



OUTCOMES OF THE 29th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, LAST UPDATED: 12TH NOVEMBER 2025

Purpose

To inform participants at the 21st Session of the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS21) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 29th session, held in La Réunion from 13-17 April 2025, specifically relating to the work of the WPDCS.

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:

- 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*

Data-Related CMMs

Three Resolutions adopted at the last Commission meeting are directly relevant to the WPDCS, as they pertain to data collection and reporting, while the others primarily address management and compliance matters.

Resolution 25/06 | ROS

The Resolution entered into force on 22 August 2025 and supersedes Resolution [24/04](#). Its overarching objective is to collect verified catch data and other scientific information related to fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence. The Resolution applies to both longline and surface fisheries, through the deployment of scientific observers or EM data reviewers (paragraph 4), and to coastal fisheries, through the monitoring of landings by field samplers at landing sites (paragraph 9).

The only substantive change in Resolution 25/06 compared to Resolution 24/04 is in paragraph 18, introducing:

- Clear fixed deadlines (30 June / 30 December) for observer data submission;
- Separate handling for longline fisheries (provisional and final datasets).

Regarding reporting, paragraph 18 of the Resolution states: “Each CPC shall provide to the IOTC Secretariat the report and observer data for the previous year no later than 30 June, following the IOTC observer reporting templates and standards.” The templates and descriptions of the data fields to be reported to the Secretariat are available on the IOTC Data Reporting Forms webpage: <https://data.iotc.org/reference/latest/forms/>.

Resolution 25/08 | Sharks

The Resolution will enter into force on 1 January 2026, superseding Resolutions [12/09](#), [13/05](#), [13/06](#), [17/05](#) and [18/02](#). It applies to longline and surface fisheries conducted by vessels listed in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV; Resolution [19/04](#)). The Resolution aims to harmonise and consolidate the various provisions of existing IOTC resolutions relating to sharks taken in tuna and tuna-like fisheries operating within the IOTC Area of Competence, including specific measures for thresher sharks, whale sharks, and oceanic whitetip sharks.

Regarding data reporting, a few key points are provided to the attention of the WPDCS:

- Paragraph 3. Retention is prohibited for oceanic whitetip sharks, thresher sharks, and whale sharks, i.e., all individuals caught in longline and surface fisheries must be discarded at sea
- Paragraph 19. The SC will review, at its 29th session (2026), available data and information on the distribution and extent of the use of wire leaders and monofilament leaders by CPCs. To support this review, all CPCs shall facilitate the provision of such information (best available) pertaining to their fleet to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 July 2026, enabling a spatial summary to be prepared for the SC
- Paragraph 32. CPCs shall report annual data for catches of all shark species in accordance with IOTC data reporting requirements and procedures established in Resolution [15/02](#), including estimates and status of discards (dead or alive) and size-frequency information. CPCs shall also report all available historical data that remain unreported.

Resolution 25/09 | Mako Sharks

The Resolution will enter into force on 1 January 2026 and applies to all vessels flying the flag of a CPC and fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence. It follows the assessment of the stock of shortfin mako performed in 2024 that indicated that there is a ~50% probability that the stock was subject to overfishing and overfished in 2023 (see [Executive Summary](#)).

In terms of data collection and reporting, the Resolution aims to improve the quality of the data based on the following provisions:

- Paragraph 5. CPCs shall ensure that their fishers record and report all catches including dead discards and live releases of mako sharks at species level and in accordance with Resolution [15/01](#).
- Paragraph 6. By 1 January 2028, CPCs that reported annual average catches (landings and dead discards) of shortfin mako sharks (SMA, MAK, and MSK species codes) over 1 tonne between 2020-2023 shall present to the WPEB and SC the statistical methodology used to estimate dead discards and live releases.
- As part of their annual data submissions, CPCs shall provide all relevant data for IOTC mako sharks, including estimates of dead discards and live releases using the methods approved by the SC in the previous paragraph.

According to the data available to the Secretariat as of November 2025, paragraphs 6 and 7 apply to the following CPCs, listed in order of catch magnitude: China (544 t), Madagascar (505 t), the European Union (465 t), Indonesia (339 t), Pakistan (213 t), Sultanate of Oman (124 t), South Africa (71 t), Seychelles (60 t), Sri Lanka (36 t), Islamic Republic of Iran (14 t), Kenya (13 t), the United Kingdom (8 t), Japan (5 t), Mozambique (2 t), Republic of Korea (2 t), and Mauritius (1 t).

Recommendation

That the WPDCS

- **NOTE** paper IOTC–2025–WPDCS21–04 which outlined the main outcomes of the 29th Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPDCS 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 and next WPDCS meetings.