The TCMP **NOTED** that the application of the bigeye management procedure generated an unconstrained estimated TAC of 175,005 t which is more than 15% higher than the TAC set for 2024 and 2025. The TCMP **NOTED** that by applying the maximum 15% increase in the TAC as per Resolution 22/03, the MP recommended an annual TAC of 92,670 t for 2026-2028. Therefore, the TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt the TAC advice for bigeye tuna of 92,670 t resulting from the MP.*
 - *(Para. 46). The TCMP **RECOMMENDED** adopting Australia's proposal (IOTC-2025-S29-PropU) to amend the swordfish MP (as specified in Resolution 24/08), to ensure the current objective of at least 60% probability of being in Kobe green zone is met during 2034-2038. This involves a minor amendment to the Target CPUE in Annex I of Res 24/08, changing it from 0.7125 to 0.75. Further, the TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission establish a TAC (30,527 t) for swordfish for 2026-2028 based on the revised MP **NOTING** that this TAC is the same as that from the original MP.*
124. The Commission also **NOTED** the TCMP recommendation on the arrangements for TCMP meetings in 2026 as well as future TCMP meetings:
- *(Para. 60). The TCMP **NOTED** that as the albacore MP is likely to be recommended for adoption by the SC next year, it would be advisable to hold an in-person meeting in 2026. The TCMP further **NOTED** that in years that a MP has not been recommended for adoption, the TCMP may still be required to consider exceptional circumstances.*
 - *(Para. 61). The TCMP **NOTED** the value of having flexibility to accommodate different situations each year. **NOTING** that Resolution 16/09 currently requires the TCMP to be held back-to-back with the Commission meeting, the TCMP **SUGGESTED** that the Commission consider an amendment to the Resolution 16/09 that would allow TCMP meetings to be held, when appropriate, intersessionally and online. Under that arrangement, the TCMP considered that in any given year, the Commission would (under advice of the SC Chair) indicate its preferred date and nature (online or in person) of the following years TCMP. However, it would also allow for the SC (following the Commission) to request a change to the Commissions suggested*

approach if SC discussions identified subsequent circumstances associated with development and review of MPs that warranted such a change.

125. The Commission **THANKED** the SC Chair, Dr Toshi Kitakado for his commendable work in leading the preparation of TCMP and his contribution to the progress of IOTC MSE.

12. Report of the Compliance Committee

12.1 Overview of the CoC22 Report

126. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 22nd Session of the Compliance Committee (IOTC-2025-CoC22-R), which was presented by the Compliance Committee's Chairperson, Dr Indra Jaya (Indonesia). Delegates from 26 Contracting Parties (CPs), one Cooperating Non-Contracting Party and 12 Observers, including Invited Experts, participated in the meeting.
127. The Commission **NOTED** the Compliance reports of both the Comoros and Somalia, who were not in attendance during the 22nd Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC22) when all other reports were considered.
128. The Commission **NOTED** the difficulties that Comoros and Somalia faced in fulfilling a number of reporting requirements, and that both committed to report their "Follow Up Actions" within three months after the 29th Session of the IOTC (S29), in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.
129. The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs had not provided their Report of Implementation and Compliance Questionnaire, which are vital resources for the Secretariat to produce CPCs' Compliance Reports.
130. The Commission **NOTED** the relatively low level of compliance with the reporting requirements on mandatory statistics, especially on size frequency data, and the regional observer scheme.
131. The Commission **NOTED** the overall improvements in CPCs' compliance rates ([Appendix 6](#)) and, consequently, the compliance rate of the Commission.
132. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 22nd Session of the IOTC Compliance Committee (CoC22) and **ENDORSED** the Compliance Committee's lists of agreed actions and recommendations as its own.

12.2 Draft IOTC IUU Vessels List for 2025

133. The Commission **NOTED** the additional information provided by Indonesia on the collaboration with Australia and on the follow up actions taken by Indonesia to resolve the cases involving the five Indonesian vessels included in the Draft IOTC IUU Vessels List of 2025.
134. The Commission **NOTED** the recommendation of the Compliance Committee that the five Indonesian vessels (REJEKI MAS, KARYA REJEKI 3, SINAR LAUT 10, KARYA REJEKI and ANUGRAH 32), in addition to the two Sri Lankan vessels (IMUL-A-0509-CHW and IMUL-A-2280-TLE) not be added to the Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List.

12.3 Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List for 2025

135. The Commission **NOTED** the IOTC 2025 Provisional IUU Vessels List and the recommendations of the Compliance Committee for the Commission to adopt an IUU Vessels List.
136. The Commission **AGREED** that the three Sri Lankan flagged vessels (IMUL-A-0168-PTM, IMUL-A-0833-KLT, IMUL-A-0892- KLT) be included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List.
137. The Commission **AGREED** that the Philippines flagged vessel (KUDA LAUT 03) be cross-listed to the IOTC IUU Vessels List, from the WCPFC's IUU Vessels List.

12.4 Update of information of vessels in the current IOTC IUU Vessels List

138. The Commission **AGREED** to update the information of seven vessels currently included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List (FU LIEN No. 1, NEPTUNE, YU FONG 168, QIAN YUAN, JINZHANG and KIKI).
139. The Commission **AGREED** to delete the Sri Lankan vessel, IMULA-0730-KLT, from the IOTC IUU Vessels List.

12.5 Request to reinstate a vessel in the IOTC List of IUU Vessels

140. The Commission **NOTED** the following decision of the Compliance Committee:
(IOTC-2025-CoC22-R, para. 134) *“The CoC22 **NOTED** that there was no consensus on whether to cross-list the vessel EL SHADDAI and **AGREED** to defer this discussion to the Commission (S29).”*

141. The Commission **NOTED** the additional information provided by South Africa and **AGREED** to defer the decision on whether or not to relist the vessel, EL SHADDAI, to the CoC in 2026, pending the outcome of the SIOFA Meeting of the Parties.

12.6 Request to delist 26 vessels in the IOTC List of IUU Vessels

142. The Commission **NOTED** that the Compliance Committee deferred the decision on the request of India to delist 26 vessels on the IOTC IUU Vessels List, to the Commission.

143. The Commission **NOTED** the additional information from India on progress made at national level to tackle IUU fishing by Indian vessels. The Commission further **NOTED** that the IOTC Secretariat has sent a letter to India, on behalf of the European Union and the United Kingdom, which seeks formal response from India on questions arising from the Compliance Committee. The United Kingdom requested that the Secretariat circulates the response to this letter for the information of CPCs.

144. The Commission **EXPRESSED** its appreciation on the feedback provided by India in plenary and **REQUESTED** India to provide a formal response to the letter, which shall be circulated to CPCs by the IOTC Secretariat before initiating the delisting process. The Commission further **ENCOURAGED** India to invoke the intersessional delisting process upon submission of its formal response.

12.7 Adoption of the List of IUU Vessels

145. The Commission **ADOPTED** the 2025 IOTC IUU Vessels List. All CPCs shall be required to take the necessary measures regarding the IUU Vessels List, in accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution 24/03.

12.8 Requests for the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party

146. The Commission **NOTED** the application for the renewal of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) status from Liberia.

147. The Commission **AGREED** to renew the CNCP status of Liberia, until the end of the 30th Session of the IOTC (S30).

148. The Commission **NOTED** the application for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) status from Panama. The Commission **AGREED** to grant the CNCP status to Panama, until the end of the 30th Session of the IOTC (S30).

13. Report of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance

13.1 Overview of the SCAF22 report

149. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 22nd Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) (IOTC-2025-SCAF22-R), which was presented by the SCAF Chairperson, Mr Farhan Khan (Pakistan). Delegates from 26 Contracting Parties and 5 Observers participated in the meeting.

150. The Commission **ENDORSED** the SCAF22 list of recommendations as its own, **NOTING**:

- *“(Para. 28). The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that the Secretariat work with Iran to resolve the situation regarding their outstanding contributions.*
- *“(Para. 35). The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission endorse the revised guidance provided by the Small Working group in paragraph 14 of document IOTC-2025-SCAF22-05 on an interim basis and until a review is conducted in 2027. In particular the ratio of Science/Other Meetings should be adjusted for a trial period of two years from 75:25 to 60:40.*
- *“(Para. 44). The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that the SCAF and Commission chairs continue to communicate with FAO and express concern about the annual fees and continue to request a reduction.*

- (Para. 55). The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that any additional funds required for the Secretariat to host meetings be first taken from savings in other budget lines, then, only if required, on an exceptional basis, from the Working Capital Fund.
- (Para. 56). The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that if funds are required for work to migrate IOTC's systems and website to the FAO infrastructure in 2026, they will first be taken from savings in other budget lines, then, only if required, on an exceptional basis, from the Working Capital Fund.
- (Para. 58). The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat to collaborate with developing Coastal States to assess their needs for establishing robust data collection systems and to prepare a funding proposal for submission to donor agencies.
- (Para. 59). The SCAF **NOTED** paper IOTC-2025-SCAF22-09 which provided a proposal to revise paragraph 3 of Res 16/09. This revision calls for future meetings of the TCMP to be held virtually and inter-sessionally unless otherwise decided by the Commission. (Para. 60). The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt the proposal on the condition that the TCMP further considers and agrees to the revision at the next TCMP meeting. IOTC-2025-SCAF22-R[E]"

151. The Commission **NOTED** that the SCAF unanimously re-elected Mr Muhammad Farhan Khan (Pakistan) as Chairperson and Dr Muhammed Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury (Bangladesh) as the Vice Chairperson of the SCAF for the next biennium and **ENDORSED** the nominations of these Officers for the next biennium.

13.2 Adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission

152. The Commission **ADOPTED** the programme of work and budget for 2026, the indicative budget for 2027 ([Appendix 7](#)), and the schedule of contributions for 2026 as provided in [Appendix 8](#), **NOTING** that the Programme of Work for the IOTC Secretariat is based on the assumption that the nature and extent of the activities undertaken by the IOTC Secretariat will remain within the current scope.

13.3 Schedule of meetings for 2026

153. The Commission **ADOPTED** the schedule of meetings for its subsidiary bodies for 2026 as detailed in [Appendix 9](#), noting the Scientific Committee, in December 2025, will finalise the dates of the science meetings.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Cooperation with other organisations and institutions

154. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2025-S29-05 that listed the bodies with which it is currently collaborating.
155. The Commission **NOTED** the proposed MoU between FAO and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT and the appended workplan which outlined their intended collaboration with IOTC.
156. The Commission **ENDORSED** the proposed workplan with CCSBT for inclusion in the overall MoU to be agreed with FAO.
157. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2025-S29-REF02 which outlined a request by a company named SynMax to connect directly to the Electronic Record of Authorised Vessels (e-RAV).
158. The Commission **INVITED** the representative of SynMax to provide additional details on the objectives and the work being undertaken by the company and how they relate to the request for an automated connection to the e-RAV.
159. The Commission **NOTED** that SynMax is a for-profit organisation, whose goal is to generate financial gains for its principals. The Commission further **NOTED** that an online background search on the organisation that was conducted by some CPCs revealed that it was mostly involved in non-fisheries related activities.
160. The Commission **AGREED** that to allow SynMax's system to connect directly to the e-RAV may pose unforeseen risks to the information technology infrastructure of the IOTC and further **AGREED** not to approve the request.

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161. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2025-S29-REF03 which detailed the invitation by the organisers of the XII ANFACO World Tuna Conference to include the IOTC as a collaborating entity of the Conference.
162. The Commission **AGREED** to accept the invitation to be a collaborating entity with the organisers of the ANFACO World Tuna Conference.

14.1.1. Discussion on the application for observer status by the Michael Adedotun Oke Foundation

163. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2025-S29-REF01 which contained an application for observer status by the Michael Adedotun Oke Foundation.
164. The Commission **AGREED** not to approve the request.

14.2 Election of the Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

165. The Commission elected Mr Adam Ziyad (Maldives) as Chairperson of the IOTC for the next biennium.
166. The Commission elected Mr Qayiso Mketsu (South Africa) as a first Vice-Chairperson of the IOTC and Mr Marco Valletta (EU) as second Vice-Chairperson of the IOTC, for the next biennium.
167. The Commission **THANKED** the Ms Riley Kim for her leading role as Chairperson of the organisation during the last four years.

14.3 Date and place of the 30th Session of the Commission in 2026

168. The Commission unanimously **THANKED** the European Union and the French Administration for hosting the 29th Session and for the warm welcome, the excellent facilities and assistance provided to the IOTC Secretariat and Commission in the organisation and running of the Session.
169. The Commission **THANKED** the Maldives for its generous offer to host the 30th Session of the Commission, the 23rd Session of the Compliance Committee, the 23rd Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance, and the 10th Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures from 4 to 15 May 2026.
170. The Commission also **NOTED** that the Secretariat was in advanced discussions with two CPCs to potentially host the 31st Session of the Commission and associated meetings (dates to be confirmed) in 2027. The Secretariat is awaiting formal confirmation before making an announcement.

15. Adoption of the report of the 29th Session of the Commission

171. The report of the 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC-2025-S29-R) was **ADOPTED** by correspondence on 3 July 2025.

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APPENDIX 2.**AGENDA OF THE 29TH SESSION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION**

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
- 2. LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS**
- 3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**
- 4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**
- 5. DETERMINATION OF THE STATUS OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE IOTC**
- 6. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION IN 2024 (S28)**
- 7. AMENDMENTS TO THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE**
- 8. REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**
 - 8.1.** Overview of the 2024 SC27 Report (SC Chairperson)
 - 8.2.** Discussion on any related conservation and management measures
 - 8.3.** Procedures governing IOTC Scientific Working Parties and Working Groups
- 9. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**
 - 9.1.** Current Conservation and Management Measures that require action by the Commission in 2025
 - 9.2.** Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement
 - 9.3.** Proposals for new or revised Conservation and Management Measures (noting that, some proposals will be considered under other agenda items, as relevant).
- 10. REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA**
 - 10.1.** Overview of the TCAC13 and TCAC14 Reports (TCAC Chairperson)
 - 10.2.** Future Direction of the TCAC
- 11. REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**
 - 11.1.** Overview of the TCMP09 Report (TCMP Chairpersons)
- 12. REPORT OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**
 - 12.1.** Overview of the CoC22 Report (CoC Chairperson)
 - 12.2.** Adoption of the List of IUU Vessels
 - 12.3.** Requests for accession to the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party
 - 12.4.** Review of CPCs Compliance Reports
- 13. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
 - 13.1.** Overview of the SCAF22 Report (SCAF Chairperson)
 - 13.2.** SCAF feedback on draft rules of Procedure for the IOTC Working Capital Fund
 - 13.3.** Adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission
 - 13.4.** Schedule of meetings for 2026-2027
- 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
 - 14.1.** Cooperation with other organisations and institutions
 - 14.2.** Election of the Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons
 - 14.3.** Date and place of the 29th Session of the Commission and the meetings of its associated subsidiary bodies in 2026
- 15. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 29th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

APPENDIX 3.
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document	Title
IOTC-2025-S29-01a	Provisional agenda for S29 (February).
IOTC-2025-S29-01b_Rev2	Provisional agenda for S29 (April).
IOTC-2025-S29-01c	Provisional agenda for S29 (April)
IOTC-2025-S29-02	Progress on the requests for action made by the Commission in 2024
IOTC-2025-S29-03	Report on current CMMs that include a reference to the year 2025
IOTC-2025-S29-04	Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement
IOTC-2025-S29-05	IOTC collaborative arrangements - an overview
IOTC-2025-S29-06	On amending the IOTC Rules of Procedures, Appendix V
IOTC-2025-S29-07	IOTC Strategic Science Plan 2025-2029
IOTC-2025-S29-08	Working paper regarding the IOTC meeting operation
IOTC-2025-S29-09	Working Paper from the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya with regards to the Allocation of Fishing Opportunities for Stocks of Tropical Tunas by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOTC-2025-S29-10	IOTC dFAD register Design Specifications
IOTC-2025-S29-PropA_Rev2	Proposal On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (KOR) (cf. Res 24_05)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropB_Rev2	Proposal on establishing a programme for transshipment by fishing vessels (cf Res 24/05) (IDN)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropC	Proposal on the promotion of the implementation of IOTC conservation and management measures (cf Res 17/02 and Res 24/10) (ZAF)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropD_Rev2	Proposal On the limitation of fishing capacity (JPN)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropE_Rev1	Proposal on the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC (JPN) (cf Res 17/05 and 18/02)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropF_Rev5	On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence (cf Res 23/04) (JPN EU)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropG	Proposal on a high seas boarding and inspection scheme (EU, Seychelles, India, France (OT))
IOTC-2025-S29-PropH_Rev1	On establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the IOTC area of competence (cf Res 24/03) (SOM)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropI_Rev2	On climate change as it relates to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (cf Res 24/01) (MUS)

Document	Title
IOTC-2025-S29-PropJ_Rev1	On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence (cf Res 21/01) (EU)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropK	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC (cf Res 17/05) (EU)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropL_Rev1	On the prohibition to use driftnets (cf. Res 17/07) (EU)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropM	On a regional observer scheme (cf. Res 24/04) (EU)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropN_Rev2	Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Res 19/04) (EU)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropO	On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (cf. Res 24/05) (EU)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropP	On crew labour standards (EU)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropQ_Rev1	On the conservation of shortfin mako sharks caught in association with IOTC fisheries (EU)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropR_Rev3	On promoting the implementation of the BBNJ agreement (agreement under the United Nations convention on the law of the sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction) (MDV)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropS_Rev1	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCS) (MDV)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropT_Rev1	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC (cf Res 18/02, 17/05, 13/05, 13/06, and 12/09) (MDV, PAK, ZAF)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropU	On a management procedure for swordfish in the IOTC area of competence (cf Res 24/08) (Aus)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropV	Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Res 19/04) (AUS)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropW_Rev2	On the vessel monitoring system (VMS) programme (cf. Res 06/03) (AUS)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropX	On an interim catch distribution for yellowfin tuna (cf. Res 21/01) (PAK, ZAF)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropY_Rev2	On establishing catch limits for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence (ZAF, IDN, MDV)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropZ	Proposal on amending Res 16/11 on PSM (cf 16/11)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropAA	Transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (cf Res 23/05) (JPN)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropAB_Rev1	On establishing a Technical Committee on Management Procedures (cf Res 16/09) (JPN)
IOTC-2025-S29-PropAC	On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (cf Res 24/05)
Reference documents	
IOTC-2024-SC28-REF01	Request for Observer status from the Michael Adedotun Oke Foundation

Document	Title
IOTC-2024-SC28-REF02	SynMax request to connect directly to the Electronic Record of Authorised Vessels (e-RAV)
IOTC-2024-SC28-REF03	XII ANFACO World Tuna Conference
IOTC-2024-SC28-REF04	Update on agenda item 5, 29th Session of the IOTC
IOTC-2024-SC28-REF05	TRANSITIONAL PLAN For Improving Indonesia's National Observer Programme Toward Full IOTC ROP Compatibility (2025–2027)
IOTC-2024-SC28-REF06	Summary of the WPEB shark bycatch mitigation workshop
IOTC-2024-SC28-REF07	Statement of Korea on Proposal Y on Establishing Catch Limits for Skipjack
Relevant reports from other meetings	
IOTC-2025-CoC22-R	Report of the 22 nd session of the IOTC Compliance Committee.
IOTC-2025-SCAF22-R	Report of the 22 nd session of the IOTC Standing Committee on Administration and Finance.
IOTC-2024-TCAC13-R	Report of the 13th session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria.
IOTC-2025-TCAC14-R	Report of the 14th session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria.
IOTC-2024-SC27-R	Report of the 27th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee
IOTC-2025-TCMP09-R	Report of the 9 th session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures
Information papers	
IOTC-2025-S29-INF01	Update on the Common Oceans Tuna Project II (FAO)
IOTC-2025-S29-INF02	OFCF-Japan project flyer
IOTC-2025-S29-INF03	Drifting fish aggregating device interactions with Indian Ocean coastal communities and non-compliance with IOTC Resolution 19/02
IOTC-2025-S29-INF04	Indicative schedule day 2
IOTC-2025-S29-INF05	Indicative schedule day 3
IOTC-2025-S29-INF06	Indicative schedule day 4
NGO Statements	
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO01	ISSF - Position statement
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO02	PEW - Statement to the 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO03	International Game Fish Association's Recommendations
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO04a	WWF Position for the 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (short)
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO04b	WWF Position for the 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (full)

Document	Title
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO05	Why human rights should be prioritized to ensure safety onboard South West Indian Ocean fishing vessels
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO06	Regional sustainability: minimum terms and conditions for foreign fisheries access
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO07	High Seas Boarding and Inspection Schemes
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO08	A New Self-Assessment Tool to Evaluate a Country's Capacity to Engage in RFMO Compliance Review Processes
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO09	23 Environmental Organizations Call on the IOTC to Adopt Robust Management Measures That Implement & Fully Allocate Catch Limits Set for Skipjack, Bigeye, Swordfish
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO10	GTA 2025 IOTC Position Statement
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO11	EUROPECHE Tuna Group priorities for the 29th session of the IOTC
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO12	Joint Statement to the 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO13	IPNLF Position Statement
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO14	Call for the IOTC to support stronger transparency and anti-IUU fishing measures
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO15	Shark Trust Statement
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO16	Statement from Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz (DSM) to the 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission on La Réunion
IOTC-2025-S28- NGO17	Blue Marine Foundation Statement on Yellowfin Tuna at the 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

APPENDIX 4.
JOINT STATEMENT BY THE UK AND MAURITIUS

OFFICIAL



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REGIONAL INTEGRATION
AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

09 April 2025

Dear IOTC Executive Secretary,

UPDATE ON AGENDA ITEM 5, 29TH SESSION OF THE IOTC

At the May 2024 IOTC Annual Session, the United Kingdom committed to provide clarification of its membership status at the earliest opportunity following the conclusion of negotiations between the United Kingdom and Mauritius on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

The UK and Mauritius have made good progress in these negotiations and both sides have stated their shared commitment to finalise an agreement quickly.

In these circumstances, the UK and Mauritius request that consideration of agenda item 5 be deferred to the 30th Session of the IOTC.

Ahead of the 29th Annual Session of the IOTC, the UK and Mauritius would be grateful if you could kindly circulate this letter to the members of the Commission.

Your sincerely,

Mr. Marc Owen

Ambassador J. Bissoondoyal

UK and Mauritian Delegates to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

APPENDIX 5.
STATEMENT BY THE EU ON SHARK FINNING

First, we would like to thank the various delegations that have worked on this text and particular Maldives for their passionate leadership on this point.

Notwithstanding the great job of all people involved, I have to formally express the strong disappointment of the Union with the outcome and the content of the text with regards to finning. It is also the disappointment of the millions of European citizens that are asking for a full implementation of FNA policy.

We came here with a very clear objective 'fins naturally attached only'. We have explained in previous interventions in the last five days why we consider this as the only effective policy to avoid finning. FNA naturally attached is possible and our fleet is implementing it since more than a decade

We stated and we repeat that this is for us the only possible arrival point when it comes to fight finning.

Now the text that we have in front of us, falls short of implementing a full immediate FNA policy and for this reason we cannot support the text.

Nonetheless, given the sensible improvements which have been achieved in other areas – such as on wire leaders and reporting obligations and with the understanding that we have now a clear date by which alternatives to FNA will be abandoned - the EU will not stand in the way of consensus but we would like to put on record that we will keep insisting on FNA as of tomorrow in all relevant fora and that we do not consider this as a precedent that we will accept being replicated in other oceans

APPENDIX 6.
COMPLIANCE RATES

Compliance rates are from the final Compliance Reports published on the S29 [Commission meeting page](#).

CPC	C	P/C	N/C1	NC2	N/A	2025 Compliance Rate
Australia	48	3	0	0	35	94.1%
Bangladesh	10	0	6	14	56	33.3%
China	47	3	0	0	36	94.0%
Comoros	9	5	1	17	54	28.1%
European Union	55	7	3	7	14	76.4%
France(OT)	15	0	0	0	71	100.0%
India	14	9	9	3	51	40.0%
Indonesia	49	6	3	3	25	80.3%
Iran	40	4	1	2	39	85.1%
Japan	46	5	0	1	34	88.5%
Kenya	23	15	11	14	23	36.5%
Korea	54	6	0	1	25	88.5%
Liberia	3	2	0	2	79	42.9%
Madagascar	42	7	0	5	32	77.8%
Malaysia	41	11	0	3	31	74.5%
Maldives	48	1	0	3	34	92.3%
Mauritius	69	7	0	3	7	87.3%
Mozambique	34	3	1	4	44	81.0%
Oman	46	3	0	9	28	79.3%
Pakistan	2	1	20	19	44	4.8%
Philippines	9	1	0	0	76	90.0%
Seychelles	56	11	2	4	13	76.7%
Somalia	3	0	3	35	45	7.3%
South Africa	36	16	1	0	33	67.9%
Sri Lanka	37	12	0	3	34	71.2%
Sudan	2	0	3	37	44	4.8%
Tanzania	51	5	2	9	19	76.1%
Thailand	48	0	0	1	37	98.0%
United Kingdom	11	1	0	0	74	91.7%
Yemen	2	0	3	37	44	4.8%
Commission	950	144	69	236	1,181	67.91%

Note: Obligations assessed as NC2, follow up actions should be reported in the compliance action plan under the e-MARIS requirement number 1.4 (RoP-ComplianceActionPlan cq) in the campaign CoC23 - 2026 assessment, by the **deadline 18 July 2025**.

APPENDIX 7.
IOTC BUDGET FOR 2026 AND INDICATIVE BUDGET FOR 2027 (USD)

		Actuals 2024*	2025	2026	2027
1	Staff costs				
1,1	Professional				
	Executive Secretary (D1)	165 041	167 082	171 287	174 712
	<i>Science</i>				
	Science Manager (P5)	131 253	146 135	146 966	149 905
	Stock Assessment Expert (P4)	11 044	135 179	122 547	124 998
	Fishery Officer (Science P3)	107 663	108 413	111 494	113 724
	<i>Compliance</i>				
	Compliance Manager (P5)	152 827	154 372	158 018	161 179
	Compliance Coordinator (P4)	140 187	143 076	146 550	149 481
	Compliance Officer (P3)	104 064	105 957	109 022	111 202
	<i>Data</i>				
	Data Coordinator (P4)	42 327	137 766	122 547	124 998
	Statistician (P3)	89 241	108 413	109 022	111 202
	Fishery Officer (P2) Data	-	79 388	82 045	83 686
	Fishery Officer (P1/NPO) Data	78 029	62 424	31 542	32 173
	<i>Admin.</i>				
	Administrative Officer (P3/P4)	125 269	128 044	128 777	131 353
1,2	General Service				
	Administrative Assistant	22 709	23 378	23 709	24 183
	Office Associate	21 191	21 298	22 302	22 748
	Database Assistant	22 709	23 378	23 709	24 183
	Office Assistant	15 685	16 145	16 375	16 703
	Driver	-	0	0	0
	Overtime	1 847	5 100	5 100	5 202
	Total Salary Costs	1 231 087	1 565 547	1 531 011	1 561 631
1,3	Employer Pension and Health	393 727	501 121	481 644	491 277
1,4	Employer FAO Entitlement Fund	480 668	650 411	595 502	607 412
1,5	Adjustment Entitlement Fund	(33 112)			
1,6	Improved Cost Recovery Uplift	58 497	78 795	73 028	74 489
	Total Staff Costs	2 130 867	2 795 874	2 681 185	2 734 808
2	Operating Expenditures				
2,1	Capacity Building	38 813	104 885	130 000	130 000
2,2	Consultants/Service Providers	275 673	442 180	460 652	460 652
2,3	Duty travel	141 745	165 000	180 000	180 000
2,4	Meetings	227 136	90 000	122 000	122 000
2,5	Interpretation	65 530	140 000	130 000	130 000
2,6	Translation	105 966	115 000	128 000	128 000
2,7	Equipment	13 129	10 000	10 000	10 000
2,8	General Operating Expenses	59 260	79 800	73 390	73 390
2,9	Contingencies	0	10 000	10 000	10 000
	Total OE	927 252	1 156 865	1 244 042	1 244 042
	SUB-TOTAL	3 058 119	3 952 739	3 925 227	3 978 850
3	Additional Contributions Seychelles	-30 354	-28 750	0	0
	FAO Servicing Costs	136 250	177 873	176	179 048
4	Meeting Participation Fund			635	
		237 127	300 000	300	300 000
5	GRAND TOTAL	3 401 141	4 401 862	4 401 862	4 457 899

*Reported by FAO system 27 Feb

APPENDIX 8.
IOTC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2026 (USD)

Country	World Bank Classification in 2023	OECD Membership	Average catch for 2021-2023 (in metric tons)	Base Contribution	Operations Contribution	GNI Contribution	Catch Contribution	Total Contribution (in USD)
Australia	High	Yes	4,960	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$15,083	\$195,332
Bangladesh	Middle	No	17,826	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$10,841	\$81,044
China	Middle	No	65,684	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$39,947	\$110,149
Comoros	Middle	No	12,178	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$7,406	\$77,608
European Union	High	Yes	221,085	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$672,285	\$852,533
France(Terr)	High	Yes	0	\$15,179	\$0	\$146,729	\$0	\$161,908
India	Middle	No	166,982	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$101,553	\$171,755
Indonesia	Middle	No	389,667	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$236,983	\$307,185
Iran, Islamic Republic of	Middle	No	276,743	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$168,306	\$238,508
Japan	High	Yes	10,988	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$33,413	\$213,662
Kenya	Middle	No	2,953	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$1,796	\$71,998
Korea, Rep of	High	Yes	17,702	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$53,830	\$234,078
Madagascar	Low	No	8,488	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$0	\$5,162	\$38,682
Malaysia	Middle	No	20,383	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$12,397	\$82,599
Maldives	Middle	No	152,922	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$93,002	\$163,204
Mauritius	Middle	No	28,315	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$17,220	\$87,422
Mozambique	Low	No	13,106	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$0	\$7,971	\$41,491
Oman	High	No	125,294	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$76,200	\$256,448
Pakistan	Middle	No	39,927	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$24,283	\$94,485
Philippines	Middle	No	0	\$15,179	\$0	\$36,682	\$0	\$51,861
Seychelles	High	No	133,015	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$80,896	\$261,144
Somalia	Low	No	0	\$15,179	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,179
South Africa	Middle	No	1,227	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$746	\$70,948
Sri Lanka	Middle	No	89,743	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$54,579	\$124,781
Sudan	Low	No	180	\$15,179	\$0	\$0	\$109	\$15,288
Tanzania	Middle	No	14,813	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$9,009	\$79,211
Thailand	Middle	No	21,516	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$13,085	\$83,287
United Kingdom	High	Yes	2	\$15,179	\$0	\$146,729	\$7	\$161,914
Yemen	Low	No	40,508	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$0	\$24,636	\$58,156
			Total	440,186	440,186	1,760,745	1,760,745	4,401,862

APPENDIX 9.
CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2026

Meeting	Dates
Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP)	26 – 27 January
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC)	4 – 6 February
Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM)	11 – 13 February
Management Strategy Evaluation Task Force of the Working Party on Methods (WPM)	23 – 25 March
Working Party on Socio-Economics (WPSE)	1 – 2 April
Ad hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards (WGEMS)	13 – 14 April
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB) data preparatory meeting	20 – 22 April
Compliance Committee (CoC)	4 – 6 May
Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF)	7 May
Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP)	9 May
Commission (S30)	11 – 15 May
Working Party on Tropical Tunas – data preparation (WPTT-DP) and Working Group on FADs (WGFAD)	8 – 12 June
Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT)	6 – 10 July
Working Party on Billfish (WPB)	10 – 12 September
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB)	14 – 18 September
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC)	12 – 15 October
Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT)	20 - 24 October
Working Party on Methods (WPM)	26 – 28 October
Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS)	24 – 28 November
Scientific Committee (SC)	30 November – 4 December

APPENDIX 10.**THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE****1. Meeting of the Compliance Committee**

The meetings of the Compliance Committee shall be held for a period of at least 2 days to assess individual IOTC Contracting Parties (Members) and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties' (hereinafter referred together as "CPCs") compliance and implementation with their obligations as Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties of IOTC.

2. Mandate and Objectives of the Compliance Committee

- a) The Compliance Committee shall be responsible for reviewing all aspects of CPCs individual compliance with articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.
- b) The Compliance Committee shall report directly to the Commission on its deliberations and recommendations.
- c) The Compliance Committee shall cooperate closely with other IOTC subsidiary bodies in order to remain informed on all issues concerning compliance with applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.
- d) The work of the Compliance Committee shall be guided by the following overall objectives:
 - i) To provide a structured forum for discussion of all problems related to effective implementation of, and compliance with articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures
 - ii) To gather and review information relevant to compliance with articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures, and from documents submitted by CPCs (e.g. Reports of Implementation and standard questionnaires on compliance) or IOTC subsidiary bodies
 - iii) To identify and discuss problems related to the implementation of, and compliance with, articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures, and to make recommendations to the Commission on how to address these problems, including considering all available responses to CPC non-compliance.
 - iv) To promote a positive compliance culture that focuses on improving CPCs overall compliance with the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC conservation and management measures.

3. The terms of reference of the Compliance Committee shall be to:

- a) Review each individual CPC's compliance with articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary to ensure their effectiveness, notably in relation to:
 - i) The mandatory statistical requirements and all issues related to obligatory reporting and data providing, including non-targeted species;
 - ii) The level of CPCs' conformity with articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;
 - iii) The level of CPCs' conformity with the resolutions concerning the limitation of the fishing capacity;
 - iv) The status of implementation of resolutions for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement

adopted by the Commission (e.g. Port inspections, VMS, follow-up on infringements and market related measures);

- v) The reporting on authorised as well as active vessels in IOTC area of competence, in particular, in relation to the IOTC Resolution on fishing effort limitation.

b) The Compliance Committee shall also be tasked to:

- i) Compile reports, with the help of the IOTC Secretariat, based on information submitted by CPCs in accordance with the various Resolutions adopted by the Commission and, which will form the basis for the compliance review process.
- ii) Develop a structured, integrated approach to evaluate the compliance of each CPC against articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable Conservation and Management Measures, as described in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 below. The Chair of the Compliance Committee, assisted by the IOTC Secretariat, will identify, select and transmit the significant non-compliance issues to each CPC and submit them for discussion at the Compliance Committee meeting.
- iii) Issue its recommendation on the compliance status of each CPC at the end of the meeting, in accordance with the process described in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 below.
- iv) Develop a scheme of incentives and, where appropriate, other follow-up actions including a mechanism for their application to encourage compliance by all CPCs.
- v) Perform such other tasks as directed by the Commission.

4. IOTC Compliance Committee preparatory works:

a) In preparation for the meeting of the IOTC Compliance Committee the IOTC Secretariat shall:

- i) Provide each CPC on a secure section of the IOTC website, and notified by email 4 months prior to the annual meeting, a standard questionnaire on compliance with the various binding applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures covering the previous calendar year. Such questionnaire shall also seek information on any follow-up actions by CPCs in response to the previous year's IOTC Final Compliance Report as stipulated in paragraph 6, for receiving comments and answers from the concerned CPCs no later than 80 days before the Commission meeting. [The IOTC standard questionnaire as answered by CPC shall be made available to all CPCs on the IOTC website.](#)
- ii) Compile CPCs' initial replies to the questionnaire in the form of a draft IOTC Compliance Report. The draft IOTC Compliance Report shall summarise all available information relating to each CPC's implementation of and compliance with obligations for review by the IOTC Compliance Committee and shall include the suggested compliance status based on Annex A for each compliance issue identified. It shall also include relevant information regarding compliance with the submission of the annual report referred in articles X.1 and X.2 of the IOTC Agreement.
- iii) The draft IOTC Compliance Report shall be provided to the relevant CPC on a secure section of the IOTC website and notified by email no later than ~~75~~50 days before the Commission meeting. Upon website posting of the relevant draft report, each CPC may reply to the IOTC Secretariat no later than 30 days before the Commission meeting in order to (where appropriate):
 1. provide additional information, clarifications, amendments or corrections to information contained in its draft report;
 2. identify any particular difficulties with respect to implementation of any obligations;
 3. identify technical assistance or capacity building needed to assist the CPC with

implementation of any obligations; and/or

4. propose a change to any suggested compliance status based on justified grounds.

- iv) The Secretariat shall then produce the IOTC Summary Compliance Report based on the draft Compliance Report of each CPC. Upon availability of the IOTC Summary Compliance Report, each CPC may reply to the IOTC Secretariat no later than 10 days before the Commission meeting in order to (where appropriate) provide follow-up/remedial actions to information contained in its IOTC Summary Compliance Report. The IOTC Summary Compliance Report shall form the basis for the compliance examination process described in paragraphs 5 and 6 and shall include, *inter alia*, a summary of each CPC's compliance with obligations, any compliance issues identified and a suggested preliminary compliance status by the Secretariat in accordance with Annex A.
- v) The IOTC Summary Compliance Report shall be made available to all CPCs on the IOTC website no later than 25 days before the Commission meeting.

5. Provisional IOTC Compliance Report

- a) At each meeting, the IOTC Compliance Committee shall review the IOTC Summary Compliance Report, taking into account information contained in the report, as well as any further suitably documented information provided prior to or at the Compliance Committee meeting. The Compliance review process shall be undertaken CPCs by CPCs as well as measure by measure and obligation by obligation, as needed, and if required, prioritising non-compliance of category 2 and other recurring compliance issues. The Compliance Committee may request any CPCs that have relevant information to provide further details. The Compliance Committee shall also discuss non-submission or late submission of the questionnaire referred to in paragraph 4.a)i).
- b) On the basis of the information available, the Compliance Committee shall recommend a Provisional Compliance Report. The IOTC Provisional Compliance Report shall record any compliance issues identified, including an assessment of compliance status in accordance with Annex A. The IOTC Provisional Compliance Report shall record suggested follow-up actions in respect of compliance issues identified, in accordance with Annex A, including timeframes for implementation.
- c) For the purposes of the Provisional and Final IOTC Compliance Report, "Compliance Status" shall be based on the following information:
- i) For a CPC-level quantitative limit or collective CPC quantitative limit, such as a limit on fishing capacity, fishing effort, or catch: verifiable data indicating that the limit has not been exceeded.
 - ii) For other obligations:
 1. Implementation – where an obligation applies, the CPC is required to inform and provide support documents, in national language if French and English are not available, that it has adopted, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, binding measures that implement that obligation; and
 2. Monitor and ensure compliance – the CPC is required to provide information showing that it has a system or procedures to monitor compliance of vessels and persons with these binding measures, a system or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance and has taken action in relation to potential infringements.
- d) The IOTC Provisional Compliance Report shall, where appropriate, also include recommendations to the Commission regarding:
- i) any remedial action taken, or proposed to be taken, by the CPC;

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- ii) priority obligations to be reviewed for the next compliance assessment cycle, during the process described in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6; and
 - iii) other responsive action, including incentive measures which may be considered by the Commission as appropriate.

6. IOTC Final Compliance Report

The Commission shall consider the IOTC Provisional Compliance Report and any associated or other relevant information, including responses to compliance issues and follow-up actions recommended by the Compliance Committee and adopt it, with amendments as required, as the IOTC Final Compliance Report.

- 7. The process described in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 shall be reviewed by the Compliance Committee after the compliance assessment process has been completed in full once. The Compliance Committee shall make recommendations to the Commission on future improvements to the process if necessary.
- 8. The Compliance Committee should take into consideration the capacity constraints and extenuating circumstances of developing coastal states. Nothing in this document shall contravene any obligation and special considerations provided for coastal fisheries in applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.
- 9. The procedures of the Compliance Committee shall be governed *mutatis mutandis* by the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.