
OUTCOMES OF THE 20th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 15 MAY 2017

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 1st Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP01) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its 20th Session, held in May 2016, specifically relating to the work of the TCMP01.

BACKGROUND

At the 20th Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 12 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 12 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations¹), as detailed below:

Resolutions

- Resolution 16/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock*
- Resolution 16/02 *On harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 16/03 *On the second performance review follow-up*
- Resolution 16/04 *On the implementation of a Pilot Project in view of Promoting the Regional Observer Scheme of IOTC*
- Resolution 16/05 *On vessels without nationality*
- Resolution 16/06 *On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC*
- 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 aids*
- Resolution 16/09 *On establishing a Technical Committee on Management Procedures*
- Resolution 16/10 *To promote the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures*
- Resolution 16/11 *On port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing*
- Resolution 16/12 *Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM)*

Pursuant to Article IX.4 of the IOTC Agreement, the above mentioned Conservation and Management Measures shall become binding on Members, 120 days from the date of the notification communicated by the Secretariat in IOTC Circular 2016–054 (i.e. 27 September 2016).

DISCUSSION

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2015, which have relevance for the TCMP. The following extracts from the S20 Report (IOTC-2016-S20-R) are provided here for the consideration and action of the TCMP01:

Para. 13. *The Commission **CONSIDERED** the list of recommendations made by the SC18 ([Appendix VI](#)) from its 2015 report (IOTC–2015–SC18–R) that related specifically to the Commission. The Commission **ENDORSED** the list of recommendations as its own, while taking into account the range of issues outlined in this Report (S20) and*

incorporated within Conservation and Management Measures adopted during the Session and as adopted for implementation as detailed in the approved annual budget and Program of Work.

Para. 15. The Commission **NOTED** the substantial work underway to develop management procedures and harvest strategies for IOTC stocks and **REQUESTED** the SC to develop a work plan reflecting key elements to be agreed and developed, including roles and responsibilities of each of the Commission, Scientific Committee, Compliance Committee and other subsidiary bodies, and also including decision points on these elements for the Commission.

Para. 16. The Commission **NOTED** the progress towards development of harvest strategies for key stocks, including the adoption of limit and target reference points for a number of stocks, and **REQUESTED** that the SC provide advice to the 21st Session of the IOTC on the feasibility of reporting stock status in relation to the agreed limit reference points.

Outcomes of the 3rd Management Procedures Dialogue workshop

Para 116. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the Third Management Procedures Dialogue, presented by the Chair of the Scientific Committee, where the current status and results of the MSE work on skipjack, albacore, yellowfin and bigeye were reviewed and discussed.

Para. 117. **NOTING** that the MPD needs to focus on presenting the results of ongoing MSE work to the Commission to allow decisions needed prior to the adoption of a management procedure, the Commission **ENDORSED** the recommendation of the Scientific Committee on the modification to the Management Procedures Dialogue process to the performance of alternative management procedures against different objectives.

On harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence (TBC)

Para 129. The Commission **ADOPTED** Resolution 16/02 On harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence ([Appendix XVII](#)). This Resolution for a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) for IO SKJ draws on SC recommendations, including the new guidance on reference points in cases where MSY-based reference points are difficult to estimate. This Resolution introduces a new point as safety limit for the Harvest Control Rule being fixed at 0.10.B0. In addition, it uses the biomass limit reference point of 20% of the unfished level (BLIM = 0.2B0) and the target biomass reference point of 40% of the unfished level (BTARG = 0.4B0), consistent with the SC advice that reference points based on depletion level should be used for stocks where MSY-based reference points cannot be robustly estimated.

One member, while supportive of the harvest control rule, indicated it could not agree to paragraph 11 of the measure.

On establishing a technical committee on management procedures dialogue

Para. 128. The Commission **ADOPTED** Resolution 16/09 On establishing a technical committee on management procedures dialogue ([Appendix XXIV](#)). This Resolution aims at enhancing the dialogue and mutual understanding between the Scientific Committee and the Commission on matters relating to management procedures, and the decision making response of the Commission in relation to management procedures, The Resolution addresses the priorities identified in Resolutions 14/03 On enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers, and 15/10 On target and limit reference points and a decision framework or any subsequent resolutions addressing Management Strategy Evaluation and Management Procedures. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 14/03 On enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers.

The complete report of the 20th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the TCMP:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2017–TCMP01–05 which outlined the outcomes of the 20th Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the TCMP 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 TCMP meeting.

- 2) **NOTE** the 12 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 20th Session of the Commission (consisting of 12 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), and in particular those Resolutions which have a direct impact on the work of the TCMP.