

REPORT
of the
SECOND SESSION OF THE IOFC AD HOC COMMITTEE OF NATIONS ON THE
MECHANICS OF TUNA RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT
Bangkok, Thailand, 12-13 December 1975

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 1976

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ISBN 92-5-100045-X

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PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the Second Session of the IOFC Ad Hoc Committee of Nations on the Mechanics of Tuna Research and Management.

Distribution

Participants in the meeting
Members of the IOFC
Other interested nations and
international organizations
FAO Department of Fisheries
Fishery Officers in FAO
Regional Offices

Bibliographic Entry

IOFC Ad Hoc Committee of Nations on the
Mechanics of Tuna Research and Management.
Bangkok, Thailand, 12-13 December 1975
(1976)
FAO Fish.Rep., (184):8 p.
Report of the second session of the
Conferences. Reports. Tunas. Fisheries
resources. Fishery management. Research
programmes.

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INTRODUCTION

1 The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Mr. E.A. Purnell-Webb (Australia), who welcomed delegates and observers to the meeting. The list of those attending is given in Appendix 1.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2 The agenda, as revised, was adopted and is given in Appendix 2.

FUNCTIONS AND METHODS OF OPERATION OF A JOINT SECRETARIAT FOR STANDING COMMITTEES ON COMMITTEES ON STATISTICS AND SCIENTIFIC REVIEW AND ALSO ON MANAGEMENT ADVICE

(a) Scientific activities

3 The Committee expressed general agreement with the type of structure for the scientific and statistical activities necessary for effective management as set out in document IOFC/MTR/75/3. It was expected that IPFC and IOFC would in due course set up Standing Committees on Research and Statistics (SCRS). These should then establish a joint Sub-Committee on Tuna Stock Assessment which would take over the function presently performed by the IPFC/IOFC Ad Hoc Working Party of Scientists on Stock Assessment of Tuna. All countries with interests in tuna could be members of the Sub-Committee and should be represented on it by scientists actively engaged in tuna research. In case the SCRS of IPFC or IOFC had not themselves been established, the two bodies should then take appropriate action (see Appendix 3).

4 The Sub-Committee should be able to set up ad hoc scientific working groups on special topics, e.g. the state of southern bluefin tuna stocks. The reports of these ad hoc scientific working groups should be made directly available to member countries and to the IOFC and IPFC Tuna Management Committees and to any of their subsidiary bodies that might be interested, e.g. an ad hoc group on management of southern bluefin tuna, if this was to be established.

5 The compilation of tuna statistics and other, including the active promotion of the supply of statistics from member countries and the critical review of the statistics received, would need particular attention. This might be done by a subsidiary group of the joint Sub-Committee on Tuna Stock Assessment, or by a joint group of the IPFC and IOFC Sub-Committees on Statistics if these should be established. It was agreed that the present IPFC/IOFC Joint Working Party of Experts on Indian Ocean and Western Pacific Fishery Statistics would not be a suitable body to keep the tuna statistics under critical review.

6 Improvement of the tuna statistics currently available for the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific would in any case need urgent attention from member countries and from the technical support staff. The Committee stressed that it was the responsibility of any country fishing tuna to collect and report adequate statistics in a timely manner. It noted that countries were not in all cases carrying out their responsibilities, and urged that countries fishing tuna in the IOFC/IPFC regions should give greater attention to statistics and ensure their proper collection whether from individuals, enterprises or by other means. In view of the difficulties commonly experienced in obtaining statistics from vessels landing and transshipping tuna in foreign ports and from other multi-national activities, the Committee recommended that provision for the collection and reporting of statistics should be written into any new joint venture agreements. It was noted that considerable success along these lines had been obtained in respect of joint ventures in some parts of the Western Pacific; the Committee welcomed an offer from the observer from the South Pacific Commission to make available the forms used for statistical reports.

7 A number of countries have difficulties in collecting adequate statistics. A number of steps to improve their ability to collect statistics, and which should receive early attention from the technical support staff were identified. These included training and technical assistance, a clearer specification of the data required and the identification

of groups of similar tuna fisheries such that experience in one could help solve problems in another.

(b) Administration

8 The administrative functions necessary in choosing and implementing management measures could in general be carried out by the existing IOFC and IPFC Tuna Management Committees, which should normally continue to meet jointly. Ad hoc sub-committees could be set up on the initiative of the Committees of IOFC or IPFC, or at the request of member countries, along the lines proposed by the IPFC/ Ad Hoc Committee which had met from 8-11 December 1975, to deal with specific stocks or groups of stocks, e.g., southern bluefin tuna. These ad hoc sub-committees could receive their scientific advice from the Joint Sub-Committee on Tuna Stock Assessment or from one of its working groups, but it was not felt necessary to establish rigid formal procedures for forwarding this advice.

9 The ad hoc sub-committees would be the bodies in which the discussions on specific management measures would be held, and on which the conclusions and recommendations in respect of these measures would be made. Their reports should be made available directly to member countries as the conclusion and recommendations contained therein would be of immediate concern to those countries.

10 If management measures are introduced and recognized as binding by the countries concerned, procedures for inspection and enforcement are essential to ensure that each country follows the recommendations, and that each can be assured that all other participants are also doing so. The procedures for inspection would depend on the nature of the fishery and of the precise management measures and should be left for direct negotiation between the countries concerned, as and when measures are introduced.

IOFC/IPFC INTERACTIONS

11 The Committee recognized that care would have to be taken to ensure that there were no delays or other obstruction to early implementation of management recommendations as a result of the interests of both IOFC and IPFC, and the fact that their parent bodies had different membership and met at different times. It was felt that the proposed arrangements, particularly those whereby substantive recommendations of any ad hoc administrative bodies could be submitted directly to those countries mainly concerned, would obviate difficulties.

METHODS OF FINANCING THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE IN THE SHORT AND LONG TERM

12 The Committee recognized that it did not have before it sufficient information to specify the type and magnitude of support that would be required to ensure the effective operation of a tuna management scheme, however, it believed that the figures mentioned in paragraph 23 of the Secretariat paper (IOFC:MTR/75/3), and particularly the figure of \$300 000 annually for an "austerity" budget for central technical support, were reasonable and could be used as a general guideline as to the magnitude of the continued support that could be required. A more detailed study should be made, which should include separate estimates of the resources required to start up the programme and those required to maintain it once established. This study could be included in the more general study recommended in paragraph 16 below.

13 There was considerable discussion on the possible sources for long-term and short-term financing. In the long term there was some support for the view that countries directly concerned should accept the direct responsibility for financing, though one delegation reiterated its view that this should be done through a treaty-based body. In that case it was generally felt that the relative shares of the total costs should be determined by the magnitude of the tuna catch taken by each country.

14 It was stressed by the Assistant Director-General (Fisheries) of FAO that the early establishment of a basis for long-term financing, at least in principle, was very important since this could greatly facilitate short-term support.

15 Short-term funding should, the Committee felt, be provided directly or indirectly by FAO. Possible sources that were suggested included the Regular Programme (though financing from that source would be limited), UNDP (and especially the Indian Ocean Programme and the South China Sea Programme), other funding agencies and various other bodies with interests in the region.

INTERIM SHORT-TERM ARRANGEMENTS

16 The Committee believed that careful consideration should be given to the programme that could or should be done in the next few years. It therefore recommended that FAO should carry out a careful study of the possible tuna management programme for the immediate future. This study should be combined with other studies proposed under earlier items of the agenda, e.g. on the financial needs and on the general feasibility of a management programme.

17 The proposed study should cover the likely activities in the next three to five years and their costs in matters such as the initial setting up of a statistical programme, training and the maintenance of a continuing central compilation of data. It should also give attention to the overall feasibility of a tuna management programme, taking account of costs and possible benefits. The study should also examine advantages and disadvantages of different sites for the operations. In this connection it was noted that the intellectual advantages of a site on a university campus were sometimes exaggerated.

18 The study which should include a detailed examination of costs in a form suitable as a prospectus for approaching governments, and other sources of funds, should be prepared well in advance of the next session of IPFC. It should be circulated to all members of IOFC or IPFC, and comments from countries, particularly members of the present Committee, could be included in a supplementary document to IPFC. These documents and any conclusions from IPFC should be forwarded to IOFC.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

19 The Committee believed that, with the present report, IOFC might consider that the Committee had fulfilled its terms of reference. Therefore, no proposal was made regarding a further meeting.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

20 The observer from the South Pacific Commission drew attention to the proposed skip-jack survey and tagging project, which had been endorsed by the IPFC at its last session. The Committee believed that it was an excellent example of the type of cooperative activity that would be necessary to achieve good tuna management, and suggested to the IPFC Executive Committee that it should recommend the project as a joint IPFC/SPC activity.

21 The Committee noted that its report would be placed before the forthcoming session of the IPFC Executive Committee for its consideration and possible action, as had been requested by IOFC itself at its Fourth Session held in Mombasa in July 1975.

* * * * *

Appendix 1

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Australia

FURNELL-WEBB, M.A.
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OBSERVER FROM AN INTERGOVERN-
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FAO DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

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Fishery Liaison Unit
FAO
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Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee J.A. Gulland

* * * * *

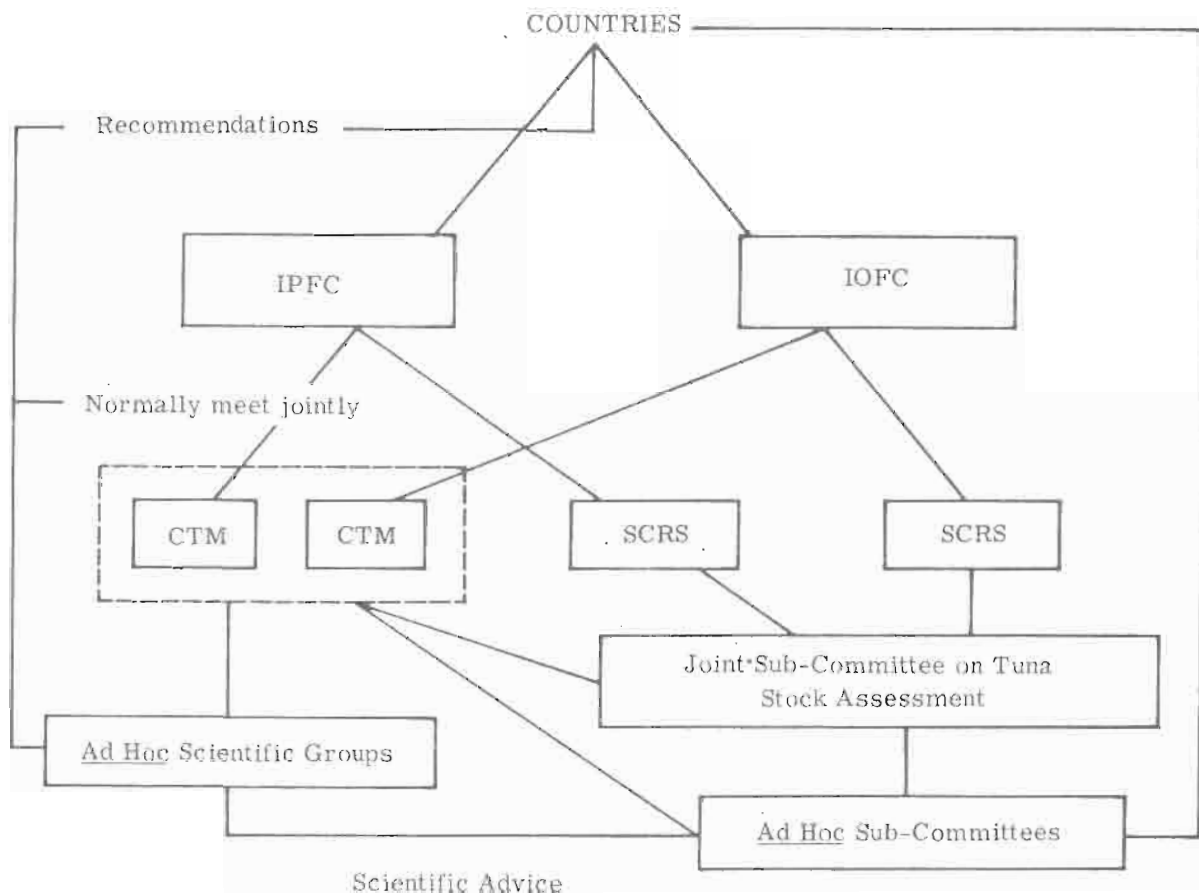
Appendix 2

AGENDA

- 1 Adoption of the agenda
- 2 Functions and methods of operation of a Joint Secretariat and Standing Committee or Committees on Statistics and Scientific Review and also on Management Advice
 - (a) Scientific activities
 - (b) Administration
- 3 IOFC/IPFC Interactions
 - (a) Short term
 - (b) Long term
- 4 Methods of financing the management structure in the short and long term
- 5 Interim short-term arrangements
- 6 Date and place of next session
- 7 Any other matters
- 8 Adoption of the report

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Chart showing channels of communication between proposed bodies to be set up under IPFC and IOFC to deal with administrative and scientific aspects of tuna management, research and statistics



CTM = Committee on Tuna Management

SCRS = Standing Committee on Research and Statistics

Appendix 4

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| IOFC:MTR/75/1 | Provisional agenda |
| 2 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| 3 | Functions, methods of operation and financing of Secretariat and Committees |
| 4 | Report of the First Session of the <u>Ad Hoc</u> Committee of Nations on the Mechanics of Tuna Research and Management |
| | |
| IOFC:MTR/75/Inf.1 | List of documents |
| 2 | Report of the Third Joint Meeting of the IPFC Special Committee on Management of Indo-Pacific Tuna and the IOFC Committee on Management of Indian Ocean Tuna |
| 3 | List of delegates and observers (provisional) |

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