

RESOLUTION ON A MULTI-YEAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR BIGEYE TUNA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

Submitted by Japan

THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION (IOTC),

RECALLING that Paragraph 1 of the Resolution 01/04 “on Limitation of Fishing Effort of non-Members of IOTC Whose Vessels Fish Bigeye tuna” requests non-Member to reduce their fishing effort,

RECALLING the adoption of the Resolution 03/01 “on the Limitation of Fishing Capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties” at the 2003 Commission meeting,

RECALLING that Paragraph 3 of the Resolution 05/01 “on Conservation and Management Measures for Bigeye Tuna” determined to establish, for a three year period, interim catch levels for contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (hereinafter referred to as “CPC’s”) catching more than 1,000t of bigeye tuna at the 10th Session of the Commission,

RECOGNISING that the Scientific Committee recommends that a reduction in catches of bigeye tuna from all gears, eventually to the level of MSY, be started as soon as possible and that fishing effort should be reduced or, at least, it should not increase further,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to have due regard for the interests of all Members concerned, in conformity with the rights and obligations of those Members under international law in particular, to the rights and obligations of developing countries of the Indian Ocean rim with respect to entry into the high-seas fisheries in the IOTC area of competence,

ADOPTS, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Agreement establishing the IOTC that, for the period of three years from 2007 to 2009:

1. The following catch limits shall be applied for the three year period until 2009, based on the catch of Indian bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of Competence (hereinafter referred to as “the Area”) in 1995 and taking account of recent developments, for the following CPCs:
 - China: 4,600MT
 - European Community: 19,500MT
 - Japan: 20,800MT
 - Korea: 6,400MT
 - Philippines: 1,400MT
 - Seychelles: 7,100MT
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, the Commission establishes a catch limit of Indonesia at its 2007 meeting based on an improved catch statistics. Indonesia shall not increase fishing effort before the Commission establishes a new catch limit.
3. Regarding the paragraph 1, all underages or overages of this catch limit of bigeye may be added or shall be deducted from the catch limit as follows:
 - Year of Catch (Adjustment year)
 - 2007 (2008 and/or 2009)
 - 2008 (2009 and/or 2010)
 - 2009 (2010 and/or 2011)

However, the maximum underage that a CPC may transfer in any given year shall not exceed 30% of its annual catch limit.

4. When the annual catch of any CPC, whose reported 2004 catch of bigeye tuna, as provided to the Scientific Committee, was less than 1,000MT, exceeds 1,000MT in a given year during 2007 to 2009, the Commission shall consider and resolve, as appropriate, new conservation measures for bigeye tuna applicable to them.