
OUTCOMES OF THE 22st SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 26 JUNE 2017

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 8th Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT08) of the decision and requests made by the Commission at its 22st Session, held from 21–25 May 2018, specifically relating to the work of the WPNT.

BACKGROUND

At the 22st Session of the Commission, 8 Conservation and Management Measures were adopted, as detailed below:

Resolutions

- [Resolution 18/01](#) *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence.*
- [Resolution 18/02](#) *On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries.*
- [Resolution 18/03](#) *On Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the IOTC Area of Competence.*
- [Resolution 18/04](#) *On bioFAD experimental project.*
- [Resolution 18/05](#) *On management measures for the conservation for the conservation of billfish, striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish.*
- [Resolution 18/06](#) *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels.*
- [Resolution 18/07](#) *On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC.*
- [Resolution 18/08](#) *Procedures on a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Management Plan, Including a Limitation on the Number of FADs, More Detailed Specifications of Catch Reporting from FAD sets, and the Development of Improved FAD Design to Reduce the Incidence of Entanglement of Non-Target Species.*
- [Resolution 18/09](#) *On a scoping study of socio-economic indicators of IOTC fisheries.*
- [Resolution 18/10](#) *On vessel chartering in the IOTC Area of Competence.*

These Conservation and Management Measures shall become binding on Members on the 4th October 2018 as detailed and confirmed in IOTC Circular 2018-26. The final versions of the newly agreed CMMs will be made available here in due course: <http://iotc.org/cmms>

DISCUSSION

The Commission made a number of comments related to the work of the WPNT which are provided below for reference.

Consideration of management measures related to Neritic tunas (IOTC-2018-S22-R, para. 46-48)

The Commission **NOTED** that catch of neritic species amounts to around 35% of the total catch of IOTC species, and nearly all the catch of neritic species is taken by coastal States. Furthermore, that around 80% of the catch data available to the Commission on neritic species is estimated i.e. only around 20% of the catch data is derived from catch sampling processes and reported to the IOTC Secretariat.

The Commission **NOTED** that neritic tuna are vital resources to the coastal States and **EXPRESSED** its concern that the current nature and extent of management measures applying to the neritic species is much less than that being

applied to other IOTC species. The Commission **EXPRESSED** further concern about the overall lack of information on neritic tunas, strongly **ENCOURAGED** the coastal States to improve data collection and reporting, and develop measures to underpin sustainable management of IOTC neritic species. Some CPCs also expressed concern that the concerned coastal States had not tabled conservation and management measures for this stock at this annual meeting in response to the Commission's call to do so at the last annual meeting.

The Commission **NOTED** that some CPCs informed that SEAFDEC has been working to improve the collection and reporting of data in SEAFDEC Member countries and **ENCOURAGED** the Working Party on Neritic tunas to engage with SEAFDEC to find out what has been done and obtain any relevant information to improve understanding of IOTC neritic species.

Consideration of management measures related to all species (*IOTC-2018-S22-R, paras. 52-54*)

The Commission **ADOPTED** Resolution 18/08 On procedures on a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Management Plan, Including a Limitation on the Number of FADs, More Detailed Specifications of Catch Reporting from FAD sets, and the Development of Improved FAD Design to Reduce the Incidence of Entanglement of Non-Target Species.

The Commission **ADOPTED** Resolution 18/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence. The Commission also **AGREED**, notwithstanding paragraph 3 c) iii of Resolution 18/01, to grant a special approval for Japan to register one support vessel.

The Commission **AGREED** to defer IOTC-2018-S22-PropD and PropJ On a Regional Observer Scheme. The proponents of these proposals attempted to merge the two proposals; however, they agreed more work needed to be done to reach a consensus and indicated that a revised proposal will be submitted to the next session of the Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the WPNT

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2018–WPNT08–04 which outlined the outcomes of the 22st Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPNT 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 WPNT meeting.
- 2) **NOTE** the 10 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 22st Session of the Commission (consisting of 10 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations).