



Report of the 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Maldives, 11-15 May 2026

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IOTC 2026. Report of the 30th Session of the Indian Ocean
Tuna Commission. Held in the Maldives 11-15 May 2026.
IOTC-2026-S30-R[E]:66 pp.

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ACRONYMS

AFAD	Anchored fish aggregating device
AIS	Automatic Identification System
BMSY	Biomass which produces MSY
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CNCP	Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, of the IOTC
CoC	Compliance Committee of the IOTC
CPs	Contracting Parties
CPCs	Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
DFAD	Drifting fish aggregating device
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAD	Fish aggregating device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMSY	Fishing mortality at MSY
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HCR	Harvest control rule
ICRU	Improved Cost Recovery Uplift
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPNLF	International Pole and Line Foundation
ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
LRP	Limit reference point
LSTLV	Large-scale tuna longline vessel
MPF	Meeting participation fund, of the IOTC
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OFCF	Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OPRT	Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries
OT	Overseas Territories
PEW	PEW Charitable Trust
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SC	Scientific Committee of the IOTC
SCAF	Standing Committee on Administration and Finance of the IOTC
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SBMSY	Spawning or 'adult' equilibrium biomass at MSY
SWIOFC	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
TCAC	Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria of the IOTC
TCMP	Technical Committee on Management Procedures
TCPR	Technical Committee on Performance Review
TRP	Target referent point
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WPDCS	Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics of the IOTC
WPEB	Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch of the IOTC
WPICMM	Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures of the IOTC
WPM	Working Party on Methods of the IOTC
WPTmT	Working Party on Temperate tunas of the IOTC
WPTT	Working Party on Tropical Tunas of the IOTC
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (a.k.a World Wildlife Fund)

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report uses the following terms and associated definitions.

Level 1: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:

RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION: Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

Level 2: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a CPC, the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:

REQUESTED: This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalise the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

Level 3: General terms to be used for consistency:

AGREED: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 or level 2 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be considered/adopted by the next level in the Commission's structure.

NOTED/NOTING: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference.

Any other term: Any other term may be used in addition to the Level 3 terms to highlight to the reader of an IOTC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. However, other terms used are considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3, described above (e.g. **CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED**).

CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION**TWENTY NINE, AS OF 15 MAY 2026**

AUSTRALIA
BANGLADESH
CHINA
COMOROS
EUROPEAN UNION
FRANCE (OT)
INDIA
INDONESIA
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
JAPAN
KENYA
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF
MADAGASCAR
MALAYSIA
MALDIVES
MAURITIUS
MOZAMBIQUE
OMAN
PAKISTAN
PHILIPPINES
SEYCHELLES
SOMALIA
SOUTH AFRICA, REP. OF
SRI LANKA
SUDAN
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
THAILAND
UNITED KINGDOM
YEMEN

COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION**TWO, AS OF 15 MAY 2026**

LIBERIA
PANAMA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was opened by the IOTC Chairperson Mr Adam Ziyad (Maldives). Welcome remarks were made by the Maldivian Minister of Fisheries, Agriculture and Ocean Resources, His Excellency Ahmed Shiyam and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Her Excellency Iruthisham Adam

(Para. 15) The Commission **ENDORSED** the following process to ensure participation is properly endorsed and vetted prior to the meeting commencing:

- i. All interested participants are required to register online using the web form provided on the meeting webpage. A deadline for registration of 5 days before the meeting commences will be implemented and the ability to register online will be removed at this time.
- ii. The registration list will be sent by the Secretariat to Heads of Delegations and/or pre-specified Alternates for validation. Only registered and validated participants will be permitted to attend IOTC meetings. Should a delegation not respond to the Secretariat's request for validation, the participants will be informed and asked to contact their delegation to endorse their participation. A non-response will not constitute consent for a participant to attend the meeting for which they have registered. In such cases, participants may be granted provisional attendance status pending endorsement, but will not be able to participate in technical discussions and present documents until validation is received.
- iii. Member states may choose to submit a list of pre-authorized participants (which may be updated at any time) that may register and attend the IOTC meetings. These individuals will still be required to register online, but they will automatically be considered to be validated by the HOD/Alt.
- iv. HODs or pre-specified Alternates may submit in writing, nominations to a meeting after the 5-day deadline as it will be considered that these participants have been pre-approved by their delegations and do not require validation.

(Para. 16) The Commission **ENDORSED** the recommendation that a cover sheet be attached to each document upon submission, ensuring that the main elements of the document are immediately clear for both the chair and participants.

(Para. 17) The Commission **AGREED** that information papers should not be presented during meetings and should be kept for background information purposes only.

(Para. 24) The Commission **ADOPTED** the amendments to the ROP which will be published on the IOTC website (here)

(Para. 37) The Commission **NOTED** that mandatory species-level reporting remains challenging for some CPCs in relation to their artisanal fleets and **AGREED** on the need for practical and achievable pathways to improve data recording and reporting.

(Para. 54) The Commission therefore **AGREED** that the WPSE shall report directly to the Commission in the future and the presentation of the WPSE report would be moved to a standalone agenda item at the Commission.

(Para. 69) The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs considered this requirement to go beyond what is specified in Resolution 24/02 and some members indicated that it may be difficult to enforce, while others considered that the existing wording is ambiguous and that all deactivations occurring within a coastal State's EEZ should trigger notification. The Commission **AGREED** to refer the question to the next WPICMM for further consideration.

(Para. 70) The Commission **NOTED** diverging views on whether the last known coordinates should be required when reporting the deactivation of a buoy attached to a natural log. Some CPCs considered that Resolution 24/02 clearly separates logs from DFADs and does not require coordinates for such deactivations, **NOTING** that the spirit of the measure is to ensure vessel accountability for FADs deliberately deployed at sea rather than natural objects found and tracked with a satellite buoy. The Commission **NOTED** that others considered that the definition of FADs in Resolution 24/02 includes logs or other natural objects if a satellite tracking buoy is added and that they should therefore be subject to the same reporting obligations as other FADs. The Commission **AGREED** to refer the question to the next WPICMM for further consideration.

(Para. 71) The Commission **NOTED** diverging views on whether the exchange of FADs and buoys between vessels should be accommodated within the e-DFAD system. Some CPCs considered this to be an established practice at sea that does not contravene Resolution 24/02 and should therefore be permitted, while others cautioned that allowing this without a formal amendment to the Resolution risks creating loopholes in the existing framework. The Commission **AGREED** to refer the question to the next WPICMM for further consideration

(Para. 73) The Commission **AGREED** that a standardized format for buoy identifiers would improve data quality and should be implemented. Work will continue between the Secretariat and members to develop the format that should be implemented.

(Para. 74) The Commission **AGREED** to a 30-day extension to the mandatory testing phase, with the DFAD register to be launched by 1st July 2026, to allow operators additional time to receive training, familiarise themselves with the system and ensure all features are fully functional, including tools for national control authorities.

(Para. 85) The Commission **ADOPTED** the following eight Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs):

[Resolution 26/01](#) *On establishing interim catch limits for yellowfin tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence*

[Resolution 26/02](#) *On establishing interim catch limits for swordfish in the IOTC Area of Competence*

[Resolution 26/03](#) *On the conservation of mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC*

[Resolution 26/04](#) *Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence*

[Resolution 26/05](#) *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels*

[Resolution 26/06](#) *Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*

[Resolution 26/07](#) *On the promotion of the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures*

[Resolution 26/08](#) *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)*

(Para. 139) The Commission **AGREED** to continue with the TCAC process by convening a virtual/online TCAC meeting within the date range of 13–15 October 2026. The goal of the meeting would be to determine if a revised workplan was possible, by focusing on resolving the key issues outstanding, followed by determining if a potential in-person meeting in February 2027 was useful to the Commission.

(Para. 142) The Commission **NOTED** the significant progress made in the adoption of MPs for several IOTC species over recent years and expressed appreciation for all scientists involved in the process. The Commission **AGREED** to continue to develop robust management procedures to support science-based, precautionary, and sustainable fisheries management. **NOTING** that three species are under development, the Commission **AGREED** to support the continued development of these MPs.

(Para. 165) The Commission **ADOPTED** the 2026 IOTC IUU Vessels List. All CPCs shall be required to take the necessary measures regarding the IUU Vessels List, in accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution 24/03.

(Para. 169) The Commission **AGREED** to renew the CNCP status of Liberia, until the end of the 31st Session of the IOTC (S31).

(Para. 171) The Commission **AGREED** to grant the CNCP status to Panama, until the end of the 31st Session of the IOTC (S31).

(Para. 174) The Commission **ADOPTED** the programme of work and budget for 2027, the indicative budget for 2028 ([Appendix 7](#)), and the schedule of contributions for 2027 as provided in [Appendix 8](#), **NOTING** that the Programme of Work for the IOTC Secretariat is based on the assumption that the nature and extent of the activities undertaken by the IOTC Secretariat will remain within the current scope.

(Para. 178) The Commission **ADOPTED** the schedule of meetings for its subsidiary bodies for 2027 as detailed in [Appendix 9](#), noting the SC, in December 2026, will finalise the dates of the science meetings.

(Para. 207) The Commission **AGREED** to the renewal of the tenure of the Executive Secretary for another three-year term.

(Para. 209) The Commission **NOTED** that no offer has been received to host the next Commission meeting and encouraged CPCs to come forward with offers. The Commission **AGREED** that the next Commission and the meetings of its associated subsidiary bodies will be scheduled for 3 – 14 May 2027.

1. Opening of the Session

1. The 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was opened by the IOTC Chairperson Mr Adam Ziyad (Maldives).
2. Welcome remarks were made by the Maldivian Minister of Fisheries, Agriculture and Ocean Resources, His Excellency Ahmed Shiyam and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Her Excellency Iruthisham Adam.
3. The 30th Session of the Commission was held in a hybrid format, with delegations present physically in the meeting room, and other participants attending by videoconference.
4. The Commission **NOTED** opening statements provided by Indonesia, Japan and Thailand which are included in [Appendix 4](#).

2. Letters of credentials

5. Letters of Credentials were received from 27 Contracting Parties and 2 Cooperating Non-contracting Party (Liberia and Panama). Neither Comoros nor Sudan participated. The list of CPC participants is provided in [Appendix 1](#). The delegations of Iran, Mauritius, Somalia and Thailand participated online.
6. The Executive Secretary reminded CPCs that the content of the letters of credentials should be in accordance with the template provided in Appendix I of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.

3. Admission of Observers

7. Pursuant to Article VII of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, the Commission admitted 28 Observer Organisations (including the invited experts) and 3 Observer Countries, in accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2023).
8. The list of participants, as listed in the letters of credentials, is provided in [Appendix 1](#).
9. The Commission **NOTED** an opening statement by Türkiye which is included in [Appendix 4](#).

4. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Session

10. The adopted agenda (IOTC-2026-S30-01b) is provided in [Appendix 2](#). The documents presented to the Commission are listed in [Appendix 3](#).

5. Determination of the status of the membership of United Kingdom in the IOTC

11. The Commission **NOTED** the joint statement from the United Kingdom and Mauritius, as well as individual statements by the Maldives, Mauritius and the United Kingdom, which are included in [Appendix 5](#). A decision on the status of the membership of the United Kingdom in the IOTC was deferred to its next session.

6. Update on the implementation of decisions of the Commission in 2025 (S29)

12. The Commission **NOTED** 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.

6.1 *Feedback from the Small Working Group on reviewing IOTC Processes*

13. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2026-S30-07 which provided the Commission with feedback and recommendations from the Small Working Group on reviewing IOTC Processes. The Commission **NOTED** that this small informal working group was convened by request of the Commission at its 29th Session in 2025.
14. The Commission **NOTED** a set of recommendations from the small working group reviewing IOTC's processes. The Commission **NOTED** general agreement with most of the recommendations.
15. The Commission **ENDORSED** the following process to ensure participation is properly endorsed and vetted prior to the meeting commencing:

- i. All interested participants are required to register online using the web form provided on the meeting webpage. A deadline for registration of 5 days before the meeting commences will be implemented and the ability to register online will be removed at this time.
 - ii. The registration list will be sent by the Secretariat to Heads of Delegations and/or pre-specified Alternates for validation. Only registered and validated participants will be permitted to attend IOTC meetings. Should a delegation not respond to the Secretariat's request for validation, the participants will be informed and asked to contact their delegation to endorse their participation. A non-response will not constitute consent for a participant to attend the meeting for which they have registered. In such cases, participants may be granted provisional attendance status pending endorsement, but will not be able to participate in technical discussions and present documents until validation is received.
 - iii. Member states may choose to submit a list of pre-authorized participants (which may be updated at any time) that may register and attend the IOTC meetings. These individuals will still be required to register online, but they will automatically be considered to be validated by the HOD/Alt.
 - iv. HODs or pre-specified Alternates may submit in writing, nominations to a meeting after the 5-day deadline as it will be considered that these participants have been pre-approved by their delegations and do not require validation.
16. The Commission **ENDORSED** the recommendation that a cover sheet be attached to each document upon submission, ensuring that the main elements of the document are immediately clear for both the chair and participants.
17. The Commission **AGREED** that information papers should not be presented during meetings and should be kept for background information purposes only.
18. The Commission **NOTED** that two of the remaining recommendations by the small working group were addressed in the proposed revisions to the Rules of Procedure (ROPs), as noted in Section 7.
19. Regarding the recommendation that Working Parties without a set of Terms of Reference (TOR) be guided by the TORs of the Scientific Committee, the Commission **NOTED** the suggestions that a guidance document could be developed to apply across all Working Parties (WP) rather than developing individual TORs for each WP. As no agreement was reached on the preferred approach, it was suggested that the small working group continue discussing this matter, including the possible development of such a guidance document.
20. The Commission **NOTED** the recommendation from the small working group to move the TCMP to a date away from the Commission and its associated meetings, with several CPCs indicating their preference to do so. Only one CPC suggested it be retained while another expressed concern regarding the change.
21. The Commission adoption of the meeting calendar held under Agenda item 13.3 and presented in Appendix 9, provisionally included the TCMP during the weeks of the Commission and its associated meetings.

7. Amendments to the IOTC Rules of Procedure

22. The Commission **NOTED** document IOTC-2026-S30-08 on Amending the IOTC Rules of Procedure, Appendix V.
23. The Commission **NOTED** three key proposed revisions to the ROPs, presented on behalf of the small working group:
- a. facilitating intersessional adoption of the Commission report to allow more time for negotiations during the meeting;
 - b. providing for exceptional circumstance submission of working documents to meetings after the submission deadline; and
 - c. specifying that where TOR for a WP do not exist, the WP should be guided by the TOR of the SC.
24. The Commission **ADOPTED** the amendments to the ROP which will be published on the IOTC website ([here](#)).

8. Report of the Scientific Committee

8.1 Overview of the 2025 SC28 Report (SC Chairperson)

25. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 28th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC) (IOTC–2025–SC28–R) which was presented by the outgoing SC Chair, Prof. Toshihide Kitakado (Japan). A total of 172 delegates and other participants, comprising 150 delegates from 27 Contracting Parties and 22 delegates from 10 observer organisations, including Invited Experts participated in SC28.
26. The Commission **NOTED** that all scientific working group and working party meetings had been successfully held in 2025, utilizing either a virtual or hybrid format. The Commission also **NOTED** that the SC meeting had been held in China and that the MPF was used to support the attendance of 13 participants to that meeting.
27. The Commission **NOTED** that 28 National Reports were submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2025 by CPCs and that this was an increase when compared with the 27 reports provided by CPCs in 2024.
28. The Commission **THANKED** the outgoing SC Chair for his valued contribution to the scientific processes of the Commission.

The status of tropical and temperate tunas

29. The Commission **NOTED** that the current statuses of tropical and temperate tunas are as follows:

Bigeye tuna

A new stock assessment was carried out for bigeye tuna in 2025. On the weight-of-evidence available, the bigeye tuna stock is determined to be **overfished** but **not subject to overfishing**. A specific Management Procedure (Res. 22/03) was used to provide a recommendation on the TAC for 2026-2028.

Yellowfin tuna

No new stock assessment was carried out for yellowfin tuna in 2025 and so the advice on status of stock is based on the 2024 assessment. The uncertainties identified in relation to the CPUE standardisation in 2024 were addressed during the WPTT in 2025 and the revised CPUE was used to rerun the 2024 stock assessment model grid to assess the likely impact on key management quantities. The revision carried out did not represent a new full stock assessment and it only aimed at corroborating the advice provided in 2024. Based on 2024 evidence and a 2025 review, yellowfin tuna is estimated to be **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**.

Skipjack tuna

No new stock assessment was carried out for skipjack tuna in 2025 and so the advice of status of stock is based on the 2023 assessment. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2023, the skipjack tuna stock is determined to be: (i) above the adopted biomass target reference point; (ii) **not overfished** ($SB_{2022} > SB_{40\%SB0}$); (iii) with fishing mortality below the adopted target fishing mortality, and; (iv) **not subject to overfishing** ($E_{2022} < E_{40\%SB0}$). A specific Management Procedure (Res. 24/07) was used to provide a recommendation on the TAC for 2027-2029.

Albacore tuna

A new stock assessment was carried out for albacore tuna in 2025. Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the stock status of albacore tuna in relation to the Commission's interim B_{MSY} and F_{MSY} target reference points indicates that the stock is **not overfished** and is **not subject to overfishing**. However, as considerable uncertainty remains in the SS3 assessment conducted in 2025, the WPTmT agreed to update the SS3 assessment to provide updated management advice in 2026.

Full stock status summaries are available [\[here\]](#).

30. The Commission **NOTED** that a new stock assessment for yellowfin tuna was not conducted in 2025. The Commission **FURTHER NOTED** the discussions relating to the complexities around a revised 2025 stock assessment for yellowfin tuna following correction of the 2024 CPUE error and the preliminary rerun of the 2024 assessment grid.
31. The Commission **NOTED** the 2024 management advice which stated that catches of yellowfin tuna should not exceed MSY , estimated at approximately 420,000 t remained, and that the revised 2025 preliminary rerun had

produced a similar MSY estimate. The Commission further **NOTED** that a new set of projections had not been produced due to time constraints, but that the advice to avoid catches exceeding MSY remained unchanged.

32. The Commission **NOTED** that based on the 2024 assessment grid, the estimate of MSY for the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock is 421,000 t with a range between 416,000 and 430,000 t.
33. The Commission **EXPRESSED** its appreciation for the work of the assessment teams in 2024 and 2025, and **NOTED** that any outstanding assessment issues would be further addressed in 2027.
34. The Commission **NOTED** that preliminary work has begun on the MSE process for yellowfin tuna and **SUPPORTED** the continued funding and development of this work.
35. The Commission **NOTED** concerns regarding substantial revisions to catch data submitted by some CPCs and the significant impacts these revisions may have on stock assessments. The Commission further **NOTED** the view that finalisation of catch data should be prioritised prior to undertaking assessments.
36. The Commission **NOTED** that the TAC recommendation taken from the adopted MP for skipjack tuna should continue to be applied until further advice is provided by the SC. The Commission further **NOTED** that the SC had confirmed that no exceptional circumstances had been triggered, that 2024 catches remained below the current MSY estimate, and that there was therefore no scientific basis at this stage to pause implementation of the current MP.
37. The Commission **NOTED** that mandatory species-level reporting remains challenging for some CPCs in relation to their artisanal fleets and **AGREED** on the need for practical and achievable pathways to improve data recording and reporting.
38. The Commission **NOTED** that the 5% minimum observer coverage required by Resolution 25/06 has not been achieved by some CPCs.
39. The Commission **NOTED** that the joint longline CPUE remains one of the most important data inputs driving stock assessments for yellowfin tuna and that the joint CPUE Working Group had made significant efforts to improve these analyses. The Commission further **NOTED** concerns regarding previous errors and the intention to avoid similar issues in future through increased transparency, including participation of external scientists. The Commission also **NOTED** that other Working Parties, including the WPB and the WPEB, had made similar recommendations relating to the development of reliable CPUE indices.

The status of neritic tunas

40. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of neritic tunas are as follows:

Kawakawa

No new stock assessment was carried out for kawakawa in 2025 and so the advice of status of stock is based on the 2023 assessment which used data-limited assessment techniques (CMSY). Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the kawakawa stock for the Indian Ocean is classified as **overfished** but **not subject to overfishing**.

Longtail tuna

No new stock assessment was carried out for longtail tuna in 2025 and so the advice of status of stock is based on the 2023 assessment which used data-limited assessment techniques (CMSY). Based on the weight-of-evidence currently available, the stock is considered to be both **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

Indo-Pacific king mackerel

No new stock assessment was carried out for Indo-Pacific king mackerel in 2025 and so the advice of status of stock is based on the 2024 assessment which used data-limited assessment techniques (CMSY). Based on the weight-of-evidence currently available, the stock is considered to be **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**.

Narrowed-Barred Spanish mackerel

No new stock assessment was carried out for narrow-barred Spanish mackerel in 2025 and so the advice of status of stock is based on the 2023 assessment which examined several data-limited methods including C-MSY, OCOM, and JABBA models. Based on the C-MSY assessment, the stock appears to be overfished and subject to overfishing.

Bullet tuna

No new stock assessment was carried out for bullet tuna in 2025 and so the advice of status of stock is based on the 2023 assessment which used several data-limited techniques (CMSY, LB-SPR, and FishBlicc). However, the catch data for bullet tuna are very uncertain given the high percentage of the catches that had to be estimated due to a range of reporting issues. Stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY reference points remains **unknown**.

Frigate tuna

No new stock assessment was carried out for frigate tuna in 2025 and so the advice of status of stock is based on the 2023 assessment which used several data-limited techniques (CMSY, OCOM, LB-SPR and FishBlicc). The catch data for frigate tuna are, however, very uncertain given the high percentage of the catches that had to be estimated due to a range of reporting issues. Stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY reference points remains **unknown**.

Full stock status summaries are available [\[here\]](#).

41. **NOTING** the ongoing stock structure work being undertaken on neritic tuna species, and further **NOTING** the importance of these species to coastal CPCs, the Commission **ENCOURAGED** this work to be continued and **NOTED** the interest of some CPCs to participate in this research.

The status of billfish

42. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of billfish are as follows:

Swordfish

No new stock assessment was carried out for swordfish in 2025, thus the stock status is determined on basis of the 2023 assessment, using data up to 2021. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2023, the stock is determined to be **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**.

Striped Marlin

No new stock assessment was carried out for striped marlin in 2025, thus the stock status is determined on basis of the 2024 assessment, based on two different models (JABBA and SS3), using data up to 2022. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the stock status of striped marlin is determined to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

Blue Marlin

A new stock assessment was carried out for blue marlin in 2025, based on two different models JABBA and SS3, using data up to 2023. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2022, the stock is determined to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

Black Marlin

No new stock assessment was carried out for black marlin in 2025, thus the stock status is determined on basis of the 2024 assessment, using data up to 2022. Progress has been made recently with black marlin catch data, particularly from coastal countries in the northern Indian Ocean, and the latest JABBA assessment shows it's now more reliable. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the stock status of black marlin is determined to be **not overfished** but **subject to overfishing**.

Indo-Pacific sailfish

A new stock assessment was carried out for Indo-Pacific sailfish in 2025 using the JABBA model. To overcome the lack of standardised CPUE indices, this assessment followed the methods of the previous assessment in 2022 where length-frequency data were used to estimate the annual Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) using the length-based spawning potential ratio (LBSPR) method. However, this is a novel technique applied to

overcome the paucity of abundance data for Indo-Pacific sailfish and the WPEB23 recommended that the extent of the potential bias must be evaluated with a simulation study which will inform whether this index is acceptable for use in the Indo-Pacific sailfish stock assessment. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2022, the stock status of Indo-Pacific sailfish is determined to be **not overfished nor subject to overfishing**.

Full stock status summaries are available [\[here\]](#).

43. **NOTING** the high level of mortality and poor stock status of many marlin species, the Commission **NOTED** the SC's recommendation to encourage CPCs to contribute more high-quality data to feed into stock assessments.
44. The Commission **NOTED** the SC's recommendation that the Commission give consideration to how best to financially and logistically support experimental fishing trials (to be conducted by CPCs) in IOTC gillnet fisheries. The Commission **NOTED** that the intent of such trials would be to investigate the impact of different setting depths and times of setting/soaking (e.g. day/night), on catch rates and mortality of interacting species including billfish, target tuna and vulnerable species (e.g. including cetaceans, sharks, mobulids and turtles). The trials would aim to provide the Commission with a quantified understanding of the likely effects and possible trade-offs of various setting/soaking time and subsurface setting options, on each species, to inform its consideration of conservation and management options for the different species groups.
45. As a first step, the Commission **ENCOURAGED** interested CPCs, including in particular those with gillnet fisheries, to collaborate intersessionally to develop a draft scoping paper that would outline the objectives, need, scope, design criteria, methodology and estimated funding required for conducting the trials noted in paragraph 44. If possible, CPCs could look to identify external funding and supplementary funding that might be needed from the Commission. Australia offered to help coordinate the collaborative development of this paper.

Matters related to ecosystems, bycatch and the status of sharks

46. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of sharks are as follows:

Blue shark

A new stock assessment was carried out for blue sharks in 2025, based on two different models JABBA and SS3, using data up to 2023. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2021, the stock status is determined to be **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**. The stock should be closely monitored, especially with respect to overall catch and discard reporting.

Shortfin mako shark

No new stock assessment was carried out for Shortfin mako sharks in 2025 and so the results are based on the JABBA assessment carried out in 2024, using data until 2022. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2024, the shortfin mako shark stock is determined to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

Other shark species There are no quantitative stock assessments and limited basic fishery indicators currently available for other shark species in the Indian Ocean therefore their stock status remains **unknown**.

Full stock status summaries are available [\[here\]](#).

47. **NOTING** the importance of collecting good quality data for sharks, the Commission **ENCOURAGED** the convening of a small group of interested CPCs to update Resolution 15/01 for potential submission as a proposal for consideration at S31 in 2027.
48. The Commission **NOTED** that paragraph 7 of Resolution 23/06 requests the SC to develop best practice guidelines for the safe handling and release of cetaceans by 2025, taking into account relevant work undertaken by other RFMOs. The Commission **REQUESTED** the WPDCCS, WPEB and the SC to examine the existing recommendations related to this provision and provide an updated recommendation for endorsement by the Commission in 2027, including through intersessional collaboration among interested CPCs.

49. The Commission **NOTED** that the SC identified whale shark as a “taxon of the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern for which there are very few data” and had advised that precautionary measures should be considered.
50. The Commission **NOTED** that data currently remain insufficient for a full stock assessment for whale shark, but that ongoing efforts to improve data collection and analysis around the status of the stock, including Close-Kin Mark-Recapture (CKMR) studies, would contribute to improved understanding of stock status and population structure. The Commission **NOTED** that the full results of this study will be presented to the WPEB this year.

Scientific Committee Recommendations

51. The Commission **NOTED** the stock status summaries for species of tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as other species impacted by IOTC fisheries and considered the recommendations made by the SC to the Commission. The Commission **ENDORSED** the SC’s 2025 list of recommendations as its own.
52. The Commission **ENDORSED** those officials elected for the SC and its subsidiary (scientific) bodies for the coming years, as listed in Appendix 7 of the 2025 Scientific Committee Report.

8.2 Report of the Working Party on Socio-Economics (WPSE02) (IOTC-2025-WPSE02-R)

53. The Commission **NOTED** that there is uncertainty regarding the formal status of the WPSE. The Commission **NOTED** the preference for the WPSE to report directly to the Commission rather than through the SC or to the TCAC, on the basis that socio-economic indicators fall outside the technical expertise of the SC, and that reporting to TCAC at this stage may be premature given the need to first establish fundamental principles.
54. The Commission therefore **AGREED** that the WPSE shall report directly to the Commission in the future and the presentation of the WPSE report would be moved to a standalone agenda item at the Commission.
55. The Commission **NOTED** the value of the work being undertaken by the WPSE in developing socio-economic indicators relevant to IOTC decision-making, including for TCAC processes, with a particular emphasis on employment, livelihoods, coastal fisheries, value chains, and the vulnerability of fishing communities, particularly in small island developing states.
56. The Commission **NOTED** the importance of ensuring that socio-economic indicators reflect the reality of fishing communities and avoid over-reliance on global data sources that may contain significant assumptions and uncertainties, and **NOTED** some support expressed for the use of proportionality-based indicators.
57. The Commission **NOTED** that the list of indicators developed by the WPSE is usable but not yet complete, and that further work is needed to reach solid consensus on which indicators to use. The Commission further **NOTED** the need to assess the potential socio-economic impacts of adopted measures including bycatch mitigation approaches.

9. Conservation and Management Measures

9.1 Current Conservation and Management Measures that include a reference to the year 2026.

58. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2026-S30-03 which provided the Commission with information on the current Conservation and Management Measures that include a reference to the year 2026.
59. The Commission discussed the interpretation of **Resolution 25/08 On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC**, and in particular paragraph 45 which states:

“Para 45. Notwithstanding paragraph 44, paragraph 3(c) of this Resolution shall enter into force on 1 July 2026, and only if the IOTC Scientific Committee explicitly and unambiguously recommends, in accordance with paragraph 43 of this Resolution, a retention ban for whale sharks.”

60. The Commission **REVIEWED** the recommendation from the SC (IOTC-2025-SC28-R) which stated:

“SC28.19 (para. 123). The SC ENCOURAGED efforts to clarify the extent and nature of whale shark interactions with IOTC fisheries, and to assess the current stock status within the IOTC area of competence, ACKNOWLEDGING that the extent of the vulnerability of whale sharks to IOTC fisheries is unknown. Based on

the available information presented by the WPEB, the SC classified whale sharks in the Indian Ocean as a “taxon of the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern for which there are very few data”, as defined in Resolution 25/08 and RECOMMENDED that the Commission take appropriate action based on this classification. The SC NOTED that this classification supports the consideration of precautionary management measures and prioritization of future research and data collection efforts by the Commission.”

61. The Commission **NOTED** that, while the SC recommended that the Commission take appropriate action based on the SC classification of the species, and further that the classification supports the consideration of precautionary management measures, the SC did not explicitly identify or recommend any specific measures to be taken.
62. The Commission **NOTED** that while several CPCs agreed that a retention ban would be an appropriate measure to take for the conservation of whale shark, the interpretation of one CPC was that, as the SC did not explicitly mention a retention ban, the prohibition under paragraph 3c of Resolution 25/08 shall not enter into force.
63. The Commission therefore **REQUESTED** that the SC, at its 2026 meeting, assess specifically whether a retention ban constitutes an appropriate action in line with the recommendation under paragraph 123 of the 2025 SC report.
64. If the SC assesses that a retention ban does not constitute an appropriate action, the Commission **REQUESTED** that the SC advise on any alternative and/or additional precautionary management measures to reduce interactions, harm and/or mortality of whale sharks in IOTC fisheries.
65. The Commission **NOTED** the view from one CPC that data on the species concerned remain inadequate – a situation that could be further worsened by the retention ban – and that prioritization of future research and data collection efforts should be given due consideration by the Commission.

DFAD Register

66. The Commission **NOTED** papers IOTC-2026-S30-06 and IOTC-2026-S30-12 which provided a list of questions from the Secretariat and a discussion on the implementation of the DFAD Register (e-DFAD) respectively.
67. The Commission **NOTED** progress in the operationalisation of the DFAD register and **THANKED** the Secretariat and the e-DFAD development team for the work done to bring the e-DFAD to life. The Commission **EXPRESSED** their satisfaction with the application and welcomed it as an important tool for transparency and accountability in DFAD management, particularly within the EEZs of coastal states.
68. The Commission **NOTED** diverging views on whether the DFAD register should always request deactivation coordinates regardless of whether the buoy is retrieved, in order to enable notification of coastal states when deactivation occurs within their EEZ.
69. The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs considered this requirement to go beyond what is specified in Resolution 24/02 and some members indicated that it may be difficult to enforce, while others considered that the existing wording is ambiguous and that all deactivations occurring within a coastal State's EEZ should trigger notification. The Commission **AGREED** to refer the question to the next WPICMM for further consideration.
70. The Commission **NOTED** diverging views on whether the last known coordinates should be required when reporting the deactivation of a buoy attached to a natural log. Some CPCs considered that Resolution 24/02 clearly separates logs from DFADs and does not require coordinates for such deactivations, **NOTING** that the spirit of the measure is to ensure vessel accountability for FADs deliberately deployed at sea rather than natural objects found and tracked with a satellite buoy. The Commission **NOTED** that others considered that the definition of FADs in Resolution 24/02 includes logs or other natural objects if a satellite tracking buoy is added and that they should therefore be subject to the same reporting obligations as other FADs. The Commission **AGREED** to refer the question to the next WPICMM for further consideration.
71. The Commission **NOTED** diverging views on whether the exchange of FADs and buoys between vessels should be accommodated within the e-DFAD system. Some CPCs considered this to be an established practice at sea that does not contravene Resolution 24/02 and should therefore be permitted, while others cautioned that allowing this without a formal amendment to the Resolution risks creating loopholes in the existing framework. The Commission **AGREED** to refer the question to the next WPICMM for further consideration.

72. The Commission **NOTED** agreement that vessels may make changes to a DFAD's design when visiting it at sea, including modifications that affect its biodegradability category, and that it should therefore be permissible to update the biodegradability category of an already deployed DFAD when reporting an operation. The Commission **NOTED** further agreement that any such changes should be tracked within the e-DFAD system to ensure transparency and allow CPCs to monitor the evolution of a dFAD's biodegradability category over time.
73. The Commission **AGREED** that a standardized format for buoy identifiers would improve data quality and should be implemented. Work will continue between the Secretariat and members to develop the format that should be implemented.
74. The Commission **AGREED** to a 30-day extension to the mandatory testing phase, with the DFAD register to be launched by 1st July 2026, to allow operators additional time to receive training, familiarise themselves with the system and ensure all features are fully functional, including tools for national control authorities.

Labour standards

75. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2026-S30-14 which provided the Commission with a discussion regarding labour standards on fishing vessels in IOTC fisheries.
76. The Commission **NOTED** the increasing importance of labour standards in fisheries governance, with many highlighting the well-documented link between labour abuses and IUU fishing, and the need to ensure safe and fair working conditions for fishers in line with international standards, including ILO Convention 188 (ILO C188).
77. The Commission **NOTED** that five other RFMOs (including ICCAT and WCPFC) have adopted binding or non-binding measures on labour standards that fall below the minimum standards set by ILO C188.
78. The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs and observers cautioned against the adoption of a non-binding resolution that would further undermine these standards, and that some CPCs already apply the minimum standards set by ILO C188.
79. The Commission **NOTED** differing views on the appropriate mechanism for progressing the issue of labour standards, with some CPCs supporting the establishment of a dedicated working group on labour standards, while others questioned the need for an additional working group given existing meeting burdens and resource limitations.
80. The Commission **NOTED** that, some CPCs suggested the integration of labour standards into the agenda of the WPSE. Other CPCs suggested that different expertise would be required for labour standards discussions compared to the existing work of the WPSE. As such no decision was taken on this matter.

9.2 Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement

81. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2026-S30-04 which provided the Commission with information on the objections to several IOTC Resolutions (received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement) and how these Resolutions are therefore subsequently applied.
82. The Commission **NOTED** that the table provided in the document of the CPCs that have objected to Resolutions shows the entire history of objections, not only those that are currently active. The Commission **NOTED** that the title of this table will be revised in future to make this clearer.
83. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2026-S30-10 which provided a statement by the Republic of Korea regarding Resolution 25/03 *On Establishing Catch Limits for Skipjack Tuna in the IOTC area of competence*.

9.3 Proposals for new or revised Conservation and Management Measures (noting that some proposals will be considered under other agenda items, as relevant)

84. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a total of seventeen (17) proposals for Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) of which seventeen (17) were tabled by Contracting Parties and none (0) were proposed by subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
85. The Commission **ADOPTED** the following eight Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs):

Resolution 26/01 On establishing interim catch limits for yellowfin tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence [[download here](#)]

86. The Commission **NOTED** that the basis of this resolution was Proposal G (South Africa) which provided a replacement to Resolution 21/01.
87. The Commission **VOTED** on the proposal by show of hands. The Commission approved that members in arrears would be allowed to vote. The vote passed with a two thirds majority (21 in favour, 1 against and 4 abstentions).
88. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat separate catches for China and Taiwan, Province of China in all future catch limit estimations and Circulars as prescribed in this Resolution and Resolution 21/01 (if applicable in the future).
89. The Commission **NOTED** the concern expressed by some CPCs that the potential of total catches could exceed the MSY if all CPCs caught their yellowfin tuna catch limit established by this Resolution. Those CPCs indicated that this had the potential to substantially reduce the probability of the stock being maintained at healthy and sustainable levels, and urged CPCs to continue to work together to ensure that total catches of yellowfin tuna remain within the SC advice (MSY – 421,000t with a range between 416,000 and 430,000t). It was highlighted by other CPCs that current reported catches (489,742 in 2024) far exceed the MSY level and that implementation of this Resolution should result in substantial reductions in total catches in 2027 and 2028 if CPCs do not object to the resolution, and comply with the limits set therein. It was highlighted by other CPCs that the TAC established by this resolution would be subject to discussion and potential revision at S32 in 2028, under advice from the SC, given that the next stock assessment should be completed in 2027.
90. The Commission also **NOTED** the indication from several CPCs that this new Resolution is a step in the right direction as it has the potential (assuming there are limited objections) to bring all yellowfin tuna fishing fleets under the umbrella of a single management measure.
91. **RECALLING** the SC's 2025 yellowfin tuna management advice indicated that based on the 2024 stock assessment grid, the median MSY estimate is 421,000 t with a range of 416,000 and 430,000 t, the Commission **REQUESTED** the SC to provide advice around the implications of different levels of catch above the advised level of 421,000t at its next session to report to the Commission in 2027. These different levels of catch would be simulated at constant intervals ranging from 421,000t to a level considered plausible by the WPTT as is done for the projections routinely provided from the stock assessments, including the catch proposed in the Resolution (436,867 t).
92. The Commission **NOTED** the stated possibility and rights of any CPC to object to this Resolution in accordance with the IOTC Agreement.
93. The Commission **NOTED** a statement from Yemen which is included in [Appendix 6](#).

Resolution 26/02 On establishing interim catch limits for swordfish in the IOTC Area of Competence [[download here](#)].

94. The basis of this resolution was Proposal J (Australia, European Union) and provided a method to implement the catch limits outlined in Resolution 25/07 On a management procedure for swordfish in the IOTC Area of Competence.
95. The Commission **NOTED** the stated possibility and rights of any CPC to object to this Resolution in accordance with the IOTC Agreement.

Resolution 26/03 On the conservation of mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC [[download here](#)].

96. The basis of this resolution was Proposals C (European Union) and K (Maldives), merged under a revision of Proposal K, which provided revisions to Resolution 19/03.
97. The Commission **NOTED** Japan's statement that this decision does not prejudice its position in similar decision-making in other RFMOs.

Resolution 26/04 Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence [[download here](#)].

98. The basis of this resolution was Proposal D (European Union) which provided a revision to Resolution 19/04.

99. The Commission **NOTED** the proponents view that their aim was to expand the scope of the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV) to improve the knowledge of IOTC coastal fleets and their integration in the IOTC management framework. Taking into account the disagreement with the text, and concerns raised by some CPCs, the proponents' subsequent revisions proposed a process to expand the scope of the RAV. These elements were not included in Resolution 26/04.

Resolution 26/05 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels [[download here](#)].

100. The basis of this resolution was Proposal P (European Union) which provided a revision to Resolution 25/05.

Resolution 26/06 Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) [[download here](#)].

101. The basis of this resolution was Proposal L (Maldives) which provided revisions to Resolution 15/02.

102. The Commission **NOTED** that the historical data required under this adopted proposal have a direct impact on the work of the TCAC and so the five-year extension granted for submitting these data may impact the timeline of the TCAC process.

Resolution 26/07 On the promotion of the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures [[download here](#)].

103. The basis of this resolution was Proposal A (South Africa) which provided revisions to Resolution 25/12.

Resolution 26/08 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](#)].

104. The basis of this resolution was Proposal Q (Maldives, United Kingdom) which provided revisions to Recommendation 25/13.

105. The Commission **NOTED** the possible intention and rights of any CPC to object to this Resolution in accordance with the IOTC Agreement. India stated that it is too premature to change the 2025 Recommendation to a Resolution but did not stand in the way of consensus while China noted that the IOTC should improve its performance before committing to the process more fully. Indonesia provided a statement that is included in [Appendix 6](#). The Commission further **NOTED** that cooperation with the BBNJ process shall not prejudice the rights, positions, or obligations of individual CPCs under relevant instruments.

106. The Commission also **CONSIDERED** the following proposals:

IOTC-2026-S30-PropB On the prohibition to use driftnets (cf Res 17/07) (European Union).

107. The Commission **NOTED** the comments from many developing coastal State CPCs and SIDS that:

- a. There could be a disproportionate impact of the proposed restrictions on artisanal and subsistence fisheries in developing coastal states, where gillnets are essential for livelihoods and food security and cannot easily be replaced by alternative gears.
- b. Small-scale gillnet fisheries are fundamentally different from industrial operations and should not be treated equally, and they questioned whether further restrictions are necessary given existing measures and the need for additional scientific and socio-economic assessment before further action is taken.
- c. Concerns were also raised about the practicality and enforceability of specific technical measures, and the potential implications for sovereignty where measures apply to vessels within EEZs.

108. The Commission **NOTED** the proponent's view that the ecological risks associated with large-scale driftnets warrant stronger action, drawing a parallel with the now heavily regulated purse seine sector, and expressing willingness to continue discussions with CPCs to address outstanding concerns and work towards an equitable transition that avoids placing disproportionate conservation burdens on coastal states. The Commission **NOTED**

the proponent's indication that the current measure is not applicable to most fleets using driftnets and that the proposal would not expand its scope. The Commission **NOTED** that other CPCs disagreed with the proponents views and comparison between gillnet and purse seine fleets, including the proponents view that the purse seine fleet is heavily regulated.

109. The Commission **NOTED** that proposal IOTC-2026-S20-PropB on the prohibition to use driftnets, was **DEFERRED**.

IOTC-2026-S30-PropE *On vessel chartering in the IOTC area of competence (cf Res 19/07)* (European Union)

110. The Commission **NOTED** that several CPCs expressed concern that the proposal introduced a more prescriptive regime that could create additional implementation burdens, particularly for coastal States that rely on chartering arrangements.

111. The Commission **NOTED** that there were concerns expressed regarding the feasibility of implementation requirements, such as the requirement for real-time transmission of fishing data that many CPCs would find difficult to implement and comply with, as well as the appropriateness of placing the responsibility on flag state CPCs for charter vessels operating in the EEZ of another state.

112. The Commission **NOTED** that proposal IOTC-2026-S30-PropE on vessel chartering in the IOTC area of competence, was **DEFERRED** and that the proponent intends to present it at the next session of the WPICMM.

IOTC-2026-S30-PropF *Proposed terms of reference of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria* (Rep. of Korea)

113. The Commission **NOTED** the proposal from the Republic of Korea regarding their perceived need for TORs to reflect key principles relevant to allocation discussions and the suitability of adopting binding TORs for a temporary subsidiary body.

114. The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs reiterated the previous decision of the Commission not to develop TORs for this body. Others indicated that adopting a legally binding instrument on CPCs for a temporary subsidiary body of the Commission, was not an appropriate path forward.

115. The Commission **NOTED** that the proponent's indication that they intended to work together with any interested CPCs during the intersessional period to continue discussions at the next TCAC meeting.

116. The Commission **NOTED** that proposal IOTC-2026-S30-PropF on proposed terms of reference of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria, was **DEFERRED**.

IOTC-2026-S30-PropH *On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence.* (Tanzania, Kenya, Mauritius)

117. The Commission **NOTED** that many CPCs expressed their preference for the proponents to work with the proponents of PropG (later Resolution 26/01) to provide a single merged proposal for consideration by the Commission.

118. The Commission **THANKED** the proponents for agreeing to withdraw this Resolution in order to facilitate discussions on a single proposal for yellowfin tuna and **NOTED** a statement by Tanzania which is included in [Appendix 6](#).

119. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2026-S30-PropH on an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence, was **WITHDRAWN**.

IOTC-2026-S30-PropM *On the vessel monitoring system (VMS) programme (cf. Res 25/02)* (Seychelles)

120. The Commission **NOTED** that there was no consensus on this proposal. Several CPCs expressed support, recognising the value of AIS as a complementary MCS tool capable of providing continuous, independently verifiable, real-time vessel position data to assist coastal states in identifying IUU activities, while emphasising that VMS remains the primary and indispensable tool for fisheries control.

121. The Commission **NOTED** concerns that AIS data can be manipulated through misuse of codes and passwords, potentially leading to false accusations of IUU fishing, and that AIS is primarily a navigational safety tool whose

mandatory application to fisheries control goes beyond existing international norms in some jurisdictions and would require involvement of transport or maritime authorities.

122. The Commission further **NOTED** that practical implementation challenges were also raised, including;
- a. timeline feasibility, communication requirements between coastal states,
 - b. the burden on small-scale fisheries and vessels under 24 metres, and
 - c. the legitimate safety reasons for deactivating AIS in piracy-affected regions of the Indian Ocean.
123. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2026-S30-PropM on the vessel monitoring system (VMS) programme was **DEFERRED**.
- IOTC-2026-S30-PropN *On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC (cf. Res 25/08)* (Japan)
124. The Commission **NOTED** significant opposition to the proposed removal of whale sharks from the retention ban, differing views on the exclusion of blue shark from wire leader trials and concerns that the proposed revisions would affect a measure only recently adopted in 2025.
125. The Commission **NOTED** requests for further intersessional discussions to take place regarding safe handling guidelines through the WPEB and the SC to better reflect operational realities, in particular for small-scale and artisanal fisheries.
126. The Commission **NOTED** the proponent's position that the retention ban for whale sharks has not entered into force regardless of amendments to the current Resolution as the SC did not explicitly recommend it. This is further noted under section 9.1.
127. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2026-S30-PropN on the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC, was **WITHDRAWN**.

IOTC-2026-S30-PropO *On a high seas boarding and inspection scheme* (European Union)

128. The Commission **NOTED** that while there was strong support from several CPCs for the proposal, there were differing views on the legal basis for adopting a HSBI scheme under the IOTC Agreement.
129. The Commission **NOTED** that the proponent expressed commitment to continuing discussions with a view to finding a way forward acceptable to all CPCs.
130. The Commission **NOTED** proposal IOTC-2026-S30-PropO on a high seas boarding and inspection scheme, was **DEFERRED**.

10. Report of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria

10.1 Overview of the TCAC15 and TCAC16 Reports

131. The Commission **NOTED** the reports of the 15th and 16th Sessions of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC) (IOTC-2025-TCAC15-R and IOTC-2026-TCAC16-R) which were presented by the independent TCAC Chair, Dr. Quentin Hanich. The 15th Session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC15) was held in Zanzibar, Tanzania from 14 to 17 July 2025 in hybrid format, while the 16th Session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC16) was held from 3 to 6 February 2026 in Perth, Australia, in hybrid format.
132. The Commission **THANKED** the independent Chair for the work he had undertaken since taking over the role in 2024.

10.2 Future Direction of the TCAC

133. The Commission **NOTED** that, despite significant investment in the TCAC process over more than 15 years, key issues remain unresolved, including 1) the attribution of historical catches, 2) jurisdictional considerations, 3) treatment of artisanal and coastal fisheries, and 4) the special requirements (aspirations) of Developing Coastal States (DCS), including those of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
134. The Commission **NOTED** the TCAC16 considered four options for the future of the TCAC:

- a. Review and update workplan
- b. Amend TCAC and re-focus
- c. Terminate TCAC
- d. CPs propose numbers to Chair, supported by references to data and principles

135. The Commission **NOTED** that a variety of positions were expressed during the discussion:

- a. some CPCs opposed terminating the TCAC at this time, while others suggested immediate termination.
- b. some CPCs indicated that, unless clear progress is made within the next year, the Commission should consider terminating the TCAC at S31
- c. some CPCs indicated that interim catch limit measures are temporary solutions, and that the absence of an allocation scheme continues to create uncertainty and inequity.
- d. some CPCs opposed the TCAC continuing in the existing format.
- e. some CPCs expressed concern regarding allocation approaches based largely on historical catches, highlighting the need for greater recognition of coastal state rights, EEZ size considerations, biomass distribution, developmental aspirations, and the needs of developing states and SIDS.
- f. other CPCs indicated that historical catches and its attribution should remain the main parameter of the allocation, while giving also recognition to the needs and aspirations of coastal states and developing states and SIDs.
- g. some CPCs indicated that an agreed definition and treatment of artisanal fisheries was fundamental for allocation and should be discussed by the TCAC.
- h. some CPCs indicated that determining a definition of artisanal fisheries, was not within the mandate of the TCAC, and should be referred to other subsidiary bodies of IOTC, including the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics, while capacity building and financial support should be addressed at the Commission level.
- i. some CPCs indicated that direct negotiation of allocation numbers within the TCAC would not be appropriate.
- j. some CPCs noted that failure to resolve allocation issues risks undermining confidence in the Commission and could encourage CPCs to seek alternative arrangements outside the existing IOTC framework.

136. The Commission **SUPPORTED** further exploration of allocation approaches incorporating EEZ size and stock specific subregional biomass scalars as a proxy for biomass distribution alongside historical catches.

137. The Commission **NOTED** concerns expressed by some CPCs regarding the efficiency and duration of the TCAC process over the last 15 years, including calls for clearer deliverables, including clear recommendations, drafted proposal text, and increased use of virtual/online meetings if the TCAC is continued.

138. The Commission **NOTED** the suggestion from the Chairperson to focus future TCAC meetings on two topics at each meeting, with the objective that each TCAC meeting provide clear recommendations for the Commission's consideration. The Commission **NOTED** opposition from some CPCs to this proposal on the basis that the suggestion would result in a lengthy, multi-year process if only two topics were considered at each meeting.

139. The Commission **AGREED** to continue with the TCAC process by convening a virtual/online TCAC meeting within the date range of 13–15 October 2026. The goal of the meeting would be to determine if a revised workplan was possible, by focusing on resolving the key issues outstanding, followed by determining if a potential in-person meeting in February 2027 was useful to the Commission.

140. The Commission **NOTED** the offer by India to host the 2027 in-person meeting, should the meeting go ahead, and **THANKED** them accordingly.

11. Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures

141. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 10th meeting of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) (IOTC-2026-TCMP10-R) and **ENDORSED** the following TCMP recommendations:

- *(Para. 18). Reflecting on the significant progress made in the adoption of MPs for several IOTC species over recent years, the TCMP **ACKNOWLEDGED** the importance of capacity building in helping managers better understand the MSE process and build buy-in from stakeholders for MP development. It was highlighted that a very useful exercise was conducted during the capacity-building workshop held in 2024 in the Maldives, which helped managers work through five years of MSE results. The exercise explained how results are presented, how the TAC is generated, and how the MP helps achieve the long-term objectives agreed by the Commission. The TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission mobilise resources to support the continuation of such MSE capacity building workshops in the future.*
- *(Para. 44). The TCMP **NOTED** that evidence suggested there are potentially substantial catches of yellowfin tuna from non-IOTC members (or non-IOTC vessels) in the Indian Ocean as well as bycatch in fisheries targeting other species, and **AGREED** that it is important to consider these catches in the MSE as well as in stock assessments. The TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission task the Scientific Committee evaluate the extent of yellowfin catches from non-members and in fisheries not targeting species under the purview of the IOTC, particularly those not already included in the IOTC database, and ensure all sources of mortality and associated uncertainty are included in the evaluation and development of the MP.*
- *(Para. 53). The TCMP **RECOGNIZED** that the continued development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for IOTC species, particularly for yellowfin and albacore tuna, is essential to support robust, science-based, precautionary, and sustainable fisheries management procedures. The TCMP **NOTED** that the MSE work represents one of the key achievements and areas of progress within the IOTC. Therefore, the TCMP **RECOMMENDED** the Commission to secure adequate, stable, and long-term funding to ensure the continuity of technical work, maintain scientific progress, and deliver reliable management procedures for albacore and yellowfin in a timely manner.*

142. The Commission **NOTED** the significant progress made in the adoption of MPs for several IOTC species over recent years and expressed appreciation for all scientists involved in the process. The Commission **AGREED** to continue to develop robust management procedures to support science-based, precautionary, and sustainable fisheries management. **NOTING** that three species are under development, the Commission **AGREED** to support the continued development of these MPs.

143. The Commission **NOTED** that Maldives is planning to organise, in association with the IOTC Secretariat, another MSE training workshop, focusing on yellowfin tuna, with the aim of facilitating understanding of yellowfin MSE amongst managers at the early stage of MSE development. The Commission **NOTED** that both PEW and ISSF have pledged to contribute to this workshop.

12. Report of the Compliance Committee

12.1 Overview of the CoC23 Report

144. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 23rd Session of the Compliance Committee (IOTC-2026-CoC23-R), which was presented by the Compliance Committee's Chairperson, Dr Indra Jaya (Indonesia). Delegates from 24 Contracting Parties (CPs), two Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties and 12 Observers, including Invited Experts, participated in the meeting.

145. The Commission **NOTED** that Comoros, Iran, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen did not participate in the 23rd Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC23).

146. The Commission **NOTED** that the CoC23 deviated from its usual format and that no Party-based Compliance Report was produced for this meeting, due to a chronic shortage of staff in the Compliance Section of the Secretariat.
147. The Commission **NOTED** that the CoC23 **ENDORSED** the consolidated set of recommendations of the ninth meeting of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM09).
148. The Commission **NOTED** the relatively high level of CPCs' compliance with reporting deadlines, including the recent efforts of Yemen to meet their reporting obligations.
149. The Commission **NOTED** that the majority of CPCs subject to catch limits for yellowfin and bigeye tunas remained within their allocated limits in 2024.
150. The Commission **NOTED** the commitment of Somalia to provide, without prejudice to its sovereign rights as a developing coastal State, an intersessional response in lieu of the Commission deciding at this Session to establish a binding catch limit of bigeye tuna for Somalia.
151. The Commission **RECALLED** Indonesia's withdrawal of its objection to Resolution 21/01 and the potential implications this would have on any overharvest under Resolution 19/01 which occurred between the adoption of Resolutions 19/01 and 21/01. The Commission **NOTED** that under paragraph 13(a) of Resolution 19/01 catch levels of Indonesia should be based on the national reports submitted to the Scientific Committee. The Commission **NOTED** that the dataset ([IOTC-2026-S30-DATA02](#)), which estimated the catch limit using catches reported in the Indonesian Annual National Reports shows that no payback of yellowfin tuna was due from Indonesia under Resolution 19/01.
152. The Commission **NOTED** that Australia volunteered to support the IOTC Secretariat, and interested CPCs, to progress the implementation of a pilot project for an IOTC vessel monitoring system (VMS), in the next intersessional period.
153. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 23rd Session of the IOTC Compliance Committee (CoC23) and **ENDORSED** the Compliance Committee's lists of agreed actions and recommendations as its own.

12.2 Provisional IOTC IUU Vessels List for 2026

154. The Commission **NOTED** the IOTC 2026 Provisional IUU Vessels List and the recommendations of the Compliance Committee for the Commission to adopt an IUU Vessels List.
155. The Commission **AGREED** that the vessel, KEBA, be included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List.

12.3 Update of information of vessels in the current IOTC IUU Vessels List

156. The Commission **NOTED** the recommendation of the Compliance Committee to discuss the delisting of 26 Indian vessels and the Sri Lankan vessel, IMUL-A-0168-PTM, from the current IUU Vessels List.
157. The Commission **NOTED** that through an administrative oversight, Sri Lanka had re-authorised the vessel, IMUL-A-0168-PTM, while it was still included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List and **AGREED** to Sri Lanka's request not to delete the vessel from the IOTC IUU Vessels List.
158. The Commission **NOTED** that the Indian flag vessel, EMMANUEL (IND-TN-15-MM-322), had been sold to a dealer in scrap metal and **FURTHER NOTED** that the scrapping process was not documented by way of official records and photographs.
159. The Commission **AGREED** to delete the Indian flag vessels, EMMANUEL (IND-TN-15-MM-322), from the current IOTC IUU Vessels List. The Commission **NOTED** the commitment by India to establish, by the next IOTC Annual meeting, strict procedures to document the scrapping of vessels in the future, to prevent the decision to delete the vessel, EMMANUEL, from becoming a precedent, which would undermine IOTC Resolution 24/03.
160. The Commission **NOTED** that the Indian flag vessels, AVEMARIYA (IND-TN-15-MM-9070) and MANJUMATHA (IND-TN-15-MM-4683), have been forfeited to the Government of the United Kingdom.
161. The Commission **AGREED** to delete the Indian flag vessels, AVEMARIYA (IND-TN-15-MM-9070) and MANJUMATHA (IND-TN-15-MM-4683), from the current IOTC IUU Vessels List.

162. At the request of India, and seconded by Pakistan and Bangladesh, the Commission **AGREED** to hold a secret ballot to consider the delisting of a further 23 Indian vessels from the IOTC IUU Vessels List.
163. The Commission **NOTED** that of the 22 Members entitled to vote, 9 voted in favour of delisting, 9 voted against, and 4 abstained. The two-thirds majority required to delist the vessels, in accordance with the Resolution 24/03 was not met, and, therefore, the delisting was unsuccessful.
164. The Commission **NOTED** India's commitment to continuing work with Members to resolve this issue intersessionally.

12.4 Adoption of the List of IUU Vessels

165. The Commission **ADOPTED** the 2026 IOTC IUU Vessels List. All CPCs shall be required to take the necessary measures regarding the IUU Vessels List, in accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution 24/03.

12.5 Requests for clarifications on paragraph 16.c, of Resolution 19/01

166. The Commission **NOTED** the request to provide clarifications on paragraph 16.c, of Resolution 19/01 (and Resolutions 21/01 and 24/04, which contain similar provisions), on whether a supply vessel that has not operated in the IOTC Area recently may be registered in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.
167. The Commission was **UNABLE** to provide clarifications on paragraph 16.c, of Resolution 19/01.

12.6 Requests for the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party

168. The Commission **NOTED** the application for the renewal of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNC) status from Liberia and **FURTHER NOTED** the recommendation of CoC23.
169. The Commission **AGREED** to renew the CNC status of Liberia, until the end of the 31st Session of the IOTC (S31).
170. The Commission **NOTED** the application for CNC status from Panama and **FURTHER NOTED** the recommendation of CoC23.
171. The Commission **AGREED** to grant the CNC status to Panama, until the end of the 31st Session of the IOTC (S31).

13. Report of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance

13.1 Overview of the SCAF23 report

172. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 23rd Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) (IOTC–2026–SCAF23–R), which was presented by the SCAF Vice Chairperson, Mr Muhammad Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury (Bangladesh). Delegates from 27 Contracting Parties and 10 Observers participated in the meeting.
173. The Commission **ENDORSED** the SCAF23 list of recommendations as its own, **NOTING**:
- *“(Para. 15) 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, given that FAO fees represent a substantial proportion of the overall IOTC budget.*
 - *(Para. 65). The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that any additional funds required for the Secretariat to host meetings be first taken from savings in other budget lines, then, only if required, on an exceptional basis, from the Working Capital Fund.*
 - *(Para. 66). The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that if funds are required for work to migrate IOTC's systems and website to the FAO infrastructure in 2026, they will first be taken from savings in other budget lines, then, only if required, on an exceptional basis, from the Working Capital Fund.*
 - *(Para. 69). The SCAF **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission **APPROVE** the use of savings from the 2026 budget to support the launch of a voluntary VMS Pilot project, or use any extrabudgetary funding*

available, such as through the SWIOP. The SCAF **ALSO NOTED** Australia's offer to work with the Secretariat and interested CPCs to advance the development and launch of the pilot project".

13.2 Adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission

174. The Commission **ADOPTED** the programme of work and budget for 2027, the indicative budget for 2028 ([Appendix 7](#)), and the schedule of contributions for 2027 as provided in [Appendix 8](#), **NOTING** that the Programme of Work for the IOTC Secretariat is based on the assumption that the nature and extent of the activities undertaken by the IOTC Secretariat will remain within the current scope.

13.3 Schedule of meetings for 2027-2028

175. The Commission **DISCUSSED** the calendar of IOTC meetings in 2027. The Commission **PROPOSED** to move the WPICMM meeting from February to late January, to be held back-to-back with a special session of the Compliance Committee (3 days for WPICMM and 2 days for the Compliance Committee). The Commission also **NOTED** a preference to hold the WPICMM meeting in person, to be accommodated within the budget of the EU SWIOP project.

176. The Commission **NOTED** the offer from India to host TCAC 18. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 2-4 February, Tuesday–Thursday. The Secretariat will hold further discussions with India and the TCAC Chair to finalise.

177. The Commission **NOTED** that no offer has been received to host the next Commission meeting and encouraged CPCs to come forward with offers.

178. The Commission **ADOPTED** the schedule of meetings for its subsidiary bodies for 2027 as detailed in [Appendix 9](#), noting the SC, in December 2026, will finalise the dates of the science meetings.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Cooperation with other organisations and institutions

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin tuna (CCSBT)

179. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2026-S30-05 that listed the bodies with which it is currently collaborating.

180. The Commission **NOTED** the ongoing process to finalise an MoU between CCSBT and FAO, including minor clarifications requested by CCSBT and FAO. The Commission **RECALLED** that the workplan for this particular MoU, which directly relates to CCSBT work with IOTC, was agreed by the Commission in 2025 but that there are some small revisions to the previously endorsed workplan.

181. The Commission **ENDORSED** the minor revisions without comment.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)

182. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2026-S30-09 which contained information on exploration of the IOTC E-PSM system for potential adaptation for ICCAT.

183. The Commission **NOTED** a request from the ICCAT Secretariat to, subject to a decision by ICCAT, use the IOTC's ePSM tools with the understanding that any modification costs would be borne by ICCAT. **RECALLING** the long-standing history of collaboration between the two organisations, the Commission **NOTED** broad support for this request and **ENDORSED** the sharing of the ePSM tools with the ICCAT Secretariat accordingly.

Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF)

184. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2026-S30-INF01 which contained a guide for the identification of IOTC species.

185. The Commission **NOTED** an ongoing capacity building project developed in cooperation with OFCF and the IOTC Secretariat, producing identification guidelines for IOTC species aimed at improving data collection and species identification across CPCs. The Commission **ENCOURAGED** CPCs to make use of these tools and share feedback to support ongoing improvements to data collection efforts.

Common Oceans Tuna Project II

186. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2026-S30-INF07 which provided an update on the ongoing Common Oceans Tuna Project II, funded by GEF and implemented by FAO in partnership with 25 organisations including all tuna RFMOs.
187. The Commission **NOTED** several activities of relevance to IOTC including the development of an e-learning course on Management Procedures for sustainable tuna fisheries along with a set of regional capacity building workshops on this topic. The course can be accessed online here: <https://elearning.fao.org/course/mp-series-en>.
188. The Commission **ENCOURAGED** any interested CPCs to get in touch with the project team if they are interested in organising a live capacity building session on MSE.
189. The Commission further **NOTED** that a joint tRFMO workshop on Management Strategy Evaluation was held in January 2026.
190. The Commission **NOTED** that a workshop was held in March 2026 on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management which involved advancing the development of operational ecosystem indicators. The results of this workshop will be presented to WPEB in September.

14.2 Update on the BBNJ agreement process

191. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2026-S30-11, provided by the European Union, which provided a brief update on the progress of the BBNJ agreement process and highlighted a series of aspects that would require the IOTC to step up its internal preparation to ensure the effectiveness of its cooperation with the BBNJ framework.
192. The Commission **NOTED** the entry into force of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) this year marks a new phase in ocean governance, requiring RFMOs, including IOTC, to develop practical and operational mechanisms to coordinate with the BBNJ framework.
193. The Commission **NOTED** the importance of ensuring that BBNJ implementation does not undermine existing RFMO mandates, while strengthening coordination and interaction between instruments.
194. The Commission **NOTED** the need to better understand future workload implications of BBNJ implementation, including potential effects on Commission procedures, staffing, funding, consultation timelines, and scientific processes.
195. The Commission **NOTED** the importance of early and active engagement by CPCs and the Secretariat in BBNJ processes to ensure RFMO perspectives, science, and management measures are appropriately reflected.
196. The Commission **SUGGESTED** that undertaking targeted analyses of the impacts of BBNJ implementation on Commission activities could be valuable, including drawing on experience from other RFMOs.
197. The Commission **NOTED** the relevance of strengthening RFMO performance, including compliance, observer coverage, objection procedures, and institutional capacity, in order to enhance effectiveness in BBNJ-related processes.
198. The Commission **NOTED** the potential role of FAO in supporting coordination, technical expertise, and information exchange between RFMOs and BBNJ processes.
199. The Commission **NOTED** the importance of ensuring that BBNJ engagement does not place undue burden on the Commission's core functions and that confidentiality of sensitive fisheries data is maintained.
200. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2026-S30-13 which provided a brief summary of developments related to the BBNJ process, provided by the Secretariat.
201. The Commission **NOTED** a series of preparatory meetings have been underway to support implementation of the BBNJ agreement. The Commission **NOTED** that the Executive Secretary has participated in these discussions as requested, under the FAO delegation.

202. The Commission **NOTED** that the core areas under discussion under the BBNJ include area-based management tools (ABMTs), environmental impact assessments (ERAs), fair and equitable sharing of marine genetic resources, and capacity building and transfer of marine technology, with ABMTs and ERAs identified as the most significant areas of ongoing work.
203. The Commission further **NOTED** that, while substantial progress has been made, considerable uncertainty remains regarding operationalisation, with many issues still to be agreed by Parties, and that continued Secretariat engagement is important to ensure early and coordinated input into processes that may affect the development of conservation and management measures (CMMs) relevant to the Commission.
204. The Commission further **NOTED** that the Secretariat's mandate to continue participating in BBNJ meetings will be strengthened by the adoption of the binding Resolution rather than the previous Recommendation as it will provide more authority to ensure continued participation representing IOTC at the Conference of Parties (COP) meetings.

14.3 Climate Change

205. The Commission **NOTED** efforts by the Secretariat to reduce its environmental footprint, including minimising travel through increased use of virtual participation, reducing the vehicle fleet, and installing climate-friendly infrastructure.
206. The Commission **NOTED** that climate change considerations are increasingly being integrated into scientific processes, including CPUE analyses and WPEB discussions, and welcomed the planned presentation from SPC/WCPFC on the potential impacts of climate change on tuna in the Indian Ocean as a valuable contribution to future WPEB work.

14.4 Regarding the tenure of the Executive Secretary

207. The Commission **AGREED** to the renewal of the tenure of the Executive Secretary for another three-year term.

14.3 Date and place of the 31st Session of the Commission in 2027

208. The Commission unanimously **THANKED** the Maldives for hosting the 30th Session and for the warm welcome, the excellent facilities and assistance provided to the IOTC Secretariat and Commission in the organisation and running of the Session.
209. The Commission **NOTED** that no offer has been received to host the next Commission meeting and encouraged CPCs to come forward with offers. The Commission **AGREED** that the next Commission and the meetings of its associated subsidiary bodies will be scheduled for 3 – 14 May 2027.

15. Adoption of the report of the 30th Session of the Commission

210. The report of the 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC–2026–S30–R) was **ADOPTED** by correspondence on 11 August 2026.

APPENDIX 1.

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APPENDIX 2.**AGENDA OF THE 30TH SESSION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION**

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
- 2. LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS**
- 3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**
- 4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**
- 5. DETERMINATION OF THE STATUS OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE IOTC**
- 6. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION IN 2024 (S28)**
 - 6.1. Feedback from the Small Working Group on reviewing IOTC Processes
 - 6.2. Implementation of the DFAD Register
- 7. AMENDMENTS TO THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE**
- 8. REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**
 - 8.1. Overview of the 2025 SC28 Report (SC Chairperson)
 - 8.2. Discussion on any related conservation and management measures
 - 8.3. Report of the Working Party on Socio-Economics (WPSE02)
- 9. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**
 - 9.1. Current Conservation and Management Measures that require action by the Commission in 2026
 - 9.2. Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement
 - 9.3. Proposals for new or revised Conservation and Management Measures (noting that, some proposals will be considered under other agenda items, as relevant).
- 10. REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA**
 - 10.1. Overview of the TCAC15 and TCAC16 Reports (TCAC Chairperson)
 - 10.2. Future Direction of the TCAC
- 11. REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**
 - 11.1. Overview of the TCMP10 Report (TCMP Chairpersons)
- 12. REPORT OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**
 - 12.1. Overview of the CoC23 Report (CoC Chairperson)
 - 12.2. Adoption of the List of IUU Vessels
 - 12.3. Requests for accession to the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party
- 13. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**
 - 13.1. Overview of the SCAF23 Report (SCAF Chairperson)
 - 13.2. SCAF feedback on draft rules of Procedure for the IOTC Working Capital Fund
 - 13.3. Adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission
 - 13.4. Schedule of meetings for 2027-2028
- 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
 - 14.1. Cooperation with other organisations and institutions
 - 14.2. Climate Change
 - 14.3. Regarding the tenure of the Executive Secretary
 - 14.4. Date and place of the 31st Session of the Commission and the meetings of its associated subsidiary bodies in 2027
- 15. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 30th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

APPENDIX 3.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document	Title
IOTC-2026-S30-01a	Provisional agenda for S30 (February).
IOTC-2026-S30-01b	Provisional agenda for S30 (April).
IOTC-2026-S30-01c	Provisional agenda for S30 version 3 (April)
IOTC-2026-S30-01d-g	Provisional agenda with schedule (Days 1 – 4)
IOTC-2026-S30-02	Progress on the requests for action made by the Commission in 2025
IOTC-2026-S30-03	Report on current CMMs that include a reference to the year 2026
IOTC-2026-S30-04	Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement
IOTC-2026-S30-05	IOTC collaborative arrangements - an overview
IOTC-2026-S30-06	Questions relevant to the DFAD Register
IOTC-2026-S30-07	Discussions and recommendations from the small informal working group to review IOTC processes
IOTC-2026-S30-08_Rev2	On amending the IOTC Rules of Procedure
IOTC-2026-S30-09	Exploration of the IOTC E-PSM system for potential adaptation for ICCAT
IOTC-2026-S30-10	Koreas Statement on Resolution 25/03
IOTC-2026-S30-11	The interaction between Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and 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
IOTC-2026-S30-12_Rev1	Discussion paper on the implementation of the DFAD Register
IOTC-2026-S30-13	A brief summary of developments related to the BBNJ process
IOTC-2026-S30-14	Discussion paper on labour standards on fishing vessels in IOTC fisheries
IOTC-2026-S30-15	Information from India concerning twenty-four vessels in the IOTC IUU Vessels List for delisting
<i>CMM Proposals</i>	
IOTC-2026-S30-PropA	On the promotion of the implementation of IOTC Conservation And Management Measures (cf Res 25/12) (ZAF)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropB	On the prohibition to use driftnets (cf. Res 17/07) (EU)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropC	On the conservation of mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence (cf, Res 19/03) (EU)

Document	Title
IOTC-2026-S30-PropD_Rev3	Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Res 19/04) (EU)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropE_Rev1	On vessel chartering in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Res 19/07) (EU)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropF	Proposed terms of reference of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (KOR)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropG_Rev4	On establishing interim catch limits for yellowfin tuna in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Res 21/01) (ZAF)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropH_Rev2	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence (cf. Res 21/02) (TZA, KEN, MUS)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropI	On establishing catch limits for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Res 25/03) (MUS)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropJ_Rev1	On establishing interim catch limits for swordfish in the IOTC area of competence (AUS, EU)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropK_Rev3	On the conservation of mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC (cf. Res 19/03) (MDV)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropL_Rev2	On Mandatory Statistical Reporting Requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs). (cf. Res 15/02) (MDV)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropM_Rev1	On the vessel monitoring system (VMS) programme (cf. Res 25/02) (SEZ)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropN	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC (cf. Res 25/08) (JPN)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropO_Rev2	On a high seas boarding and inspection scheme (EU, France OT)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropP_Rev1	On Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-scale Fishing Vessels (cf. Res 25/05) (EU)
IOTC-2026-S30-PropQ_Rev3	On promoting the objectives of IOTC through cooperation with the BBNJ agreement (MDV)
Reference documents	
IOTC-2026-SC30-REF01	Update on Agenda Item 5, 30th Session of the IOTC
IOTC-2026-SC30-REF02	Statement by the Maldives
IOTC-2026-SC30-REF03	Statement by Mauritius
IOTC-2026-SC30-REF04	Statement by the UK
Relevant reports from other meetings	
IOTC-2026-CoC23-R	Report of the 23 rd session of the IOTC Compliance Committee.
IOTC-2026-SCAF23-R	Report of the 23 rd session of the IOTC Standing Committee on Administration and Finance.
IOTC-2025-TCAC15-R	Report of the 15th session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria.

Document	Title
IOTC-2026-TCAC16-R	Report of the 16 th session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria.
IOTC-2025-SC28-R	Report of the 28 th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee
IOTC-2026-TCMP10-R	Report of the 10 th session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures
Data Sets	
IOTC-2026-S30-DATA01	Yellowfin Tuna Catch Limits Computations
IOTC-2026-S30-DATA02	Datasets and catch limits of yellowfin tuna for Indonesia (19/01)
Information papers	
IOTC-2026-S30-INF01	Guide for the identification of IOTC species
IOTC-2026-S30-INF02	How Regional Fisheries Managers Can Help End Harmful Subsidies
IOTC-2026-S30-INF03	Toward a Management Procedure for Yellowfin Tuna in the Indian Ocean
IOTC-2026-S30-INF04	Tuna RFMO Management Procedures in Tuna RFMOs Emerging Science, Policy and Implementation Practice
IOTC-2026-S30-INF05	Treaty Ceremony during the Forty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference
IOTC-2026-S30-INF06	SIDE EVENT: The IOTC and the Agreement for Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
IOTC-2026-S30-INF07	Common Oceans Program Tuna Project II - Update
IOTC-2026-S30-INF08	Chartering agreement comparison
IOTC-2026-S30-INF09	Yellowfin Tuna Catch Limit Calculations under IOTC Resolutions: Data, Assumptions and Methods
NGO Statements	
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO01	ISSF - Position statement
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO02	Position Statement for 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Earth Island Institute International Marine Mammal Project (EII IMMP)
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO03	Is small really small? Re-characterising tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO04_Rev1	EUROPECHE TUNA GROUP priorities for the 30th session of the IOTC
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO05	PEW Statement to the 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO06	Global Tuna Alliance Position Statement
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO07	19 Environmental Organizations & NGOs Call on the IOTC to Adopt Robust Management Measures That Implement & Fully Allocate Catch Limits Set for Yellowfin, Blue Sharks; & Fully Allocate Adopted Swordfish Catch Limits
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO08	Call for the IOTC to support stronger transparency and anti-IUU fishing measures

Document	Title
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO09	Beneficial Ownership Recommendations for IOTC
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO10	Global Fishing Watch position statement to the 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO11_Rev1	IPNLF Position Statement
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO12	Statement from Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz (DSM)
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO13	Joint NGO statement on a drifting FAD closure in the Indian Ocean
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO14	IGFA Recommendations to the 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO15	WWF POSITION for the 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO16	Update from BLOOM and Blue Marine Foundation regarding Resolution 23/02 and the formal appeal at the Court of Justice of the European Union
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO17	An overview of Oman's yellowfin tuna fishery and potential non-compliance with IOTC resolution 19/01
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO18	IPNLF positions on e-DFAD System Questions (IOTC-2026-S30-06)
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO19	SBMI's Intervention Statement on item agenda On Labour Standard Discussion
IOTC-2026-S30- NGO10	SBMI's Intervention Statement on item agenda On Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large Scale Fishing Vessel

APPENDIX 4.
OPENING STATEMENTS

OPENING STATEMENT BY INDONESIA
30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Malé – Maldives, 11-15 May 2025

Thank you, Chair.

Good morning, Assalamalaikum Wr. Wb.

Distinguished Ministers, Chair and Delegates,

Firstly, the Indonesian delegation would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Maldives for hosting this 30th Session, and to the Secretariat for its excellent facilitation and hard work. We also thank the interpreters for their vital support. A special word of welcome to Yemen – we are very pleased to see you back at the IOTC table after such a long time.

Chair and Delegates

Indonesia always makes every effort to meet its obligations and comply with the measures adopted by the IOTC. However, as a developing country with highly diverse fisheries, fishers, gear types, and fish species to manage, we face real challenges in implementation on the ground. We therefore believe it is important for the Commission to allow room for compromise and to avoid imposing rigid, one-size-fits-all measures. In this regard, we must also be mindful that certain resolutions and proposals may place a disproportionate burden on developing coastal States, which already bear heavy responsibilities in managing their waters sustainably.

Chair and Delegates

Indonesia underscores that IOTC Agreement and its respective conservation and management measures need to be consistent with UNCLOS. In this regard, the Agreement and its conservation and management measures shall not apply in territorial and archipelagic waters.

Finally, Indonesia is here in a good spirit of cooperation, fully committed to working together with all members in managing the resources of the IOTC area for long-term sustainability.

Thank you, Chair.


FISHERIES AGENCY
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907, Japan

Statement by Japan to the 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Maldives, 11-15 May 2026

On the occasion of the 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Japan would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Maldives for hosting this meeting. We would like to extend our gratitude to the Chair, the Executive Secretary, and the Secretariat staff for their dedicated efforts in preparing for the meeting.

The BBNJ Agreement entered into force in January this year and is expected to become fully operational following the conclusion of its preparatory meetings in the near future. Going forward, in order to avoid duplication with the existing frameworks such as RFMOs, including the IOTC, and to ensure that these organizations complement each other and achieve synergies, it is essential that the IOTC steadily and effectively fulfills its expected roles and responsibilities. Following the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement, the IOTC's efforts and performance will be subject to more rigorous evaluation than ever before by the international community.

However, in light of the current performance of the IOTC, though a series of measures have been adopted and strengthened in some areas such as MCS and bycatch, conservation and management measures for key target species remain insufficiently comprehensive, with even major species not fully covered. Furthermore, even where such measures exist, they have not necessarily functioned effectively, due to limited capacity or absence of strong commitment to implement appropriate domestic management measures commensurate with those requirements. Japan has serious concerns in this regard.

Japan, as an island nation consisting of many remote islands located in different seas and having a variety of artisanal and small scale coastal fisheries, fully recognizes fisheries as an extremely important industry supporting coastal communities. Based on this recognition, in the Indian Ocean, Japan has respected the rights of the coastal developing States to develop their fisheries and has provided capacity-building support including the assistance for the improvement of catch statistics for many years. Japan intends to continue providing necessary assistance in response to the special interests and needs of developing coastal states, in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 2(b) of the IOTC Agreement. Japan also hopes that, through capacity-building and the development of appropriate governance structures, all CPCs will actively participate in the sustainable use of fisheries resources.

On the other hand, in order for coastal regions to sustainably develop their fisheries into the future, it is essential to properly manage fisheries resources. As a prerequisite, it is important that all CPCs steadily and effectively implement IOTC conservation and management measures and appropriately fulfill their respective responsibilities under a common framework. From this perspective, Japan emphasizes the importance of ensuring fair and equitable treatment in the establishment of conservation and management measures, such as catch allocations, catch limits, and bycatch mitigation

measures, so that compliance by CPCs is duly recognized and that non-compliance is addressed through appropriate corrective measures and does not result in any undue advantage.

Japan, as the world's largest market for sashimi-grade tuna, is committed to the full implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the IOTC in order to achieve the sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean. This commitment covers not only Resolutions adopted by the IOTC, but also Recommendations.

In response to Recommendation 25/14 on the limitation of fishing capacity, Japan has established a fishing capacity reduction plan applicable to its distant-water tuna longline vessels. Under this plan, Japan has already reduced the number of its vessels on the IOTC Record by a total of 42 vessels, from 151 vessels as of January 1 2025. Japan would also like to call upon all CPCs to undertake a review of their vessels registered on the Record and to provide feedback on the implementation of this Recommendation and its progress.

Japan hopes that this Commission meeting will be a constructive and fruitful step for the IOTC in fulfilling its valuable roles expected by the international community.

Statement by Thailand during the opening Session

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am Thitiporn Laoprasert, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand. It is a great honour for me to participate in this meeting under the framework of the IOTC. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to meet and work with representatives from all Member States.

On behalf of the Thai delegation, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Maldives and to the IOTC Secretariat for your generous hospitality and the excellent organization of this meeting.

However, due to internal administrative considerations, I am unable to travel to the Maldives for this session and may not be able to follow all agenda items in real time. In this regard, an Alternate Representative has been designated to participate in the meeting and to act on behalf of Thailand, as appropriate.

In addition, twenty Thai delegates are attending the meeting online. We look forward to exchanging constructively with all Members and to contributing to the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the Indian Ocean.

Thank you.

Statement by Türkiye

**Mr Chair,
Distinguished Executive Secretary,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Republic of Türkiye, I would like to extend my respectful greetings to you all. We are very pleased to be here with you at the 30th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, hosted by the Maldives.

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Commission, its Member States and the IOTC Secretariat for enabling Türkiye's participation in the work of the IOTC with observer status. We consider this participation an important first step towards further developing our relations with the IOTC and exploring new opportunities for cooperation in the field of sustainable fisheries management.

Türkiye regards the conservation, sustainable use and responsible management of marine resources as among its key priorities. We believe that the effective management of highly migratory species, in particular, requires scientific advice, reliable data, transparent implementation, strong monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms, and regional cooperation.

In this context, regional fisheries management organizations are indispensable platforms for the conservation and sustainable use of shared fishery resources. Drawing on its experience in regional organizations, particularly the GFCM and ICCAT, Türkiye attaches great importance to science-based decision-making, quota management, data collection, compliance, and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Türkiye's participation in the IOTC as an observer reflects, on the one hand, our willingness to follow the work of the Commission more closely and benefit from the experience of Member States; and, on the other hand, our readiness to make constructive contributions in relevant areas. Türkiye is ready to closely follow the IOTC's conservation and management measures, scientific work and implementation mechanisms.

The sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean is of great importance not only for the fisheries sector, but also for food security, livelihoods, trade, employment and the health of marine ecosystems. In this regard, we believe that the work carried out under the framework of the IOTC makes a valuable contribution at both regional and global levels.

Türkiye particularly emphasizes the importance of effective flag State responsibility, data sharing, monitoring and surveillance capacity, and regional capacity-building efforts in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. We stand ready to share our institutional experience in these areas, where needed, in a spirit of cooperation.

Furthermore, the growing global agenda on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity further highlights the important role of regional and sectoral expert organizations such as the IOTC. In this process, we believe that a complementary and coordinated approach, based on the scientific knowledge, management measures and implementation capacity of existing RFMO mechanisms, is of particular importance.

Türkiye believes that its participation in the work of the IOTC as an observer will contribute to strengthening our relations with the Commission and to developing concrete opportunities for cooperation in sustainable fisheries management. In this spirit, I would like to express our readiness to contribute to your work in a constructive, transparent and cooperative manner.

In closing, I would like to thank the Chair, the IOTC Secretariat and the host country, the Maldives, and wish the 30th Session every success.

Thank you.

APPENDIX 5.
STATEMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 5

OFFICIAL



**Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs**



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS
**MINISTRY OF AGRO-INDUSTRY, FOOD
SECURITY, BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES**

28 April 2026

Dear IOTC Executive Secretary,

UPDATE ON AGENDA ITEM 5, 30TH SESSION OF THE IOTC

Please refer to the joint letter issued by the United Kingdom and Mauritius on 9 April 2025, providing an update on negotiations between the two States on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and requesting the 29th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) to defer consideration of agenda item 5 to the 30th Session of the IOTC.

On 22 May 2025, the United Kingdom and Mauritius signed an Agreement concerning the Chagos Archipelago including Diego Garcia. Since then, both countries have made good progress towards completing the necessary internal steps required to ratify the Agreement. This process is however not yet complete, and the Agreement has not yet entered into force.

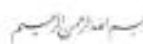
In these circumstances, the United Kingdom and Mauritius request that consideration of agenda item 5 be deferred to the 31st Session of the IOTC.

Ahead of the 30th Annual Session of the IOTC, the United Kingdom and Mauritius would be grateful if you could kindly circulate this letter to the members of the Commission.

Your sincerely,

Jess Keedy
Veersingh Boodhna

**United Kingdom and Mauritian Delegates to the Indian Ocean Tuna
Commission**



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

7 May 2026

Executive Secretary,

I refer to agenda item 5 of the upcoming 30th session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

The Maldives is following the discussions regarding the Chagos Archipelago (Foalhavahi) and underscores the Maldives' legitimate interest in the future status and governance of the Chagos Archipelago (Foalhavahi).

In this context, the Maldives does not view it appropriate for related issues to be discussed within the auspices of the IOTC.



Fathimath Inaya
Foreign Secretary

Dr Paul De Bruyn
Executive Secretary at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Victoria



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REGIONAL INTEGRATION
AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

No. 5/2026 (18570/46/142 V28)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and with reference to the letter dated 7 May 2026 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives in relation to agenda item 5 of the 30th Session of the IOTC scheduled for 11-15 May 2026 in Malé, Maldives, has the honour to state as follows:

The Republic of Mauritius specifically denies that the Republic of Maldives has any interest in the status and governance of the Chagos Archipelago.

The sovereignty of the Republic of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, can no longer be disputed since:

- (a) under international law, the Republic of Mauritius is sovereign over, and is the sole coastal State in respect of, the Chagos Archipelago in its entirety, including Diego Garcia, as authoritatively decided by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in the maritime boundary delimitation dispute between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Maldives in its Judgments of 28 January 2021 and 28 April 2023;
- (b) ITLOS, in its Judgment of 28 January 2021, stated with regard to the legal status of the Chagos Archipelago, that the sovereignty of the Republic of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago can be inferred from the determinations made by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its Advisory Opinion of 25 February 2019 regarding the decolonisation of Mauritius;
- (c) the ICJ, in its Advisory Opinion of 25 February 2019, determined that the Chagos Archipelago is and has always formed an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius, and was unlawfully detached from Mauritius prior to its accession to independence;
- (d) the UN General Assembly, in its Resolution 73/295 of 22 May 2019, confirmed that the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius, and demanded that the United Kingdom withdraw its colonial administration from the Chagos Archipelago unconditionally within six months of its adoption; and
- (e) in the Agreement of 22 May 2025 between the Republic of Mauritius and the United Kingdom, it is unequivocally stated that the Republic of Mauritius is sovereign over the Chagos Archipelago in its entirety, including Diego Garcia.

Newton Tower, Sir William Newton Street, Port Louis
 Tel: (230) 405 2500 Fax: (230) 208 8087, (230) 212 6764 Email: mfa@govmu.org

In an exchange of letters of 22 May 2025 between the Republic of Mauritius and the United Kingdom, the latter has agreed that on the entry into force of the Agreement on the Chagos Archipelago, it would no longer be in a position to claim membership of the IOTC as a coastal State.

In respect of the averment of the Republic of Maldives that it is not appropriate for issues related to the Chagos Archipelago to be discussed within the auspices of the IOTC, the Republic of Mauritius recalls that Article IV of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission provides that Members and Associate Members of FAO, or States that are not Members of FAO but Members of the United Nations, or any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, can become members of the IOTC only if they are, *inter alia*, "coastal States situated wholly or partly within the Area [of competence of the Commission]".

Article XXIII of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission provides for the settlement of any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of the Agreement by the Commission. Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of Article IV of the Agreement has not been excluded from the purview of Article XXIII. Accordingly, the Commission is entitled to discuss issues relating to the Chagos Archipelago if there is a dispute on whether the criteria for membership of the IOTC as a coastal State have been met by the United Kingdom.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade would be grateful if this Note Verbale could be annexed to the report of the 30th Session of the IOTC and posted on the website of the IOTC.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission the assurances of its highest consideration.

Port Louis, 12 May 2026

Secretariat
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Victoria
Seychelles





Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/defra

12 May 2026

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom reiterates that the issue of sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) / Chagos Archipelago is a bilateral matter between the United Kingdom and Mauritius. The IOTC is not the appropriate forum for a discussion about this issue.

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation
and Fish Wealth
Minister's Office



الجمهورية التونسية
وزارة الزراعة والري والثروة السمكية
مكتب الوزير

To:
Mr. Adam Zyad
Dear Chairman of the Commission

الرقم
الم. هـ / ٢٠١٤ / ٥٨٩
No.
في وزارة الداخلية
إدارة الشرطة
المراسل
٥

Thank you,

Major Gen. Salim Al-Socati
Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Fisheries



البريد الإلكتروني: info@maif-ye.com



Date: التاريخ :

No. الرقم :

INTERVENTION STATEMENT — REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission — Commission Session, Maldives

Agenda Item: Interim Catch Distribution for Yellowfin Tuna (South Africa Proposal)

Mr. Chair,

The delegation of the Republic of Yemen thanks the delegation of South Africa for presenting this important proposal, and we are grateful for the opportunity to address the Commission on this matter.

Yemen is attending this Commission session for the first time since becoming a Member of the IOTC in 2012. We acknowledge that absence fully, and we do not come here today to make excuses for it. We are present here by our status as a nation with a coastline on the Indian Ocean which contains fish stocks on which our country is dependent.

Yemen has endured more than a decade of devastating conflict, humanitarian crisis, and the near-total collapse of public institutions brought about by conflict that is not of our choosing. The fact that our delegation is present today supported by a UNDP-funded initiative reflects a genuine and renewed commitment to engage with this Commission, to honour our obligations as a member, and to contribute constructively to the sustainable management of Indian Ocean tuna resources.

Mr Chair,

Yemen's tuna fisheries are exclusively artisanal in nature. These are small-scale fishers operating from coastal communities along the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea communities for whom yellowfin tuna is not a commercial export commodity, but a primary source of food security and daily livelihood income. IOTC and FAO data indicate that Yemen's yellowfin tuna catch is currently estimated at approximately 35,000 to 40,000 metric tonnes annually. But it is possible the true catch in 2024 could have been as high as 50,000 Mt. This catch is not driven by industrial ambition; it is driven by survival and we know yellowfin tuna is annually variable in abundance, in some years we experience much lower catches bringing yet more hardship to our people.

It is therefore with deep concern that Yemen notes the proposed interim allocation figure of 20,500 metric tonnes attributed to Yemen under this proposal. This figure is significantly and materially below Yemen's estimated current catch, and it does not reflect the reality on the water. If adopted as presented, this allocation would effectively legitimize a reduction in the food security and livelihoods of some of the most vulnerable fishing communities in the Indian Ocean communities already ravaged by conflict and displacement.



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Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation
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 وزارة الزراعة والري والثروة السمكية
 مكتب الوزير

Date: التاريخ :

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Yemen wishes to be very clear: we are not seeking to expand our fisheries in an unsustainable direction. We fully support the recovery of the yellowfin tuna stock, and we welcome the scientific finding that the stock is no longer subject to overfishing. That is a shared achievement for this Commission, and one we must protect together.

However, we ask the Commission to consider the following:

First, the allocation criteria must give full weight to the food security and livelihood dependency of small-scale coastal fishing communities. UNCLOS and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries are explicit in recognising the preferential rights of artisanal and subsistence fishers. Yemen's fishers fall squarely within this category.

Second, Yemen has not submitted catch data to the IOTC Secretariat due to the extraordinary circumstances of its ongoing humanitarian crisis. We acknowledge this is a compliance gap, and we commit to working with the Secretariat and with IOTC Secretariat to improve data reporting. However, the absence of reported data should not be penalised through an allocation that falls below current fishing levels. The Secretariat's own compilation from various sources confirm the scale and annual variability of Yemen's catch, and we ask that these estimates serve as the baseline for any allocation assigned to Yemen.

Third, we call on the Commission to recognise Yemen's special circumstances as a least-developed, conflict-affected coastal state. Any allocation framework that does not include provisions that are sensitive to the context of members in protracted crises is to penalise innocent populations.

Mr. Chair

Yemen's presence here today is a first step a signal that we are present to be part of this dialogue and part of the solution. We look forward to engaging with the Commission, the Secretariat, and all CPCs in a spirit of transparency and cooperation. We ask that the Commission acknowledge our circumstances, engage with us bilaterally on a pathway to data reporting and compliance, and ensure that any interim allocation assigned to Yemen reflects the actual scale of its artisanal fisheries and the food security needs of its population.

Yemen supports equitable, science-based management of Indian Ocean tuna resources and we are committed to being a responsible member of this Commission going forward.

For the record of this Commission, we wish this statement be Appended to the Report of the Commission Meeting. I am happy to submit text to the Secretariat.

We thank the Chair and all delegations for their attention.

Yemen Delegation to IOTC



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Statement by Indonesia regarding Resolution 26/08

**INDONESIA'S STATEMENT ON
THE INTERACTION BETWEEN REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS AND 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
MALDIVES, 12 MAY 2026**

Dear Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Indonesia has consistently underlined the importance of implementing the not-undermining principle in the BBNJ Agreement in relation to the mandate and competence of other instruments, frameworks, and bodies, especially RFMOs.

During the 3rd BBNJ Preparatory Commission meeting, there was a general convergence on the need to strategically prioritize the cooperation arrangements with other IFBs. In this regard, Indonesia highlighted that BBNJ Agreement should prioritize the cooperation with relevant IFBs whose area of competence include areas beyond national jurisdiction. This means that RFMOs should be the first IFBs to have a concrete cooperation arrangement with the BBNJ Agreement and its subsidiary bodies.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Indonesia thanked the European Union for providing this meeting with a discussion paper. Indonesia wishes to echo the importance of RFMOs to start considering the appropriate modalities to cooperate with BBNJ.

Indonesia shares EU's understanding on the possible relation between the ABMT establishment and decision-making as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment process under the BBNJ Agreement with RFMOs. In the context of IOTC, the Secretariat and the members of each technical sub-committees under the IOTC, shall be informed on the discussion of the relevant subsidiary bodies under BBNJ. During the aforementioned 3rd PrepCom meeting, States also have a convergent view on the need to ensure participation and attendance of representatives of IFBs in BBNJ COP and subsidiary body meetings.

Further, Indonesia also wishes to highlight that the BBNJ Agreement recognizes fish as marine genetic resources (MGRs). Therefore, clear modalities are needed when the collection of fish as MGR overlaps with fisheries activities under RFMOs such as IOTC. The application of CMMs, including catch limits, should consider that some species may contain genetic material with commercial value. Under the BBNJ Agreement, the use of fish-derived MGR must be followed by fair and equitable benefit-sharing, to be further discussed in the access and benefit-sharing committee. Indonesia emphasizes that RFMOs should also be involved in these discussions.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

In response to the EU's question on timelines and procedures in the IOTC, Indonesia suggests that the IOTC Secretariat share relevant information with the BBNJ interim Secretariat to help prepare future institutional arrangements once the Agreement is operational.

Indonesia also notes that the potential impact of the BBNJ Agreement on IOTC activities should be assessed through a dedicated study, ideally drawing on similar work already conducted in other RFMOs, since this issue is relevant across all RFMOs. It further encourages IOTC to discuss this matter in its next Commission meeting and invite members' views.

On information flow, Indonesia highlights the importance of the BBNJ clearing-house mechanism as a platform to ensure RFMOs with overlapping mandates are properly informed. Although the 3rd PrepCom did not agree on its operationalization, Indonesia encourages continued discussion and contributions from IOTC to its development.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Indonesia positively welcomes EU's intention to host an event on RFMOs and BBNJ in Brussels. Indonesia looks forward to contribute to future discussion on the relations between RFMO and BBNJ.

Thank you.

Statement by Tanzania regarding IOTC-2026-S30-PropH

Tanzania Statement in support of proposal on an Interim Plan for Rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

The United Republic of Tanzania welcomes the latest scientific evidence from the 2024 stock assessment, which indicates a positive recovery of the yellowfin tuna stock. A revised model in 2025 shows a 89.7% probability that the stock will remain healthy by 2026 at proposed TAC levels, and 83% probability by 2033.

As we find ourselves six years after the introduction of the so-called interim management measure, we must establish a more equitable way to distribute the fishing rights for yellowfin resources. For too long, the management of this resource has relied heavily on historical catch levels. This approach has created a profound disparity, with only 7 members controlling 80% of the catch limits. The system inherently favours large harvesters with established fishing capacity while penalising developing coastal States like Tanzania, which did not contribute to the resource's overexploitation.

Mr Chairman, we feel that the current regime imposes an unfair conservation burden on Tanzania and denies it the rights of a developing coastal state to develop its fisheries. We want to take this opportunity to reiterate the following.

- In recent years, Tanzania has made significant investments in the fisheries sector, including the construction of its first fisheries port, with plans for additional ports, and the development of its citizens' capacity in the deep-sea and offshore fishing industry as part of its wider blue economy development agenda.
- For Tanzania, access to yellowfin tuna is not merely about industrial output; it is about protecting the livelihoods and food security of our 63 million people.

Our Proposal is bound to

1. Increased Limits for Small Harvesters
2. Priority Access to developing coastal States and SIDS with historically low catches.
3. And views catch limits as an interim measure that should not prejudice future allocation decisions.

Tanzania calls upon the Commission to move beyond a system that rewards historical overharvesting and seek a management plan that appreciates the rights of coastal states, incentivises and rewards conservation efforts as opposed to incentivising and rewarding A FISH RUSH, and provides the space for the proponents of this Proposal to finally develop their fishery, after sacrificing a lot in the past.

Thanks, Chairman.

APPENDIX 7.
IOTC BUDGET FOR 2026 AND INDICATIVE BUDGET FOR 2028 (USD)

		Actuals 2025*	2026	2027	2028
1	Staff costs				
1.1	Professional				
	Executive Secretary (D1)	168,667	171,287	175,828	179,344
	<i>Science</i>				
	Science Manager (P5)	145,828	146,966	153,627	156,700
	Stock Assessment Expert (P4)	103,523	122,547	123,461	125,930
	Fishery Officer (Science P3)	110,363	111,494	114,807	117,103
	<i>Compliance</i>				
	Compliance Manager (P5)	155,936	158,018	161,971	165,211
	Compliance Coordinator (P4)	142,948	146,550	147,633	150,586
	Compliance Officer (P3)	54,762	109,022	109,022	111,202
	<i>Data</i>				
	Data Coordinator (P4)	119,982	122,547	126,146	128,669
	Statistician (P3)	-	109,022	109,022	111,202
	Fishery Officer (P2) Data	80,396	82,045	84,877	86,575
	Fishery Officer (P1/NPO) Data	25,460	31,542	32,963	33,623
	<i>Admin.</i>				
	Administrative Officer (P3/P4)	126,218	128,777	132,215	134,859
1.2	General Service				
	Administrative Assistant	23,640	23,709	25,264	25,770
	Office Associate	22,765	22,302	24,514	25,005
	Database Assistant	3,583	23,709	18,710	19,084
	Office Assistant	16,917	16,375	18,710	19,084
	Driver	-	0	0	0
	Overtime	755	5,100	3,000	3,000
	Total Salary Costs	1,301,744	1,531,011	1,561,770	1,592,945
1.3	Employer Pension and Health	413,553	481,644	492,125	501,967
1.4	Employer FAO Entitlement Fund	518,174	595,502	602,038	614,079
1.5	Adjustment Entitlement Fund	(69,850)			
1.6	Improved Cost Recovery Uplift	60,560	73,028	74,366	75,853
	Total Staff Costs	2,224,181	2,681,185	2,730,299	2,784,845
2	Operating Expenditures				
2.1	Capacity Building	53,524	130,000	140,000	140,000
2.2	Consultants/Service Providers	392,787	460,652	476,760	476,760
2.3	Duty travel	166,738	180,000	180,000	180,000
2.4	Meetings	215,698	122,000	85,782	85,782
2.5	Interpretation	122,767	130,000	130,000	130,000
2.6	Translation	110,512	128,000	135,000	135,000
2.7	Equipment	10,099	10,000	13,000	13,000
2.8	General Operating Expenses	58,014	73,390	73,500	73,500
2.9	Contingencies	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Total OE	1,130,138	1,244,042	1,244,042	1,244,042
	SUB-TOTAL	3,354,319	3,925,227	3,974,341	4,028,887
3	Additional Contributions Seychelles	-29,120	0	0	0
4	FAO Servicing Costs	149,634	176,635	178,845	181,300
5	Meeting Participation Fund	272,526	300,000	300,000	300,000
				-	-
	GRAND TOTAL	3,747,359	4,401,862	4,453,186	4,510,187

*Reported by FAO
system

1%

APPENDIX 8.
IOTC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2027 (USD)

Country	World Bank Classification in 2024	OECD Member	Average catch for 2022-2024 (in metric tonnes)	Base Contribution	Operations Contribution	GNI Contribution	Catch Contribution	Total Contribution (in USD)
Australia	High	Yes	5,041	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$15,195	\$196,803
Bangladesh	Middle	No	14,037	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$8,462	\$78,741
China	Middle	No	66,092	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$39,843	\$110,121
Comoros	Middle	No	11,814	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$7,122	\$77,400
European Union	High	Yes	212,307	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$639,936	\$821,544
France(Terr)	High	Yes	0	\$15,356	\$0	\$148,440	\$0	\$163,795
India	Middle	No	188,217	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$113,464	\$183,743
Indonesia	Middle	No	454,656	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$274,084	\$344,363
Iran, I.R.	Middle	No	282,856	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$170,517	\$240,795
Japan	High	Yes	9,785	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$29,494	\$211,102
Kenya	Middle	No	5,297	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$3,193	\$73,472
Korea, Rep of	High	Yes	14,639	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$44,125	\$225,733
Madagascar	Low	No	6,984	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$0	\$4,210	\$37,379
Malaysia	Middle	No	23,459	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$14,142	\$84,421
Maldives	Middle	No	140,794	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$84,876	\$155,155
Mauritius	Middle	No	30,702	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$18,509	\$88,787
Mozambique	Low	No	15,224	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$0	\$9,177	\$42,346
Oman	High	No	136,077	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$82,032	\$263,640
Pakistan	Middle	No	43,199	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$26,042	\$96,321
Philippines	Middle	No	0	\$15,356	\$0	\$37,110	\$0	\$52,466
Seychelles	High	No	130,551	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$148,440	\$78,701	\$260,309
Somalia	Low	No	9,042	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$0	\$5,451	\$38,620
South Africa	Middle	No	1,311	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$790	\$71,069
Sri Lanka	Middle	No	97,940	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$59,042	\$129,320
Sudan	Low	No	175	\$15,356	\$0	\$0	\$105	\$15,461
Tanzania	Middle	No	17,870	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$10,773	\$81,051
Thailand	Middle	No	27,338	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$37,110	\$16,480	\$86,759
United Kingdom	High	Yes	2	\$15,356	\$0	\$148,440	\$5	\$163,800
Yemen	Low	No	42,301	\$15,356	\$17,813	\$0	\$25,501	\$58,669
			Total	445,319	445,319	1,781,275	1,781,275	4,453,186

The World Bank has replaced GNP with gross national income (GNI per capita). GNI more fairly compares nations with widely different populations and standards of living.

APPENDIX 9.
CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2027

Meeting	Dates
Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM)	25 – 27 January
Special Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC)	28 – 29 January
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC)	3 – 5 February (TBC)
Management Strategy Evaluation Task Force of the Working Party on Methods (WPM)	22 – 24 March
Working Party on Socio-Economics (WPSE)	1 – 2 April
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB) data preparatory meeting	14 – 16 April
Ad hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards (WGEMS)	12 – 13 April
Compliance Committee (CoC)	3 – 5 May
Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF)	6 May
Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP)	8 May
Commission (S30)	10 – 14 May
Working Party on Tropical Tunas – data preparation (WPTT-DP) and Working Group on FADs (WGFAD)	7 – 11 June
Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT)	5 – 9 July
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB)	7 – 11 September
Working Party on Billfish (WPB)	13 – 15 September
Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT)	19 - 22 October
Working Party on Methods (WPM)	25 – 27 October
Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS)	23 – 27 November
Scientific Committee (SC)	29 November – 3 December