

OUTCOMES OF THE 30th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 06 OCTOBER 2026

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 17th Working Party on Methods (WPM17) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 30th Session, held in May 2026, specifically relating to the work of the WPM.

BACKGROUND

At the 30th Session of the Commission 8 Resolutions were adopted, as detailed below

- Resolution 26/01 *On establishing interim catch limits for yellowfin tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence* [[download here](#)]
- Resolution 26/02 *On establishing interim catch limits for swordfish in the IOTC Area of Competence* [[download here](#)]
- Resolution 26/03 *On the conservation of mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC* [[download here](#)]
- Resolution 26/04 *Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence* [[download here](#)]
- Resolution 26/05 *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels* [[download here](#)]
- Resolution 26/06 *Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)* [[download here](#)]
- Resolution 26/07 *On the promotion of the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures* [[download here](#)]
- 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](#)]
- Conservation and Management Measures become binding 120 days after their distribution to all CPCs. The final versions of the newly agreed CMMs will be made available in due course at <http://iotc.org/cmms>

DISCUSSION

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP) meeting in 2025, which have relevance for the WPM (IOTC-2026-S30-R):

Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP10)

(Para 141) *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 142) *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.:*

Feedback from the Small Working Group on reviewing IOTC Processes

(Para 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.

(Para 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.

(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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPM:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2026-WPM17-04 which outlined the outcomes of the 30th Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPM and **AGREE** to consider how best to provide the SC with the information it needs, in order to satisfy the Commission's requests, throughout the course of the current WPM meeting.
- 2) **NOTE** the 8 Resolutions adopted at the 30th Session of the Commission.