

15 December 2017

IOTC CIRCULAR 2017-094

Dear Sir/Madam,

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDED SKIPJACK TUNA CATCH LIMIT FOR 2018-2020

Under IOTC Resolution 16/02 *On harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence*, the Commission adopted the use of a pre-agreed harvest control rule to maintain the skipjack tuna stock at, or above, the target reference point, and well above the limit reference point.

The Commission also agreed that after a review of a model based assessment of skipjack tuna by the Scientific Committee, the result of the assessment will be used by the Scientific Committee in the calculation of an annual catch limit using the adopted harvest control rule. The IOTC Secretariat would then notify CPC's of the new catch limit that will apply for the following three years.

A stock assessment of skipjack tuna was reviewed by the IOTC Scientific Committee in December 2017. Following Resolution 16/02, the recommended annual catch limit for the years 2018 to 2020 is 470,029 tonnes.

For comparison, the average annual catch of skipjack between 2012 and 2016 was 407,456 tonnes; and the 2016 annual catch was estimated at 446,723 tonnes.

Yours sincerely



Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

- None

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom (OT), Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Bangladesh, Liberia, Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

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