

OUTCOMES OF THE 29th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 06 OCTOBER 2025

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 16th Working Party on Methods (WPM16) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 29th Session, held in April 2025, specifically relating to the work of the WPM.

BACKGROUND

At the 29th Session of the Commission, 14 Conservation and Management Measures were adopted (consisting of 12 Resolutions and 2 Recommendations), as detailed below

Resolutions

- Resolution 25/01 *On climate change as it relates to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission* [[download here](#)]
- Resolution 25/02 *On the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) programme* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 25/03 *On establishing catch limits for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 25/04 *On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 25/05 *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 25/06 *On a Regional Observer Scheme* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 25/07 *On a management procedure for swordfish in the IOTC area of competence* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 25/08 *On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 25/09 *On the conservation of shortfin and longfin mako sharks caught in association with IOTC fisheries* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 25/10 *On establishing a Technical Committee on Management Procedures* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 25/11 *On Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing* [[download here](#)].
- Resolution 25/12 *On the promotion of the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures* [[download here](#)].
- 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](#)].
- Recommendation 25/14 *On the limitation of fishing capacity* [[download here](#)].

DISCUSSION

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP) meeting in 2024, which have relevance for the WPM ([IOTC-2024-S28-R](#)):

Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP09)

[Para 124] 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:

- 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.
- 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.

[Para 125] The Commission also **NOTED** the TCMP recommendation on the arrangements for TCMP meetings in 2026 as well as future TCMP meetings:

- 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
- 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPM:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2025–WPM16–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 29th Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPM and **AGREE** to consider how best to provide the SC with the information it needs, in order to satisfy the Commission's requests, throughout the course of the current WPM meeting.
- 2) **NOTE** the 11 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 29th Session of the Commission (consisting of 10 Resolutions and 1 Recommendation).