



PROGRESS ON REQUESTS FOR ACTION MADE BY THE SCAF IN 2025

PREPARED BY: SECRETARIAT

PURPOSE

To provide the SCAF with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period on its requests for action made to the Secretariat during its 22nd session in 2025.

BACKGROUND

In 2025, the SCAF made 7 specific requests for action that involved the Secretariat. All of those requests have been completed. The requests are listed below.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the SCAF:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2026-SCAF23-03 which provided the SCAF with information on the progress made during the inter-sessional period on the requests for action made at its 22nd Session in 2025.
- 2) **CONSIDER** whether any of the requests for action need further instructions or guidance.

Action requested by SCAF22		Status
P = SCAF22 Report paragraph number. Except where otherwise stated.		
P10	The SCAF EXPRESSED CONCERN about the migration of the IOTC website to the FAO platform. The SCAF stressed the need for the Secretariat to retain full control over the website administration and functionality and REQUESTED that the Commission be consulted on the new design prior to deployment.	The website is being prepared for deployment and the prototypes are still not fully ready for viewing. The design will take a similar approach to the existing FAO website design (fao.org) while keeping the original IOTC website functionality. The Commission will be informed of all updates and will be advised before deployment of the new webpage.
P14	The SCAF REQUESTED that the Secretariat prepare a document for the next SCAF meeting summarising the approach to meeting participation fees of observers and CNCPs implemented by other RFMOs. The Secretariat was FURTHER REQUESTED to assess if those procedures conflict with any FAO protocols.	The Secretariat has prepared document IOTC-2026-SCAF23-09 for the SCAFs attention.
P28	The SCAF RECOMMENDED that the Secretariat work with Iran to resolve this situation regarding their outstanding contributions.	Further checks with FAO HQ were carried out but no solution has yet been found and the situation has recently become more complicated. This is an ongoing problem, not only for IOTC, but also for FAO regular contributions and fund transfers with Iran. The Secretariat will continue to converse with the FAO Finance Division and Iran.
P35	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.	Interim ratio is being monitored and will be reviewed in 2027.
P42	The SCAF REQUESTED that the Secretariat provide a table with the details and expenditures of the extrabudgetary funds provided by CPCs for the next SCAF meeting.	Table 5 provided in IOTC-2026-SCAF26-06
P44	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.	A letter was written to the FAO Assistant Director General in 2024. The summary of the reply was "As you can see, while I understand the concerns of the Commission, these costs are necessary as long as IOTC remains under the FAO. They ensure the continued professional services and support to the Commission. I also understand these costs are already lower than are experienced in other similar bodies and therefore, a further reduction would not be possible.". The ADG was again contacted in 2026 and he noted that the situation had not changed and the response remains the same.

Action requested by SCAF22		Status
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P58	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.	The Secretariat continues to work with member states to assess their needs in order to fulfil their obligations to the Commission. In 2025, discussions were held with several states and assistance was provided but no formal proposal has been developed at this stage. It must be noted that all requests for funding from 3 rd party donors will need to go through the FAO headquarters processes for support and approval.