

REVIEW OF CURRENT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES RELATING TO BILLFISH SPECIES

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PURPOSE

To encourage participants at the 24th Working Party on Billfish (WPB24) to review some of the existing Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) relating to billfish, noting the CMMs contained in document IOTC–2026–WPB24–04; and as necessary to 1) provide recommendations to the Scientific Committee on whether modifications may be required; and 2) recommend whether other CMMs may be required.

BACKGROUND

In addition to the CMMs outlined in document IOTC–2025–WPB23–04, billfish in the Indian Ocean are currently subject to several other Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission.

[Resolution 15/01](#): *On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence*

[Resolution 16/07](#): *On the use of artificial lights to attract fish*

[Resolution 16/08](#): *On the prohibition of the use of aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles as fishing*

[Resolution 18/05](#): *On Management Measures for the Conservation of the Billfishes: Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-pacific Sailfish*

[Resolution 25/06](#): *On a Regional Observer Scheme*

[Resolution 25/07](#): *On a Management Procedure for Swordfish in the IOTC Area of Competence*

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

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

In an attempt to focus the efforts of the WPB, it is our aim to have participants annually review some of the key CMMs based on scientific advice, or which match current requests from the Commission.

DISCUSSION

As part of best practice, the WPB is obliged to review existing CMMs and consider whether their science-based components need to be modified or updated. If this is the case, then the WPB should provide clear, science-based recommendations for the SC's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

Noting the information contained in working paper IOTC–2026–WPB24–06, the WPB should aim to provide recommendations to the SC that clearly outline whether further changes to Resolutions 15/01, 26/06 and 18/05 are required, or amendments/additions to other CMMs.