
PROGRESS ON REQUESTS FOR ACTION MADE BY THE COMMISSION IN 2025

PREPARED BY: SECRETARIAT

PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period on its requests for action made to the Secretariat during the 29th Session in 2025.

BACKGROUND

In 2025, the Commission made 10 requests for action. To-date 8 of those requests have been completed and 2 are ongoing. The requests are listed below.

In accordance with Rule IX.1 of the IOTC Rules of Procedure there is a standing requirement for the Chairperson, each year, to send a letter to all non-contracting parties known to be fishing for IOTC species urging them to become a CPC. In 2026, letters were sent to 10 non-member coastal states.

Regarding requests from other bodies that were endorsed by the Commission in 2025:

- 7 requests for action were from the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance — 7 have been completed (IOTC-2026-SCAF23-03).
- 11 requests for action were from the Compliance Committee — 5 have been completed, 5 is ongoing and 1 is pending (IOTC-2026-CoC23-09).

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2026-S30-02 which provided the Commission with information on the progress made during the inter-sessional period on the requests for action made at its 29th Session in 2025.
- 2) **CONSIDER** whether any of the requests for action need further instructions or guidance.

Action		Status
AI = agenda item from the report. P = paragraph number.		
AI 7. Amendments to the IOTC Rules of Procedure		
P16	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the current structure of the annual meeting series (CoC, SCAF, TCMP, and Commission meetings); b) the topics raised in paper IOTC-2025-S29-08; c) the annual meeting calendar and meeting formats. d) potential amendments to the IOTC Rules of Procedure that might be required to improve the IOTC's meetings and their structure. 	Completed. The small working group met several times in late 2025 and early 2026.
AI 8. Report of the Scientific Committee		
P26	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.	Completed. The SC addressed this issue during the WPTT and agreed on the advice during its 28 th Session in December 2025.
P29	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 method was not applied to the bigeye assessment in 2025 as there is no trend in recent recruitment. There has been continuing discussions at the WPM task force meeting in 2026 to further investigate its impact in the MSE context.
P36	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).	Completed. The WPEB did not discuss issues related to operational, economic and social impacts of mitigation approaches.
P41	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.	Ongoing. CPCs have been reminded to submit proposals for consideration at S30.
P42	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	Ongoing. The Secretariat is working with the noted CPCs to address these issues.

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	regarding the reported catch data, to initiate and undergo a similar process to reconstruct the catch data.	
AI 9. Conservation and Management Measures		
P51	The Commission REQUESTED that this information [<i>Current Conservation and Management Measures that include a reference to the year 2026</i>] 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.	Completed. The document was presented to the WPICMM as requested.
P54	[<i>Regarding the dFAD register</i>] 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.	Completed. A small working group was consulted on several occasions to advance the development of the dFAD register.
P56	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.	Completed. A request was made to delay the implementation of the dFAD register and an intersessional process agreed to a new implementation schedule.
P109	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.	Completed. A consultant was contracted using extra budgetary funds provided by the EU. His results will be presented to the S30.