

Identification and recommendation on outdated Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and CMMs that could be merged

PREPARED BY: SECRETARIAT 22 JANUARY 2025

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) with elements for discussion at the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) for the identification of obsolete Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and provide drafting suggestions for amendment of existing Resolutions.

BACKGROUND

The component 8, sub-component 8.1 and 8.2 of the Work Plan of the WPICMM comprise the following activities:

8	Identification and recommendation on outdated CMMs and CMMs that could be merged
8.1	CMMs outdated, to be removed, merging CMMs
8.1.1	WPICMM to identify CMMs that are outdated and could be easily removed
8.1.2	WPICMM to propose the merging of different CMM, including actual drafting suggestions for merged CMMs. (This could be achieved through a different schedule for the WPICMM with for example short drafting session directly planned in the agenda)
8.2	<i>Review and recommendation to improve unclear CMM, if any, CMM are identified as unclear by the CoC</i>
8.2.1	WPICMM to conduct drafting suggestions (If CoC recommend amendment of some CMM to clarify unclear obligations)

By identifying and removing outdated or redundant CMMs, the WPICMM is considered the first step for the Commission to simplify the IOTC regulatory framework, improve compliance, and enhance the effectiveness of fisheries management.

The collaborative inputs from CPCs in the period running up to the WPICMM is fundamental. During this process, CPCs may identify provisions that could benefit from a review and submit it to the Secretariat for discussion at the WPICMM. Technical edits recommended by other IOTC working groups, working parties or Scientific Committee could also be addressed through the process. The IOTC Secretariat compiles these suggestions in this paper to be discussed at the WPICMM meeting.

The Work Plan of the WPICMM is tasking CPCs to identify CMMs that are outdated/obsolete and could be easily removed or CMMs that can be amended, for discussion and adoption by the Commission.

DISCUSSION

On obsoletes or outdated CMMs:

During the intersessional period, no information was received from CPCs regarding obsolete/outdated Conservation and Management Measures.

On CMM that could be merged:

During the intersession period, no information was received from CPCs regarding Conservation and Management Measures that could be merged.

On identification of CMMs provisions from IOTC working groups, working parties or Scientific Committee:

- [Resolution 15/01](#) – review the list of species that are mandatory for reporting:

SC28.14 (para. 118) **NOTING** that Resolution [15/01](#) includes a list of species for which reporting catch data is mandatory/optional and that varies by gear and by fishery type (i.e. artisanal vs commercial fisheries), the SC **NOTED** that many species of interest to the WPEB are not mandatory for reporting for all gears or fishery type. The SC **NOTED** concerns from some CPCs that making these species mandatory for reporting for all gears and fleets (including artisanal fleets) could place additional burden on many CPCs. This is particularly the case for many coastal fleets which are not necessarily targeting only tuna but instead target a wide range of species, making data collection complex. The SC therefore **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission review the list of species that are mandatory for reporting to species level while considering the feasibility of such data collection for all CPCs. The SC included the following suggested changes:

- Silky sharks to be added also for gillnets fisheries
- Hammerhead sharks to be reported at species level at least for scalloped, smooth and great
- hammerhead sharks for all gear types (explicitly including purse seine fisheries)
- Mantas and devil rays to be reported at species level differentiating at least between manta ray (giant manta and reef manta) and other devil rays adding them for mandatory reporting at least for purse seine fisheries and for gillnet fisheries instead of optional
- Great white sharks as mandatory for all gear types
- Oceanic whitetip sharks as mandatory for all gear types

No revision of Resolution 15/01 was received by the Secretariat.

- [Resolution 25/08](#) – Review and replace the Annex III, as adopted by the WPEB:

SC28.16 (para. 120) The SC **NOTED** that the WPEB had **REVIEWED** the minimum standards set out in Annex III of Resolution 25/08 and **ADOPTED** the revisions made by members of the group which can be found in Annex XXVII of the WPEB report. The SC **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider these standards for adoption in 2026. The SC further **NOTED** that work on best practice handling guidelines is ongoing and frequently evolves. The SC therefore **SUGGESTED** that the Commission consider adopting a master document containing handling guidelines for all taxa, rather than requiring Resolutions containing such guidelines to be updated when new information becomes available. Future Resolutions could then refer back to this master document adopted by the SC. The SC **AGREED** that a small working group will work on compiling these intersessionally for review by the SC.

No revision of Resolution 25/08 was received by the Secretariat.

- [Resolution 19/03](#) – Update the Annex I - Live release handling procedures - as adopted by the WPEB

SC28.17 (para. 121) The SC **NOTED** that in 2024, the WPEB recommended the adoption of a revised set of handling guidelines for mobulids while **NOTING** that work was required to further develop the guidelines for gillnets. The SC **NOTED** that the WPEB worked to further develop these guidelines which were revised and adopted. The SC **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider these revised handling guidelines for mobulids for consideration for adoption in 2026. The details of the suggested revisions to the handling procedures can be found in Appendix XXVI of the WPEB report.

No revision of Resolution 19/03 was received by the Secretariat.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPICMM09:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2026–WPICMM09–15 on Identification and recommendation on outdated Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and CMMs that could be merged,
- 2) **NOTE** that no contribution from CPCs, on component 8 sub-component 8.1 and 8.2 of the Work Plan of the WPICMM , was received by the Secretariat for the WPICMM09 and **REMIND** CPCs to propose amendments and drafting suggestion of IOTC Resolutions for the WPICMM meeting intersessionally for discussion at WPICMM meetings,
- 3) **ENCOURAGE** CPCs to propose amendments of the Resolutions 15/01, 25/08, 19/03, based on the Recommendations of the [Scientific Committee \(SC28\)](#), and propose the amendments of those Resolutions for discussion and adoption at the next [Commission meeting \(S30\)](#), noting that the deadline to submit proposals for Resolutions is 11 April 2026 (IOTC [Rules of Procedure](#): 30 days before the next Commission meeting).