

## OUTCOMES OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 11 AUGUST 2016

### PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 14<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Billfish (WPB14) of the decision and requests made by the Commission at its 20<sup>th</sup> Session, held from 23 – 27 May 2016, specifically relating to the work of the WPB.

### BACKGROUND

At the 20<sup>th</sup> Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 12 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 12 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations<sup>1</sup>), 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, due to be sent out shortly.

### 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 WPB. At the time of writing, the final report has not been approved so all text and paragraph numbers refer to the *draft* report of the Commission pending final agreement by all parties (IOTC–2016–S20–R):

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<sup>1</sup> Provisional until approval of the final version of the S20 report

## Current Conservation and Management Measures that require action by the Commission in 2016

Para. 103. The Commission **NOTED** Resolution 15/11, which calls on CPCs to implement a limitation on their fishing capacity targeting tropical tunas, swordfish and albacore stocks, while allowing for the inclusion of vessels under construction during specific reference years, and those proposed by the developing coastal States in their fleet development plans.

Para. 10 of the Resolution states:

Para. 10. This Resolution is applicable during the years 2015 and 2016. The Commission shall review its implementation at the 2016 IOTC Session.

Para. 104. The Commission **AGREED** to extend the applicability of the Resolution for an additional year and that the Commission shall review its implementation at the 2017 IOTC Session.

### On the prohibition of the use of aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles as fishing aids

Para. 117. The Commission **ADOPTED** Resolution 16/08 On the prohibition of the use of aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles as fishing aids. This Resolution prohibits the use of aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles as fishing aids on flagged fishing vessels, support and supply vessels by Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (collectively CPCs).

### On the use of artificial lights to attract fish

Para. 116. The Commission **ADOPTED** Resolution 16/XX On the use of artificial lights to attract fish. This Resolution prohibits fishing vessels and other vessels including support, supply and auxiliary vessels flying the flag of an IOTC Contracting Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (collectively CPCs) from using, installing or operating surface or submerged artificial lights for the purpose of aggregating tuna and tuna-like species beyond territorial waters.

### On the implementation of a pilot project in view of promoting the Regional Observer Scheme of IOTC

Para. 113. The Commission **ADOPTED** Resolution 16/04 On the implementation of a pilot project in view of promoting the Regional Observer Scheme of IOTC. This Resolution creates a pilot project aiming to enhance the implementation of the Resolution 11/04 on a Regional Observer Scheme and to raise the level of compliance to the implementation of Resolutions 15/01 and 15/02, respectively on the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence and on mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting parties (CPCs).

### On the conservation and management of IOTC species

Para. 131. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal on the conservation and management of IOTC species (IOTC-2016-S20-Prop G), which detailed two options with the main objective of decreasing the fishing pressure on Yellowfin Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), and which will also benefit the status of the following overfished stocks: Striped Marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), Black Marlin (*Makaira indica*), Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), Indo-Pacific Sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*), Longtail Tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) and Narrow-based Spanish Mackerel (*Scomberomorus Commerson*) in the IOTC Area of competence. Following discussions with CPCs, the proposal was split into three individual proposals with catch reduction measures specific to the following species: Prop-G-A (Yellowfin tuna), Prop-G-B (billfish species), and Prop-G-C (neritic tunas). The proposal to reduce catches of Yellowfin tuna (Prop-A) was eventually withdrawn, in favour of the adoption of (IOTC-2016-S20-PropF); while the proposals for Prop-G-B and Prop-G-C, were deferred until the next meeting of the Commission.

The complete report of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is not yet available for download from the IOTC website but will be made publicly available shortly after the final version has been agreed by correspondence.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the WPB

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2016-WPB14-04 which outlined the **provisional** outcomes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPB 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 WPB meeting.

- 2) **NOTE** the 12 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (consisting of 12 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations).