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## CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES REQUIRING ACTION BY THE COMMISSION IN 2014

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 4 APRIL 2014

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### PURPOSE

To inform the Commission of previous decisions contained in IOTC Conservation and Management Measures, on which the Commission agreed to take action at its 18<sup>th</sup> Session in 2014.

### BACKGROUND

The Commission has considered and adopted a range of Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) in the past that included both timeframes for actions to be taken and potential renewal of the CMMs upon completion of those actions. The sections below highlight CMMs that the Commission had previously agreed shall be reconsidered in 2014.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Resolution 05/05 Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC (Appendix A)**

This Resolution calls on CPCs to annually report data for catches of sharks, in accordance with IOTC data reporting procedures, including available historical data.

The following two of the paragraphs of the Resolution (paras. 2 and 5) have now been fulfilled by the Scientific Committee and may warrant removal:

*Para. 2. In 2006 the Scientific Committee (in collaboration with the Working Party on Bycatch) provide preliminary advice on the stock status of key shark species and propose a research plan and timeline for a comprehensive assessment of these stocks.*

*Para. 5. The ratio of fin-to-body weight of sharks described in paragraph 4 shall be reviewed by the scientific committee and reported back to the Commission in 2006 for revision, if necessary.*

In addition, paragraph 10 requests:

*Para. 10. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the collection of data on their shark catches.*

**Suggested action:** To consider removing paragraphs 2 and 5 from the Resolution, as well as considering how best to provide assistance to developing CPCs to collect data on their shark catches.

#### **Resolution 10/05 On the establishment of a meeting participation fund for developing State Members (Appendix B)**

This Resolution provides for a special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) be established for the purposes of supporting scientists and representatives from IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) who are developing States to attend and/or contribute to the work of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and its Working Parties.

Paragraph 2 of the Resolution states that:

*Para. 2. The MPF shall be financed from an initial allocation of USD200,000 from IOTC's accumulated funds, and subsequently by voluntary contributions from Members and such other sources as the Commission may identify. The Commission will identify, at its 15<sup>th</sup> Session, a procedure for supplying funds to the MPF in the future.*

**Suggested action:** To identify a procedure for supplying funds to the MPF at the S18. A separate paper is being provided at S18 for its consideration, via the SCAF.

**Resolution 11/04 On a Regional Observer Scheme** (Appendix C)

This Resolution provides for a Regional Observer Scheme to collect verified catch data and other scientific data related to the fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence.

Paragraph 2 of the Resolution states that:

Para. 2. *In order to improve the collection of scientific data, at least 5 % of the number of operations/sets for each gear type by the fleet of each CPC while fishing in the IOTC area of competence of 24 meters overall length and over, and under 24 meters if they fish outside their EEZs shall be covered by this observer scheme. For vessels under 24 meters if they fish outside their EEZ, the above mentioned coverage should be achieved progressively by January 2013.*

**Suggested action:** To determine if para. 2 has been met and/or to consider revision of the paragraph.

**Resolution 12/11 On the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties** (Appendix D)

This Resolution 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.

This Resolution is applicable during the years 2012 and 2013 (para. 11), and thus, will not be applicable in 2014. The Resolution also states that “*the Commission shall review its implementation at the 2014 IOTC Session.*”

**Suggested action:** To consider extending the applicability of the Resolution for an additional period, while awaiting the review which is scheduled to take place in 2014.

**Resolution 12/12 To prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC area** (Appendix E)

This Resolution bans the use of large-scale driftnets (more than 2.5 km long) on the high seas within the IOTC Area of competence.

Paragraph 6 of this Resolution states that “*The IOTC shall periodically assess whether additional measures should be adopted and implemented to ensure that large-scale driftnets are not used on the high seas in the IOTC area of competence. The first such assessment shall take place in 2013.*”

**Suggested action:** To consider the effectiveness of the current Resolution and agree if other steps are required to strengthen it.

**Resolution 12/13 For the Conservation and Management of Tropical Tunas Stocks in the IOTC Area of Competence** (Appendix F)

This Resolution is applicable in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 to all vessels of 24 meters overall length and over, and under 24 meters if they fish outside their EEZ, fishing within the IOTC area of competence.

This Resolution establishes a closure of a defined area for purse seine vessels from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December and for longline vessels from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March in order to reduce the fishing pressure on yellowfin and bigeye tunas.

The Scientific Committee is to provide advice on possible modifications of the closure area or time periods; an evaluation of the impact of the catch of juveniles and spawners with recommendation for mitigation of such impact; and advice on possible different management measures.

Paragraph 13 of this Resolution states that “*the Commission shall adopt an allocation quota system or any other relevant measure for the yellowfin and bigeye tunas at its plenary session in 2012.*”

**Suggested action:** To consider updating the Resolution with new timeframes, given some have now passed without action and that the Resolution will cease to be binding on Members by the end of 2014.

**Resolution 13/04 On the conservation of cetaceans** (Appendix G)

Para 6 of the Resolution states: The Commission requests that the IOTC Scientific Committee develop best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of encircled cetaceans, taking into account those

developed in other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and that these guidelines be submitted to the 2014 Commission meeting for endorsement.

**Suggested action:** To consider the Recommendation from the Scientific Committee and if approval is given, ensure that sufficient financial resources are allocated to complete the Commission's request.

**Resolution 13/05 *On the conservation of whale sharks (Rhincodon typus)*** (Appendix H)

Para 6 of the Resolution states: The Commission requests that the IOTC Scientific Committee develop best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of encircled whale sharks, taking into account those developed in other regional fisheries management organisations including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and that these guidelines be submitted to the 2014 Commission meeting for endorsement

**Suggested action:** To consider the Recommendation from the Scientific Committee and if approval is given, ensure that sufficient financial resources are allocated to complete the Commission's request.

**Resolution 13/08 *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADS) management plan, including more detailed specifications of catch reporting from fad sets, and the development of improved fad designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species*** (Appendix I)

Para 8 of the Resolution states: From January 2015, CPCs shall require all artificial FADs deployed or modified by their flagged fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence to be marked in accordance with a detailed marking scheme, e.g. including FAD marking or beacon ID. The marking scheme shall be developed and considered for adoption by the Commission at its regular annual session in 2014, based on recommendations from the IOTC Scientific Committee as requested by the Commission. The marking scheme should take into account, as a minimum, the following:

- a) All artificial FADs shall be marked with a unique identification number, based on a specific numbering system and format to be adopted by the Commission;
- b) The marking should be easy to read before the vessel operator engages in any artificial FAD related activity (e.g. setting on the artificial FAD, retrieving the artificial FAD, servicing the artificial FAD, fishing on the artificial FAD), but if not visible for any reason, (time of day, weather, etc.), the vessel operator shall ensure to obtain the unique artificial FAD identifier as soon as feasible;
- c) The marking should be easy to apply to the artificial FAD, but should be applied in such a manner that it will not become unreadable or disassociated with the artificial FAD.

**Suggested action:** To develop and consider for adoption a marking scheme.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission addresses each of the previously agreed requirements detailed above and that it considers the suggested action in each case.

## APPENDICES

**Appendix A:** Resolution 05/05 *Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC*

**Appendix B:** Resolution 10/05 *On the establishment of a meeting participation fund for developing State Members*

**Appendix C:** Resolution 11/04 *On a Regional Observer Scheme*

**Appendix D:** Resolution 12/11 *On the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties*

**Appendix E:** Resolution 12/12 *To prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC area*

**Appendix F:** Resolution 12/13 *For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence*

**Appendix G:** Resolution 13/04 *On the conservation of cetaceans*

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**Appendix H:** Resolution 13/05 *On the conservation of whale sharks (Rhincodon typus)*

**Appendix I:** Resolution 13/08 *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADS) management plan, including more detailed specifications of catch reporting from fad sets, and the development of improved fad designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species*