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United Nations



Indian Ocean Tuna Commission  
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien

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IOTC-2023-S27-R[E]

# Report of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

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Mauritius, 8-12 May 2023

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## ACRONYMS

AFAD	Anchored fish aggregating device
“BIOT”	“British Indian Ocean Territory”
BMSY	Biomass which produces MSY
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CNCP	Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, of the IOTC
CoC	Compliance Committee of the IOTC
CPs	Contracting Parties
CPCs	Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
DFAD	Drifting fish aggregating device
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAD	Fish aggregating device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMSY	Fishing mortality at MSY
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HCR	Harvest control rule
ICRU	Improved Cost Recovery Uplift
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPNLF	International Pole and Line Foundation
ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
LRP	Limit reference point
LSTLV	Large-scale tuna longline vessel
MPF	Meeting participation fund, of the IOTC
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OFCF	Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OPRT	Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries
OT	Overseas Territories
PEW	PEW Charitable Trust
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SC	Scientific Committee of the IOTC
SCAF	Standing Committee on Administration and Finance of the IOTC
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SBMSY	Spawning or ‘adult’ equilibrium biomass at MSY
SWIOFC	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
TCAC	Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria of the IOTC
TCMP	Technical Committee on Management Procedures
TCPR	Technical Committee on Performance Review
TRP	Target referent point
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WPEB	Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch of the IOTC
WPICMM	Working party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures
WPM	Working Party on Methods of the IOTC
WPTmT	Working Party on Temperate tunas of the IOTC
WPTT	Working Party on Tropical Tunas of the IOTC
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (a.k.a World Wildlife Fund)

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## HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report uses the following terms and associated definitions.

Level 1: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:

**RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION:** Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

Level 2: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a CPC, the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:

**REQUESTED:** This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalise the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

Level 3: General terms to be used for consistency:

**AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 or level 2 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be considered/adopted by the next level in the Commission's structure.

**NOTED/NOTING:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference.

**Any other term:** Any other term may be used in addition to the Level 3 terms to highlight to the reader of an IOTC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. However, other terms used are considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3, described above (e.g. **CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED**).

**CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION****THIRTY, AS OF 12 MAY 2023**

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AUSTRALIA  
BANGLADESH  
CHINA  
COMOROS  
ERITREA  
EUROPEAN UNION  
FRANCE (OT)  
INDIA  
INDONESIA  
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF  
JAPAN  
KENYA  
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF  
MADAGASCAR  
MALAYSIA  
MALDIVES  
MAURITIUS  
MOZAMBIQUE  
OMAN  
PAKISTAN  
PHILIPPINES  
SEYCHELLES  
SOMALIA  
SOUTH AFRICA, REP. OF  
SRI LANKA  
SUDAN  
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
THAILAND  
UNITED KINGDOM  
YEMEN

**COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION****ONE, AS OF 12 MAY 2023**

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LIBERIA

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 27th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was opened and chaired by the IOTC Chairperson Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Rep. of Korea). Letters of Credentials were received from 29 Contracting Parties and 1 Cooperating Non-contracting Party (Liberia). The Commission also admitted 29 Observers (including the invited experts)

The Commission **NOTED** the Compliance Committee's endorsement to amend Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014) *on the Compliance Committee terms of reference and rules of procedure*, and after making some amendments, the Commission **ADOPTED** the revision to Appendix V as provided in [Appendix 5](#).

The Commission **GRANTED** the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party to Liberia until the close of the 28th Session in 2024.

The IOTC IUU Vessels List was updated, and 11 new vessels were added by the Commission in 2023. Download the **ADOPTED** list [\[here\]](#).

The Commission **ADOPTED** Rules of Procedure for the operation of the IOTC Working Capital Fund ([Appendix 7](#)) and requested the Executive Secretary to inform the FAO Finance Committee of this addition to the IOTC Financial Regulations.

The Commission **ADOPTED** a programme of work and budget ([Appendix 8](#)) and a corresponding scheme of contributions ([Appendix 9](#)) amounting to USD 4,401,862 for the 2024 calendar year.

The Commission **AGREED** to enter into collaborative arrangements with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA).

The Commission **ADOPTED** a full schedule of meetings for 2024 ([Appendix 10](#)).

The Commission **RE-ELECTED** Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Korea, Rep. of) as Chairperson of the IOTC and re-elected Mr Adam Ziyad (Maldives) as a first Vice-Chairperson of and Mr Qayiso Mketsu (South Africa) as second Vice-Chairperson for the next biennium.

The Commission **ADOPTED** the following nine Conservation and Management Measures:

[Resolution 23/03](#) *On Establishing a Voluntary Fishing Closure in the Indian Ocean for the Conservation of Tropical Tunas.*

[Resolution 23/04](#) *On Establishing Catch Limits for Bigeye Tuna in the Area of IOTC Competence.*

[Resolution 23/05](#) *On Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-scale Fishing Vessels.*

[Resolution 23/06](#) *On the Conservation of Cetaceans.*

[Resolution 23/07](#) *On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.*

[Resolution 23/08](#) *On Electronic Monitoring Standards for IOTC Fisheries.*

[Resolution 23/09](#) *On a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Working Group.*

[Resolution 23/10](#) *Terms of Reference for a Working Party on Socio-Economics.*

[Recommendation 23/11](#) *To Enhance Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Decision Making Process.*

## 1. Opening of the session

1. The 27th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was opened and chaired by the IOTC Chairperson Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Rep. of Korea).
2. The Honourable Sudheer Maudhoo, Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping and the Honourable Alan Ganoo Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, made opening addresses.
3. The 27th Session of the Commission was held in a hybrid format, with delegations present physically in the meeting room, and other participants attending by videoconference.

## 2. Letters of credentials

4. Letters of Credentials were received from 29 Contracting Parties and 1 Cooperating Non-contracting Party (Liberia). Yemen participated virtually, while Sudan did not participate. The list of CPC participants is provided in [Appendix 1](#).
5. The Executive Secretary reminded members that the content of the letters of credentials should be in accordance with the template provided in Appendix I of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.

## 3. Admission of Observers

6. Pursuant to Article VII of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, the Commission admitted 29 Observers (including the invited experts), in accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014).
7. The list of participants, as listed in the letters of credentials, is provided in [Appendix 1](#).

## 4. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session

8. The adopted agenda (IOTC-2023-S27-01c) is provided in [Appendix 2](#). The documents presented to the Commission are listed in [Appendix 3](#).

## 5. On the recruitment of the new IOTC Executive Secretary

9. The Commission recalled that the Executive Secretary, Dr Chris O'Brien will retire on 30 June 2023, and given S27 was his last Commission meeting, **EXPRESSED** its appreciation to Dr O'Brien for his work over the past six years.
10. Following the recruitment process that started in May 2022, and in accordance with the IOTC Rules of Procedure, the Commission unanimously **APPROVED** the appointment of Dr Paul de Bruyn as the next IOTC Executive Secretary, and **REQUESTED** the Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division FAO to make this outcome known to the Director General of FAO.

## 6. Determination of the status of the membership of United Kingdom "BIOT" in the IOTC

11. The Commission **NOTED** the following statement from the United Kingdom:

"The United Kingdom takes note that the last IOTC Session agreed that its consultations with the United Kingdom had started and that a final determination, in accordance with Article IV of the IOTC Agreement will be made at Session 27. The United Kingdom delegation wishes to point out that, in its view, there has not been adequate consultation between the United Kingdom and the IOTC. It expresses its willingness to engage fully in these consultations and commits to clarify the status of its membership before the end of the year."

12. The Commission **NOTED** the following statement from Mauritius:

"The Mauritius delegation takes note of the statement just made by the United Kingdom delegation expressing its commitment to clarify, before the end of this year, the status of its membership in IOTC in accordance with Article IV of the IOTC Agreement. Since the United Kingdom has pointed out that, in its view, there has not been adequate consultation with the Commission, the Mauritius delegation urges the Secretariat to conclude these consultations as soon as possible. In view of the commitment given by the United Kingdom to clarify the status

of its membership before the end of the year, Mauritius, in a spirit of flexibility, has no objection to the Commission agreeing to this arrangement.”

13. The Commission **NOTED** the United Kingdom’s commitment to clarify the status of its IOTC Membership before the end of the year and requested the Secretariat to notify CPCs as soon as a communication on this matter is received.

## 7. Update on the implementation of decisions of the Commission in 2022 (S26)

14. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2023-S27-02 which provided the Commission with information on the progress made during the inter-sessional period on the requests for action made at its 26th Session in 2022.

## 8. Report of the Scientific Committee

15. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (SC) (IOTC-2022-SC25-R) which was presented by the SC Chair, Prof. Toshihide Kitakado (Japan). A total of 130 delegates and other participants, comprising 104 delegates from 25 Contracting Parties and 25 delegates from 11 observer organisations, including Invited Experts participated in SC25.
16. The Commission **NOTED** that all scientific working group and working party meetings had been successfully held in 2022, utilising videoconference platforms and a shortened format. The Commission also **NOTED** that the Scientific Committee meeting had been held in the Seychelles using a hybrid format and that the MPF was used to support the attendance of participants to that meeting.
17. The Commission **NOTED** that 26 National Reports were submitted to the IOTC Secretariat in 2022 by CPCs and that this was an increase when compared with the 21 reports provided by CPCs in 2021.
18. The Commission **NOTED** the concern expressed by several members that the lack of basic data for some species has resulted in their stock status being assessed as uncertain. The Commission **URGED** all members to submit data to improve the assessments for species under the IOTC mandate.
19. The Commission **NOTED** the request from several members to provide capacity building to improve participation in the IOTC stock assessment processes. Although this is particularly relevant for the discussions regarding Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) it is also an issue for the complex stock assessments currently being conducted by the SC.
20. The Commission **NOTED** a request by a member to provide information on stock status on the high seas and separately for within EEZs. The SC Chair explained that the current understanding of the stock structure of most IOTC species does not allow for this kind of separation, as the stocks are commonly highly migratory and cross these management boundaries. In addition, the data provided by most members is not sufficiently spatially stratified to be able to separate the catch between these regions accurately.

### *The status of tropical and temperate tunas*

21. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of tropical and temperate tunas are as follows:

#### **Bigeye tuna**

In 2022 a new stock assessment was carried out for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence to update the stock assessment undertaken in 2019. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2022, the bigeye tuna stock is determined to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**. As IOTC agreed on a bigeye Management Procedure (Res. 22/03) it should be noted that the stock assessment is not used to provide a recommendation on the TAC.

#### **Yellowfin tuna**

No new stock assessment was carried out for yellowfin tuna in 2022 and so the advice is based on the 2021 assessment. On the weight-of-evidence available since 2018, the yellowfin tuna stock is determined to remain **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

#### **Skipjack tuna**

No new stock assessment was conducted in 2022 and so the advice is based on the 2020 assessment using Stock Synthesis with data up to 2019. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2020, the skipjack tuna stock is determined to be: (i) above the adopted biomass target reference point; (ii) **not overfished** ( $SB_{2019} > SB_{40\%SB0}$ ); (iii) with fishing mortality below the adopted target fishing mortality, and; (iv) **not subject to overfishing** ( $E_{2019} < E_{40\%SB0}$ ).

#### **Albacore tuna**

A new stock assessment was carried out for albacore in 2022 to update the assessment undertaken in 2019. Changes in stock status since the previous assessment are mainly due to changes in the CPUE. Thus, the stock status in relation to the Commission's interim  $B_{MSY}$  and  $F_{MSY}$  target reference points indicates that the stock is **not overfished** and is **not subject to overfishing**.

22. Full stock status summaries are available [here].
23. The Commission **ENQUIRED** as to the status of the report from the recently conducted YFT stock assessment external peer review workshop that was held in February 2023. The SC Chair explained that the report was currently being finalised by the expert panel and would be presented to the WPTT in October. Feedback will be provided to the Commission once the SC has been able to review the expert panel's recommendations. The SC Chair further clarified that the expert panel's recommendations would be used to improve future YFT stock assessments as well as guide future planning for YFT work.
24. The Commission **NOTED** that the SC was currently prioritising single species MSEs as there was a need to provide robust management advice on a species-by-species basis. However, the SC is also looking into the possibility of developing a multi-species MSE for tropical tunas, considering the nature of the tropical tuna fishery. In addition, the feasibility of incorporating environmental factors and climate change into the MSEs is being assessed.

#### ***The status of neritic tunas***

25. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of neritic tunas are as follows:

#### **Kawakawa**

No new stock assessment was conducted for kawakawa in 2022 and so the results are based on the assessment carried out in 2020 using data-limited assessment techniques. Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the kawakawa stock for the Indian Ocean is classified as **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**.

#### **Longtail tuna**

No new assessment was conducted for longtail tuna in 2022 and so the results are based on the assessment carried out in 2020 using the Optimised Catch-Only Method (OCOM). Based on the weight-of-evidence currently available, the stock is considered to be both **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

#### **Indo-Pacific king mackerel**

A new assessment was carried out in 2022 using the data-limited techniques (CMSY and LB-SPR). Based on the weight-of-evidence currently available, the stock is considered to be **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**.

#### **Narrowed-Barred Spanish mackerel**

No new assessment was conducted for narrow-barred Spanish mackerel in 2022 and so the results are based on the assessment carried out in 2020 using the Optimised Catch-Only Method (OCOM). Based on the weight-of-evidence available, the stock appears to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

#### **Bullet tuna**

A new assessment was carried out in 2022 using the data-limited techniques (CMSY and LB-SPR), however the catch data for bullet tuna are very uncertain given the high percentage of the catches that had to be estimated due to a range of reporting issues. Stock status in relation to the Commission's  $B_{MSY}$  and  $F_{MSY}$  reference points remains **unknown**.

#### **Frigate tuna**

A new assessment was carried out in 2022 using the data-limited techniques (CMSY and LB-SPR), however the catch data for frigate tuna are very uncertain given the high percentage of the catches that had to be estimated due to a range of reporting issues. Stock status in relation to the Commission's BMSY and FMSY reference points remains **unknown**.

26. Full stock status summaries are available [here].

### ***The status of billfish***

27. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of billfish are as follows:

#### **Swordfish**

An assessment was undertaken in 2020 using stock synthesis with fisheries data up to 2018. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2020, the stock is determined to be **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**.

#### **Striped Marlin**

In 2021 a stock assessment was conducted based on two different models: JABBA, a Bayesian state-space production model (age-aggregated); and SS3, an integrated model (age-structured). On the weight-of-evidence available in 2021, the stock status of striped marlin is determined to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

#### **Blue Marlin**

In 2022 a stock assessment was conducted based on two different models: JABBA, a Bayesian state-space production model (age-aggregated); and SS3, an integrated model (age-structured) (using data up to 2020). Both models were consistent with regards to stock status. On the weight-of-evidence available in 2022, the stock is determined to be **overfished** and **subject to overfishing**.

#### **Black Marlin**

A stock assessment based on JABBA, a Bayesian state-space production model (age-aggregated), was conducted in 2021 for black marlin. Since 2018, there has been no discernable improvement in the data available for black marlin and the subsequent assessment outputs remain uncertain and should be interpreted with caution. As such, there is no reasonable justification to change the stock status from "**Not assessed/Uncertain**".

#### **Indo-Pacific sailfish**

In 2022 a new stock assessment was conducted based on JABBA, a Bayesian state-space production model (using data up to 2019). On the weight-of-evidence available in 2022, the stock status of Indo-Pacific sailfish is determined to be **not overfished nor subject to overfishing**.

28. Full stock status summaries are available [here].

### ***Matters related to ecosystems, bycatch and the status of sharks***

29. The Commission **NOTED** that the current status of sharks are as follows:

#### **Blue shark**

No new stock assessment was carried out for blue sharks in 2022 and so the results are based on the assessment carried out in 2021 using an integrated age-structured model (SS3) (using data up to 2019). On the weight-of-evidence available in 2021, the stock status is determined to be **not overfished** and **not subject to overfishing**.

#### **Oceanic whitetip shark**

There is no quantitative stock assessment and limited basic fishery indicators currently available for oceanic whitetip sharks in the Indian Ocean therefore the stock status is **unknown**.

#### **Shortfin mako shark**

An assessment of shortfin mako sharks in 2020 was inconclusive. There is no quantitative stock assessment currently available for shortfin mako sharks in the Indian Ocean therefore the stock status is **unknown**.

30. Full stock status summaries are available [here].

### **Scientific Committee Recommendations**

31. The Commission **NOTED** the stock status summaries for species of tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as other species impacted by IOTC fisheries and considered the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee to the Commission. The Commission **ENDORSED** the Scientific Committee's 2022 list of recommendations as its own.
32. The Commission **NOTED** in particular, SC Recommendation 15 that Resolution 16/07 *On the use of artificial lights to attract fish* (which prohibits using artificial lights for the purpose of aggregating tuna and tuna-like species) does not apply to scientific studies.
33. The Commission **ENDORSED** those officials elected for the SC and its subsidiary (scientific) bodies for the coming years, as listed in Appendix 7 of the 2022 Scientific Committee Report.
34. On behalf of the Commission, the Chairperson thanked the outgoing Scientific Committee Chair, Professor Toshihide Kitakado (Japan) for his service to the Commission.

## **9. Conservation and Management Measures**

### **9.1 Current Conservation and Management Measures that include a reference to the year 2023.**

35. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2023-S27-04.
36. The Commission **THANKED** the Executive Secretary for presenting this document and **ENDORSED** the proposed measures to address climate change on the understanding that the measures would not negatively affect the work of the Secretariat. The Commission **ENCOURAGED** the Secretariat to report annually on the climate change measures being implemented.
37. The Commission, in the interests of transparency, **AGREED** that physical participation of Observers would not be discouraged.

### **9.2 Interpretation of Resolution 21/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence (Seychelles, refer to IOTC Circular 2023-21)**

38. The Commission **RECALLED** IOTC Circular 2023-21 in which Seychelles raised concerns about the ambiguity in the interpretation and implementation of Resolution 21/01 (Paragraph 14) and Resolution 19/01 (Paragraph 13), which preceded it and remains applicable for some Members.
39. The Commission **NOTED** that paragraph 13.b of Resolution 19/01, states that for 2020 and following years, 100% of that over-catch shall be deducted from the following two years limit. Additionally, Resolution 21/01, paragraph 14 provides for over-catch of limits recorded in 2020 and/or 2021, stating that 100% of that over-catch shall be deducted over the following two years limit in 2022 and/or 2023. The overlapping years within the two resolutions resulted in some CPCs having to pay-back the same over-catch, or portion of the same, twice.
40. The Commission **AGREED** that this situation was not the intended outcome of the Resolutions but is simply the result of drafting inconsistencies between Resolution 19/01 and 21/01, and further **AGREED** that in such case where payback applicable under Resolution 19/01 has been partially paid, it should not be paid back again under Resolution 21/01, but only the remaining over-catch amount should be paid to avoid causing a double penalty.
41. The Commission further **AGREED** that in the application of Resolution 21/01, over-catch repayment made under Resolution 19/01 should be taken into consideration and CPCs should only pay back the outstanding over-catch amount for the 2020-2021 period, rather than the full 100%. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat issue a revision to the yellowfin tuna allocated catch limit for 2023.

### 9.3 **Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement (IOTC-2023-S27-05)**

42. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2023-S27-05 which provided the Commission with information on the objections to several IOTC Resolutions (received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement) and how these Resolutions are therefore subsequently applied.

### 9.4 **Any remaining proposals for Conservation and Management Measures (Contracting Parties), noting that, some proposals will be considered under other agenda items, as relevant.**

43. The Commission **ADOPTED** the following nine Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs):

Resolution 23/3 On Establishing a Voluntary Fishing Closure in the Indian Ocean for the Conservation of Tropical Tunas [[Download here](#)]

44. The basis of this resolution was Proposal F.

Resolution 23/4 On Establishing Catch Limits for Bigeye Tuna in the Area of IOTC Competence [[Download here](#)]

45. The basis of this resolution was Proposal E which provided a revision to Resolution 05/01.

Resolution 23/5 On Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-scale Fishing Vessels [[Download here](#)]

46. The basis of this resolution was Proposal M which provided a revision to Resolution 22/02. The measure was discussed and adopted under section 12 (see below).

Resolution 23/6 On the Conservation of Cetaceans [[Download here](#)]

47. The basis of this resolution was Proposal K which provided a revision to Resolution 13/04.

Resolution 23/7 On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries [[Download here](#)]

48. The basis of this resolution was Proposal G which provided a revision to Resolution 12/06.

Resolution 23/8 On Electronic Monitoring Standards for IOTC Fisheries [[Download here](#)]

49. The basis of this resolution was Proposal H. The measure was discussed and adopted under section 12 (see below)

Resolution 23/9 On a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Working Group [[Download here](#)]

50. The basis of this resolution was Proposal J which provided a revision to Resolution 15/09.

Resolution 23/10 Terms of Reference for a Working Party on Socio-Economics [[Download here](#)]

51. The basis of this resolution was Proposal O.

Recommendation 23/11 To Enhance Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Decision Making Process [[Download here](#)]

52. The basis of this recommendation was Proposal I.

53. The Commission also **CONSIDERED** the following proposals:

IOTC-2023-S27-PropN and PropA Revision of Res 21-01 on management of yellowfin tuna.

54. As an adjunct to the deliberations on Prop's N and A, and following on from the 2022 meetings of the Members that objected to Resolution 21/01 that aimed to better understand the reasons behind the objections, the Chairperson convened several meetings of the objectors so their concerns could be aired and be considered in any new yellowfin proposal being developed. Adopted

55. After several revisions, the proponents deferred the proposal (a combination of PropA and PropN).

56. The proponents noted their disappointment in the lack of agreement on Management Measures for a stock assessed to be overfished and subject to overfishing by the SC. Kenya and Tanzania made a statement provided in [Appendix 4](#).

IOTC-2023-S27-PropB Multi-annual CMM Plan for tropical tunas.

57. This proposal was revised to only cover skipjack tuna after several members commented that they were uncomfortable adopting a single CMM covering all tropical tuna species within this proposal.

58. Despite the revisions, there was no agreement to adopt this proposal.

IOTC-2023-S27-PropC *On a high-seas boarding and inspection scheme.*

59. The proposal was based on the work done in recent years by the intersessional IOTC working group to discuss setting up a 'Regional high seas boarding and inspection scheme' created in 2014.

60. The proponents deferred their proposal when it became clear to them that the Commission would not be able to adopt it by consensus.

IOTC-2023-S27-PropD&L *On management of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs).*

61. After Proposals D and L were introduced, the proponents worked together to provide a common text. The proposal included elements of Resolution 23/02 with revisions that attempted to make the measures more acceptable to some of the members that have objected to this resolution. After several revisions, there was no agreement to adopt this proposal and it was deferred.

62. The Commission **NOTED** the progress made on DFAD management at S27 and **REQUESTED** that the Chair and Secretariat consider how to facilitate continued discussions on the issue during the intersessional period.

63. **NOTING** that this proposal, as well as the adopted Res 23/02 call for additional scientific analysis to provide advice to the Commission on the management of DFADs, the Commission **AGREED** that the FAD data provided in accordance with paragraph 24 of Resolution 19/02 shall be made available for scientific analysis, after applying the confidentiality rules outlined in Res 12/02.

IOTC-2023-S27-PropO *Recording and reporting catch and effort data (cf Res15-01)*

64. The basis for this proposal was Resolution 15/01 and included elements of the legal scrubbing exercise that proposed modifications to the current resolution. It also extended the coverage of the resolution to include additional gears and bycatch/non-target species.

65. Despite revisions made, the proponents deferred the proposal.

IOTC-2023-S27-PropP *Mandatory statistical reporting requirements (cf Res 15-02).*

66. The basis for this proposal was Resolution 15/02. As with PropO, this proposal increased the scope of the current resolution and included elements of the legal scrubbing exercise.

67. Despite revisions made, the proponents deferred the proposal.

IOTC-2023-S27-PropR *On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC.*

68. The proposal sought to combine several existing resolutions (18/02, 17/05, 13/06, 12/09 and 13/05) to cover all sharks species under a single management measure.

69. Despite revisions made, the proponents deferred the proposal.

70. The Commission **NOTED** the discussions on the issues of shark lines, wire leaders and fins naturally attached to reduce the impacts of IOTC fisheries on elasmobranchs, especially vulnerable species. The Commission also **NOTED** there is no clear advice from the IOTC Scientific Committee regarding the conservation and management of these elasmobranch populations in the IOTC area of competence.

71. The Commission **REQUESTED** the relevant Working Parties and IOTC Scientific Committee, at its 26th session, to review the latest science and best practices in other oceans and, in collaboration with the Compliance Committee as appropriate, provide advice to the Commission at S28 on technical and mitigation measures to strengthen the conservation of sharks. In particular advice on vulnerable species such as oceanic whitetip sharks, whale sharks and thresher sharks, and how to reduce the impact of tuna fisheries, including the following:

- the use of wire trace as branch lines or leaders and the use of branch lines running directly off the longline floats or drop lines, known as shark lines; and

- the application of fins naturally attached requirements to improve monitoring of elasmobranchs, prevention of the practice of shark finning, full utilization of caught sharks and effective monitoring of compliance with existing conservation and management measures.

## 10. Report of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria

72. The Independent Chairperson of the TCAC, Ms Nadia Bouffard, presented a summary of the report of TCAC11 which was held in Mombasa, Kenya, from 30 January to 2 February 2023 (IOTC-2023-TCAC11-R). Delegates from 27 Contracting Parties (China, Japan, Philippines, Somalia and Yemen participated virtually) and 11 observer organisations including invited experts participated in the session.
73. The Commission **NOTED** that the Chair had circulated a 5<sup>th</sup> version of an allocation proposal for the TCAC11 to consider.
74. The Commission **NOTED** that several members expressed frustration with the current TCAC negotiations and the lack of agreement on fundamental principles between members.
75. The Commission **ACKNOWLEDGED** that there is a need to conclude the process as quickly as possible, especially given the overfished status of several of the main IOTC stocks. Several members expressed concern that they have dedicated significant resources to the work of the TCAC with little progress towards an agreement.

## 11. Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures

76. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) (IOTC-2023-TCMP06-R) and **ENDORSED** the following TCMP recommendation:
- The TCMP **NOTED** the recommendation by the SC that it is advisable to have focused dialogue with managers on those MSEs which are more advanced such as that for SKJ and SWO. The TCMP therefore **RECOMMENDED** that a virtual TCMP is convened early in 2024 with a special focus on the MSEs for SKJ and SWO, and that it be held back-to-back with the WPM(MSE) meeting.
77. The Commission **SUPPORTED** the work conducted by the TCMP and its role in providing science-based advice for management. However, the Commission **AGREED** that the dialogue in the TCMP has become too technical and has limited the involvement of managers in recent years, as most of the discussions take place among the technical experts.
78. The Commission **URGED** the TCMP to continue with capacity building initiatives to facilitate understanding of the process and increase participation by all parties with the aim of managers being better able to contribute to the implementation of the MSE process. The Commission **ACKNOWLEDGED** that an MSE capacity building workshop is planned to be held in September 2023.
79. The Commission **REQUESTED** the MSE developers to communicate the results of their analyses in a less technical manner and **ENDORSED** the creation of a small working group to discuss and agree on ways to improve communication between the scientists and the managers. This could include modifying the existing templates for presentation of MSE outputs to increase understanding and better meet the needs of the managers.

## 12. Report of the Compliance Committee

### 12.1 Overview of the CoC20 Report

80. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 20th Session of the Compliance Committee (IOTC-2023-CoC20-R), which was presented by the Compliance Committee's Chairperson, Dr Indra Jaya (Indonesia). Delegates from 25 Contracting Parties (Members), one Cooperating Non-Contracting Party and 11 Observers, including Invited Experts, participated in the meeting.
81. The Commission **NOTED** the responses of both Pakistan and Somalia on their failure to participate in the work of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Compliance Committee and the difficulties that they faced to provide the mandatory reports that would allow the Compliance Committee to fully assess their compliance status.

82. The Commission **NOTED** the IOTC 2023 Provisional IUU Vessels List and the recommendations of the Compliance Committee for the Commission to adopt an IUU Vessels List. The Commission **FURTHER NOTED** the recommendation to update the flag status of three vessels, SEA VIEW, SEA WIND and PROGRESO, and to delete one vessel, EROS DOS, from the current IOTC IUU Vessels List.
83. The Commission **ENDORSED** the recommendations arising from the Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Compliance Committee as its own.

### **12.2 Adoption of the List of IUU Vessels**

84. The Commission **AGREED** that the eleven Indian flagged vessels (AKASH, ANNAI VELAMKANNI, ARPUTHA MATHA, BENEDICTA, EASRON, EL SHADI, EMMANUEL, GIFT OF GOD, SHARJI AMMA, STAR OF THE SEA, YAHOVA NICY) be included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List.
85. The Commission **FURTHER AGREED** that the Sri Lankan flagged vessel (IMUL-A-2159-CHW (SANJANA PUTHA)) should not be included in the IOTC IUU Vessels List.
86. The Commission **ADOPTED** the IOTC IUU Vessels List [[download here](#)]. All CPCs shall be required to take the necessary measures regarding the IUU Vessels List in accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution 18/03.

### **12.3 Requests for the accession to the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party**

87. The Commission **NOTED** the application for renewal of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) status from the Republic of Liberia. The Commission **FURTHER NOTED** the presence of Liberia in the Compliance Committee and Commission meetings and **AGREED** to renew the CNCP status of Liberia, until the end of the Commission meeting in 2024.

## **13. Proposed Amendments to the IOTC rules of procedure**

### **13.1 Proposal to amend Rule X of the IOTC Rules of Procedure**

88. The Commission **NOTED** document IOTC-2023-S27-03 that proposed an amendment to Rule X of the IOTC Rules of Procedure on voting arrangements and proceedings.
89. The proponents informed the Commission that they had received a range of comments on their proposal leading up to S27, and on the basis of these comments they agreed to defer the matter until S28 to allow further consultations with other members and with the FAO Legal Office. The proponents requested the Commission to provide any additional comments or feedback before 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

### **13.2 Proposal to amend Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure**

90. The Commission **NOTED** the Compliance Committee's endorsement to amend Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2022) *on the Compliance Committee terms of reference and rules of procedure*, and after making some amendments, the Commission **ADOPTED** the revision to Appendix V as provided in [Appendix 5](#).

## **14. Report of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance**

### **14.1 Overview of the SCAF20 report**

91. The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 20th Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) (IOTC-2023-SCAF20-R), which was presented by the SCAF Chairperson, Dr Hussain Sinan (Maldives). Delegates from 26 Contracting Parties and 5 Observers participated in the meeting.
92. The Commission **NOTED** the SCAF's concerns with the increased budget lines determined by FAO rules and beyond the control of the IOTC (i.e. the FAO entitlement fund and FAO servicing costs) and **FURTHER NOTED** the SCAF's request for the Commission to consider resuming the discussion on IOTC leaving FAO.
93. The Commission **ENDORSED** the SCAF20 list of recommendations as its own, **NOTING** in particular:
- (i) that a small working group will be convened to review the efficacy of the rules of procedure for the administration of the IOTC MPF and the MPF budget (Appendix VIII of the IOTC Rules of Procedure) and report the outcomes of the review to SCAF21.

(ii) the election of Mr Muhammad Farhan Khan (Pakistan) as SCAF Chairperson and Dr Muhammed Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury (Bangladesh) as SCAF Vice-Chairperson for the next biennium.

(iii) on an exceptional basis, and only if required, that the Working Capital Fund be used to:

- Contribute up to \$40,000 of additional budget for interpretation services to IOTC meetings in 2023.
- Contribute additional budget to the MPF to meet the expected high demand in 2023. The total expenditure for the MPF in 2023 shall not exceed \$290,000.
- Contribute up to \$40,000 of additional budget to the MPF in 2024.
- Contribute to the cost of meetings that are required to be hosted by the Secretariat in 2024.
- Contribute to any additional work to migrate IOTC's systems and website to FAO in 2024.
- Contribute to the FAO Employer entitlement fund budget line in 2024, given this budget was reduced.

#### **14.2 SCAF recommendations on a proposal to amend the IOTC Headquarters Agreement**

94. The Commission **APPROVED** the revisions to the annex of the IOTC HQ Agreement proposed by the SCAF ([Appendix 6](#)), and requested the Executive Secretary to, forthwith, assist the Government of Seychelles and FAO to amend the current agreement.

#### **14.3 SCAF recommendations on draft rules of procedure for the IOTC Working Capital Fund**

95. The Commission **ADOPTED** Rules of Procedure for the operation of the IOTC Working Capital Fund ([Appendix 7](#)) and requested the Executive Secretary to inform the FAO Finance Committee of this addition to the IOTC Financial Regulations.

#### **14.4 Adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission**

96. The Commission **NOTED** the concerns expressed by some Members about the \$50,000 allocated in the budget for the work of the Independent TCAC Chairperson in 2024 and **AGREED** that this amount should be considered as provisional.

97. The Commission **REQUESTED** the Executive Secretary consult with the TCAC Chairperson and find some work options that would result in the budget being reduced, and suggest these to the Heads of Delegation for consideration and intersessional approval.

98. The Commission **NOTED** the indication from some members that they would like to see the Chairing of the TCAC be aligned with that of other IOTC subsidiary bodies, with Chairs coming from the membership.

99. The Commission **AGREED** to retain the \$10,000 allocated in the budget for the development of simulation tools for the allocation regime, but **STRONGLY URGED** the Secretariat to undertake the proposed work in-house and, in doing so, develop the capacity to use and refine the tools, as is expected to be required, once the allocation regime is in place.

100. The Commission **ADOPTED** the programme of work and budget for 2024, the indicative budget for 2025 ([Appendix 8](#)), and the schedule of contributions for 2024 as provided in [Appendix 9](#).

101. On behalf of the Commission, the Chairperson thanked the outgoing SCAF Chair, Dr Sinan Hussain (Maldives) for his service to the Commission.

#### **14.5 Schedule of meetings for 2024**

102. The Commission **ADOPTED** the schedule of meetings for its subsidiary bodies for 2024 as detailed in [Appendix 10](#), noting the Scientific Committee, in December 2023, will finalise the dates of the science meetings.

### **15. Any Other Business**

#### **15.1 Cooperation with other organisations and institutions**

103. The Commission **NOTED** paper IOTC-2023-S27-06 that listed the bodies with which it is currently collaborating.

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104. The Commission **NOTED** documents IOTC-2023-CoC20-07 and IOTC-2022-SC25-INF01 which contained draft instruments for collaborative arrangements between the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA), respectively.
105. The Commission **AGREED** on the text of the instruments and **REQUESTED** that these be sent to the respective organisations for their consideration.
106. The Commission **AGREED** that, if required, the Executive Secretary and the Chairperson can liaise between the organisations on any further un-substantive amendments to the instruments, and if they are not substantive, the Executive Secretary shall sign the instruments on behalf of the Commission once they are approved.

### **15.2 Election of the Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

107. The Commission re-elected Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Korea, Rep. of) as Chairperson of the IOTC for the next biennium.
108. The Commission re-elected Mr Adam Ziyad (Maldives) and Mr Qayiso Mketsu (South Africa) as Vice-Chairpersons for the next biennium.

### **15.3 Date and place of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission in 2024**

109. The Commission unanimously **THANKED** the Government of Mauritius for hosting the 27<sup>th</sup> Session and for the warm welcome, the excellent facilities and assistance provided to the IOTC Secretariat and Commission in the organisation and running of the Session.
110. The Commission **THANKED** Thailand for its generous offer to host the 28th Session of the Commission, the 21st Session of the Compliance Committee, the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Technical committee on Management Procedures in Thailand from 5 to 17 May 2024.
111. The Commission also **THANKED** the European Union for its generous offer to host the 29th Session of the Commission and associated meetings (dates to be confirmed) in Reunion in 2025.

## **16. Adoption of the report of the 27th Session of the Commission**

112. The report of the 27th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC-2023-S27-R) was **ADOPTED** by correspondence on 26 July 2023.

## APPENDIX 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**APPENDIX 2.****AGENDA OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION**

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
- 2. LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS**
- 3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**
- 4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**
- 5. ON THE RECRUITMENT OF THE NEW IOTC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (FAO)**
- 6. DETERMINATION OF THE STATUS OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF UNITED KINGDOM "BIOT" IN THE IOTC (Mauritius)**
- 7. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION IN 2022 (S26) (IOTC-2023-S27-02)**
- 8. REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (IOTC-2022-SC25-R)**
  - 8.1.** Overview of the 2022 SC25 Report (SC Chairperson)
  - 8.2.** Discussion on any related conservation and management measures
- 9. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**
  - 9.1.** Current Conservation and Management Measures that require action by the Commission in 2023 (IOTC-2023-S27-04).
  - 9.2.** Interpretation of Resolution 21/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence* (Seychelles, refer to IOTC Circular 2023-21).
  - 9.3.** Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement (IOTC-2023-S27-05)
  - 9.4.** Any remaining proposals for Conservation and Management Measures (Contracting Parties), noting that, some proposals will be considered under other agenda items, as relevant.
- 10. REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA (IOTC-2023-TCAC11-R)**  
Overview of the TCAC11 Report (TCAC Chairperson)
- 11. REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**  
Overview of the TCMP06 Report (TCMP Chairperson)
- 12. REPORT OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (IOTC-2023-CoC20-R)**
  - 12.1.** Overview of the CoC20 Report (CoC Chairperson)
  - 12.2.** Adoption of the List of IUU Vessels
  - 12.3.** Requests for accession to the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party
- 13. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE**
  - 13.1.** Proposal to amend Rule X of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (IOTC-2023-S27-03)
  - 13.2.** Proposal to amend Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (IOTC-2023-CoC20-13 & IOTC-2023-CoC20-R)
- 14. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE (IOTC-2023-SCAF20-R)**
  - 14.1.** Overview of the SCAF20 Report (SCAF Chairperson)
  - 14.2.** SCAF recommendations on a proposal to amend the IOTC Headquarters Agreement (see also IOTC-2023-SCAF20-09)
  - 14.3.** SCAF recommendations on draft rules of procedure for the IOTC Working Capital Fund (see also IOTC-2023-SCAF20-10)
  - 14.4.** Adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission (see also IOTC-2023-SCAF20-08)
  - 14.5.** Schedule of meetings for 2024-2025
- 15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
  - 15.1.** Cooperation with other organisations and institutions (IOTC-2023-S27-06\_Rev1)
  - 15.2.** Election of the Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
  - 15.3.** Date and place of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission and the meetings of its associated subsidiary bodies in 2024
- 16. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

**APPENDIX 3.**  
**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Document	Title
IOTC-2023-S27-01a	Provisional agenda for S27 (v7 March).
IOTC-2023-S27-01b	Provisional agenda for S27 (v9April).
IOTC-2023-S27-01c	Provisional agenda for S27 (v8May)
IOTC-2023-S27-02	Progress on the requests for action made to the Secretariat.
IOTC-2023-S27-03	Proposal to Amend Rule X of the IOTC ROP (Maldives)
IOTC-2023-S27-04	Report on current CMMs that include a reference to the year 2023
IOTC-2023-S27-05	Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement
IOTC-2023-S27-06	IOTC collaborative arrangements - an overview
IOTC-2023-S27-PropA	Proposal to amend Resolution 21/01: On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence (Tanzania)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropB	On a multi-annual conservation and management plan for tropical tunas (cf. Resolution 21/01) (European Union)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropC	On a high seas boarding and inspection scheme (European Union)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropD	On management of drifting fish aggregating devices (DFADS) in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Resolution 23/02) (European Union)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropE	On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the area of IOTC competence (cf. Resolution 05/01) (Japan)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropF	On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Resolutions 21/01 & 23/02) (Mauritius)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropG	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries (cf. Resolution 12/06) (Australia)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropH	On electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries (Australia)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropI	To enhance cooperation in the Indian ocean tuna commission decision making process (Korea, Rep. of)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropJ	On a fish aggregating devices (FADS) working group (Korea, Rep. of)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropK	On the conservation of cetaceans (cf. Resolution 13/04) (Korea, Rep. of)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropL	On management of drifting fish aggregating devices (DFADS) in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Resolution 23/02) (Korea, Rep. of)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropM	On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels (cf. Resolution 22/02) (Indonesia)

Document	Title
IOTC-2023-S27-PropN	Proposal to amend resolution 21/01: on an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Resolution 21/01) (Kenya)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropO	On the recording and reporting of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence (cf. Resolution 15/01) (Seychelles)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropP	Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs) (cf. Resolution 15/02) (Seychelles)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropQ	Proposal to establish a working party on the socioeconomic aspect of the fisheries in the IOTC area of competence (Seychelles)
IOTC-2023-S27-PropR	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC (cf. Resolutions 18/02, 17/05, 13/05, 13/06 & 12/09) (Maldives)
<b>Reference documents</b>	
IOTC-2022-SC25-INF01	Draft Cooperation Agreement between the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA & IOTC)
IOTC-2023-S27-REF01	Oman proposal to Res 21-01 on an interim plan for rebuilding yellow fin tuna stock (Oman)
IOTC-2023-S27-REF02	Update on the implementation of Kenya's National Fleet Development Plan 2016-2025 and Implication on Yellow Fin catch Allocation (Kenya)
IOTC-2023-S27-REF03	Seychelles Text on Agenda 9.2 (Seychelles)
<b>Relevant reports from other meetings</b>	
IOTC-2023-CoC20-R	Report of the 20 <sup>th</sup> session of the IOTC Compliance Committee.
IOTC-2023-SCAF20-R	Report of the 20 <sup>th</sup> session of the IOTC Standing Committee on Administration and Finance.
IOTC-2023-TCAC11-R	Report of the 11th session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria.
IOTC-2022-SC25-R	Report of the 25th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee
IOTC-2023-TCMP06-R	Report of the 6 <sup>th</sup> session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures
<b>Information papers</b>	
IOTC-2023-S27-INF01	Information Paper of China on catch of Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna by fleet of Mainland in IOTC Area
IOTC-2023-S27-INF02	Information Paper of Indonesia's Pilot Project on Transshipment at Sea
IOTC-2023-S27-INF03a	IOTC S27 Day 1 Recap (Monday, May 8)
IOTC-2023-S27-INF03b	IOTC S27 Day 2 Recap (TUESDAY, May 9)
IOTC-2023-S27-INF03c	Days 3 to 5 S27 Indicative Schedule

Document	Title
IOTC-2023-S27-INF03d	IOTC 27 Day 3 Recap and plan for Day 4
IOTC-2023-S27-INF03e	IOTC Day4 to 5 S27 Indicative Schedule
IOTC-2023-S27-INF03f	IOTC 27 Day 4 Recap and plan for Day 5
IOTC-2023-S27-INF04	Oman's presentation to IOTC S27
IOTC-2023-S27-INF05	Pakistan's declaration to IOTC S27
IOTC-2023-S27-INF06	ANBJ Tuna Project IOTC update_May 2023
<b>NGO Statements</b>	
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO01	ANCORS Observer paper: Data confidentiality workshop report
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO02	WWF Position paper for 27th Session of the IOTC
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO03	2023 EIJ-Oceana-Pew-WWF Coalition Briefing
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO04	Approaches to Evaluate and Strengthen RFMO Compliance Processes and Performance. A Toolkit and Recommendations (PEW & ISSF)
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO05	ANCORS Information paper on Disproportionate Burden
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO06	ISSF-Position-Statement-March-2023
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO07	Pew Statement to the 27th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO08	Key Traceability - Position Statement from the Indian Ocean tuna - longline (Bumble Bee & FCF) FIP to IOTC
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO09	Key Traceability - Position Statement from the Indian Ocean tuna - longline (Thai Union) FIP to IOTC
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO10	GTA-TUPA-WWF Overarching Statement
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO11	IOTC Objections Report GTA-TUPA-WWF
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO12	IOTC 27th Session-IGFA Position Statement
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO13	Sharkproject Observer Statement 27th Session 2023
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO14	WWF report - IUU fishing of shrimp and tuna in the South West Indian Ocean
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO15	EUROPECHE tuna group ETG 27th session IOTC
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO16	Shark Guardian Statement to IOTC Commission Meeting 27
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO17	IPNLF IOTC Position Statement 2023
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO18	Blue Marine Statement in advance of the 27th Session of IOTC
IOTC-2023-S27- NGO19	IOTC May 2023 Factsheet#1-dFADs (WWF)
IOTC-2023-S27-NGO20	IOTC May 2023 Factsheet#2-yellowfin-tuna (WWF)
IOTC-2023-S27-NGO21	IOTC final position statement (FPAOI and SWIOTUNA)

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## **APPENDIX 4.**

### **STATEMENT BY KENYA AND TANZANIA**

#### **Chairperson and Distinguished delegates of the commission**

Kenya and Tanzania would wish to register their disappointment with IOTC for lack of proper guidance and support to the exploitation and conservation of the Yellow Tuna Stocks in the Indian Ocean. Our proposal was tabled on the floor which ultimately aimed at meeting the inspiration of developing our fisheries to support livelihoods of hundred millions of marginalized people, and supporting the rebuilding of the Yellow fin tuna. We all agreed there is a need to reduce the yellow fin catches and also give the small harvesters a chance to develop their fisheries. We also agreed that we should not have hard limits to the small harvesters but rather should have a soft limit as has been done for the big eye tuna.

You may recall that the 25<sup>th</sup> IOTC Scientific Committee in 2022 informed the Commission that the yellowfin tuna stocks are overfished and subject to overfishing. This in return will lead to depletion of the stock at an alarming rate. The current measure of resolution 21/01 aims at limiting the yellowfin catches at MSY of 405, 000 MT against the recent Scientific Committee advice of 349,000 MT.

To realize this reduction, yellowfin tuna catches need to be reduced by a further 14% which will not be possible as of now and in the near future. If action is not taken now it will eventually lead to the collapse of the yellowfin tuna stocks.

We wish to remind the Commission that the objective of the IOTC *is to promote cooperation among the members with the view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by the IOTC Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks* according to the best scientific evidence available.

However, the IOTC has failed to take action on rebuilding the yellowfin stocks. Consequently, the poor coastal fishers will bear the greatest burden of the consequences. Are we converting the IOTC to a commission without teeth, that is keen on maintaining the status quo and disregarding the scientific evidence? Burying our heads in the sand when scientific advice has been offered by the Scientific Committee is illogical.

Madam Chair, we are aware that for long time some CPCs have benefited from the exploitation of the stocks and some have various options to harvest the resources and will happily move to other oceans while the Indian Ocean developing coastal CPCs, especially Tanzania and Kenya remain with nothing to feed their populations.

Madam Chair, in conclusion we believe that coastal developing CPCs should tap into the available resources and enjoy equitable access to enable them utilize these resources to achieve tangible development within the region. We urge the Commission to continuously look for ways through which this can be achieved. This will give coastal communities incentives to not only participate in sustainable development of the resources but also to offer solutions to the economic development of their communities and accrue benefits from the Indian Ocean resources.

Thank you.

**APPENDIX 5.****THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE****1. Meeting of the Compliance Committee**

The meetings of the Compliance Committee shall be held for a period of at least 2 days to assess individual IOTC Contracting Parties (Members) and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties' (hereinafter referred together as "CPCs") compliance and implementation with their obligations as Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties of IOTC.

**2. Mandate and Objectives of the Compliance Committee**

- a) The Compliance Committee shall be responsible for reviewing all aspects of CPCs individual compliance with articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.
- b) The Compliance Committee shall report directly to the Commission on its deliberations and recommendations.
- c) The Compliance Committee shall cooperate closely with other IOTC subsidiary bodies in order to remain informed on all issues concerning compliance with applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.
- d) The work of the Compliance Committee shall be guided by the following overall objectives:
  - i) To provide a structured forum for discussion of all problems related to effective implementation of, and compliance with articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures
  - ii) To gather and review information relevant to compliance with articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures, and from documents submitted by CPCs (e.g. Reports of Implementation and standard questionnaires on compliance) or IOTC subsidiary bodies
  - iii) To identify and discuss problems related to the implementation of, and compliance with, articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures, and to make recommendations to the Commission on how to address these problems, including considering all available responses to CPC non-compliance.
  - iv) To promote a positive compliance culture that focuses on improving CPCs overall compliance with the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC conservation and management measures.

**3. The terms of reference of the Compliance Committee shall be to:**

- a) Review each individual CPC's compliance with articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary to ensure their effectiveness, notably in relation to:
  - i) The mandatory statistical requirements and all issues related to obligatory reporting and data providing, including non-targeted species;
  - ii) The level of CPCs' conformity with articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;
  - iii) The level of CPCs' conformity with the resolutions concerning the limitation of the fishing capacity;
  - iv) The status of implementation of resolutions for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement adopted by the Commission (e.g. Port inspections, VMS, follow-up on infringements and market related measures);
  - v) The reporting on authorised as well as active vessels in IOTC area of competence, in particular, in relation to the IOTC Resolution on fishing effort limitation.

b) The Compliance Committee shall also be tasked to:

- i) Compile reports, with the help of the IOTC Secretariat, based on information submitted by CPCs in accordance with the various Resolutions adopted by the Commission and, which will form the basis for the compliance review process.
- ii) Develop a structured, integrated approach to evaluate the compliance of each CPC against articles X.1, X.2 and XI.2 of the IOTC Agreement and applicable Conservation and Management Measures, as described in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 below. The Chair of the Compliance Committee, assisted by the IOTC Secretariat, will identify, select and transmit the significant non-compliance issues to each CPC and submit them for discussion at the Compliance Committee meeting.
- iii) Issue its recommendation on the compliance status of each CPC at the end of the meeting, in accordance with the process described in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 below.
- iv) Develop a scheme of incentives and, where appropriate, other follow-up actions including a mechanism for their application to encourage compliance by all CPCs.
- v) Perform such other tasks as directed by the Commission.

4. IOTC Compliance Committee preparatory works:

a) In preparation for the meeting of the IOTC Compliance Committee the IOTC Secretariat shall:

- i) Provide each CPC on a secure section of the IOTC website, and notified by email 4 months prior to the annual meeting, a standard questionnaire on compliance with the various binding applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures covering the previous calendar year. Such questionnaire shall also seek information on any follow-up actions by CPCs in response to the previous year's IOTC Final Compliance Report as stipulated in paragraph 6, for receiving comments and answers from the concerned CPCs no later than 80 days before the Commission meeting.
- ii) Compile CPCs' initial replies to the questionnaire in the form of a draft IOTC Compliance Report. The draft IOTC Compliance Report shall summarise all available information relating to each CPC's implementation of and compliance with obligations for review by the IOTC Compliance Committee and shall include the suggested compliance status based on Annex A for each compliance issue identified. It shall also include relevant information regarding compliance with the submission of the annual report referred in articles X.1 and X.2 of the IOTC Agreement.
- iii) The draft IOTC Compliance Report shall be provided to the relevant CPC on a secure section of the IOTC website and notified by email no later than 70 days before the Commission meeting. Upon website posting of the relevant draft report, each CPC may reply to the IOTC Secretariat no later than 30 days before the Commission meeting in order to (where appropriate):
  1. provide additional information, clarifications, amendments or corrections to information contained in its draft report;
  2. identify any particular difficulties with respect to implementation of any obligations;
  3. identify technical assistance or capacity building needed to assist the CPC with implementation of any obligations; and/or
  4. propose a change to any suggested compliance status based on justified grounds.
- iv) The Secretariat shall then produce the IOTC Summary Compliance Report based on the draft Compliance Report of each CPC. The IOTC Summary Compliance Report shall form the basis for the compliance examination process described in paragraphs 5 and 6 and shall include, *inter alia*, a summary of each CPC's compliance with obligations, any compliance issues identified and a suggested preliminary compliance status by the Secretariat in accordance with Annex A.
- v) The IOTC Summary Compliance Report shall be made available to all CPCs on the IOTC website no later than 25 days before the Commission meeting.

5. Provisional IOTC Compliance Report

- a) At each meeting, the IOTC Compliance Committee shall review the IOTC Summary Compliance Report, taking into account information contained in the report, as well as any further suitably documented information provided prior to or at the Compliance Committee meeting. The Compliance review process shall be undertaken CPCs by CPCs as well as measure by measure and obligation by obligation, as needed, and if required, prioritising non-compliance of category 2 and other recurring compliance issues. The Compliance Committee may request any CPCs that have relevant information to provide further details. The Compliance Committee shall also discuss non-submission or late submission of the questionnaire referred to in paragraph 4.a)i).
- b) On the basis of the information available, the Compliance Committee shall recommend a Provisional Compliance Report. The IOTC Provisional Compliance Report shall record any compliance issues identified, including an assessment of compliance status in accordance with Annex A. The IOTC Provisional Compliance Report shall record suggested follow-up actions in respect of compliance issues identified, in accordance with Annex A, including timeframes for implementation.
- c) For the purposes of the Provisional and Final IOTC Compliance Report, "Compliance Status" shall be based on the following information:
  - i) For a CPC-level quantitative limit or collective CPC quantitative limit, such as a limit on fishing capacity, fishing effort, or catch: verifiable data indicating that the limit has not been exceeded.
  - ii) For other obligations:
    1. Implementation – where an obligation applies, the CPC is required to inform and provide support documents, in national language if French and English are not available, that it has adopted, in accordance with its own national policies and procedures, binding measures that implement that obligation; and
    2. Monitor and ensure compliance – the CPC is required to provide information showing that it has a system or procedures to monitor compliance of vessels and persons with these binding measures, a system or procedures to respond to instances of non-compliance and has taken action in relation to potential infringements.
- d) The IOTC Provisional Compliance Report shall, where appropriate, also include recommendations to the Commission regarding:
  - i) any remedial action taken, or proposed to be taken, by the CPC;
  - ii) priority obligations to be reviewed for the next compliance assessment cycle, during the process described in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6; and
  - iii) other responsive action, including incentive measures which may be considered by the Commission as appropriate.

#### 6. IOTC Final Compliance Report

The Commission shall consider the IOTC Provisional Compliance Report and any associated or other relevant information, including responses to compliance issues and follow-up actions recommended by the Compliance Committee and adopt it, with amendments as required, as the IOTC Final Compliance Report.

- 7. The process described in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 shall be reviewed by the Compliance Committee after the compliance assessment process has been completed in full once. The Compliance Committee shall make recommendations to the Commission on future improvements to the process if necessary.
- 8. The Compliance Committee should take into consideration the capacity constraints and extenuating circumstances of developing coastal states. Nothing in this document shall contravene any obligation and special considerations provided for coastal fisheries in applicable IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.
- 9. The procedures of the Compliance Committee shall be governed *mutatis mutandis* by the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

**APPENDIX V – ANNEX A**  
**COMPLIANCE STATUS CATEGORIES**

Compliance status	Criteria	Possible follow-up action
<b>Compliant</b>	<p>A CPC will be deemed Compliant where there are no compliance issues with an obligation, including the following (where applicable) have all been met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. reporting or submission deadlines;</li> <li>b. implementation of obligations through national laws, regulations or administrative orders;</li> <li>c. submission of all mandatory information or data required, in the agreed format, as applicable.</li> </ol>	No action required.
<b>Partially compliant</b>	<p>A CPC will be deemed Partially Compliant with an obligation if any of the following have occurred, as applicable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. information or data for the obligation has been submitted or reported, but in a way that is incomplete or incorrect;</li> <li>b. a CPC has failed to meet reporting or submission deadlines by less than 15 days;</li> <li>c. has failed to implement, monitor or ensure compliance with some but not all obligations specified in that CMM.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No further action:</b> the CPC demonstrates that it has already taken appropriate action and no further action is required.</li> <li>• <b>Follow-up action needed:</b> the CPC shall provide additional information or address the compliance issue within a given period of time, and at the latest before the following annual meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Commission.</li> </ul>
<b>Non-compliant category 1</b>	<p>A CPC will be deemed to be non-compliant category 1 if any of the following have occurred, as applicable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the CPC has not submitted or reported information or data for the obligation;</li> <li>b. the CPC has failed to meet a reporting or submission deadline by more than 15 days;</li> <li>c. the CPC has failed to implement, monitor or ensure compliance with an obligation.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No further action:</b> the CPC demonstrates that it has already taken appropriate action and no further action is required.</li> <li>• <b>Follow-up action needed:</b> the CPC shall address the compliance issue within a given period of time, and at the latest before the following annual meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Commission.</li> </ul> <p>The follow-up action shall be appropriate to the relevant compliance issue and shall include one or more of, but are not limited to, the following responses, taking into account the history, circumstances, extent,</p>

		<p>and gravity of the compliance issue.</p> <p><b>Actions to be taken by the CPC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- actions proposed by the CPC and endorsed by the Commission;</li> <li>- the completion of an investigation by the CPC regarding a compliance issue and reporting back to the Compliance Committee, where required;</li> <li>- enhanced monitoring of the fleet;</li> <li>- amendments to domestic procedures, legislation or policy including penalties, where required;</li> <li>- other remedies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions recommended by the Compliance Committee and endorsed by the Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the provision of capacity building or technical assistance for a specified amount of time;</li> <li>- other remedies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Non-compliant category 2</b></p>	<p>A CPC will be deemed to be non-compliant category 2 with an obligation if any of the following have occurred, as applicable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. exceeding quantitative limit established by the Commission in two or more consecutive year;</li> <li>b. failure to respect a catch limit deduction resulting from an over-catch;</li> <li>c. failure to submit the standard questionnaire on compliance;</li> <li>d. failure to submit the implementation report;</li> <li>e. failure to provide nominal catch data, including zero catches for one or more species for two or more consecutive year;</li> <li>f. failure to report back against follow-up actions agreed by the Commission for compliance issues;</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>No further action:</b> the CPC demonstrates that it has already taken appropriate action and no further action is required;</li> <li>● <b>Follow-up action needed:</b> the CPC shall submit, within 3 months from the end of the Commission annual session, a detailed plan and timeline on how it intends to address the non-compliance of category 2 identified.</li> </ul> <p>The follow-up actions and plan shall be appropriate to the relevant compliance issue and shall include one or more of, but are not limited to, the following responses, taking into account the history, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the compliance issue:</p> <p><b>Actions to be taken by the CPC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- submission of a detailed plan and timeline to address the non-</li> </ul>

	<p>g. failure to implement, monitor or ensure compliance with a non-retention ban on a species for two or more consecutive years;</p> <p>h. failure to provide nominal catch data in time for the conduct of stock assessment for one or more species for two or more consecutive years;</p> <p>i. failure to implement, monitor or ensure compliance with the same obligation for two or more consecutive years.</p>	<p>compliance of category 2 identified;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- actions proposed by the CPC and endorsed by the Commission;</li> <li>- the completion of an investigation by the CPC regarding a compliance issue and reporting back to the Compliance Committee, where required;</li> <li>- enhanced monitoring of the fleet;</li> <li>- amendments to domestic procedures, legislation or policy including penalties, where required;</li> <li>- other remedies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions recommended by the Compliance Committee and endorsed by the Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the provision of capacity building or technical assistance for a specified amount of time;</li> <li>- other remedies.</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity building in progress</b>	A CPC will be assessed as “capacity building in progress” with an obligation if this CPC is benefiting from an IOTC capacity building activity intended to address the implementation with this obligation	
<b>N/A</b>	The measure does not apply to the CPC	

**APPENDIX 6.**  
**HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT**

**ANNEX TO THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT**

Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Headquarters Agreement states that the Government of Seychelles shall make available for the exclusive use of IOTC, free of charge, the premises necessary for the performance of the functions of its headquarters.

Paragraph 2 of Article 1 points out that the offices and other facilities made available to IOTC for this purpose are described in the annex to the Headquarters Agreement.

As a consequence, the present annex to the Headquarters Agreement describes the offices offered to IOTC by the Government of Seychelles and lists the other facilities provided to IOTC by the Government.

The Government of Seychelles undertakes to:

- (i) provide to IOTC for its exclusive use, modern offices commensurate with IOTC requirements and United Nations Minimum Operating Security Standards situated in Victoria or nearby; including a meeting room, a staff lunch room and secure parking;
- (ii) arrange for and bear the cost of any necessary safety features, maintenance (including daily cleaning) and repairs to the premises referred to in (i) above;
- (iii) install and provide electricity and water needed for the use of the office premises and bear the consumption costs;
- (iv) install data and telephone lines;
- (v) provide a vehicle for the exclusive use of IOTC, which will be replaced every five years;
- (vi) ensure permanent security of the premises of IOTC in line with United Nations Minimum Operating Security Standards.

**APPENDIX 7.**  
**WORKING CAPITAL FUND**

1. The Commission has established a Working Capital Fund (WCF) for the purpose of accommodating operating expenditures prior to the receipts of funds from members of the Commission under Regulation IV(5) of the IOTC Financial regulations.
2. Insofar as possible, the Commission shall, at a minimum, maintain the WCF at a level equivalent to the level of total annual staff costs contained in the current budget.
3. The WCF shall be replenished from surplus appropriations, savings from the annual budget, interest paid on the balance of WCF, receipt of arrears, and voluntary contributions explicitly devoted to it. If the WCF drops below the aforementioned minimum level, the Commission may consider including a contribution to the WCF in the budget of the next calendar year.
4. At each regular session, the Commission shall review the amount available in the WCF as part of the reporting procedures in Regulation V(5) of the IOTC Financial Regulations.
5. Members shall not interpret the funds in the WCF as a means of avoiding or reducing contributions or having contributions, once paid, returned to them.
6. Depending on the balance of the WCF, the WCF may be used, on an exceptional basis, to:
  - (i) pay for emergency expenses such as unforeseen, unavoidable, unpostponable, unbudgeted for and not otherwise absorbable intersessional expenses or emergencies.
    - (a) The Executive Secretary shall approve emergency expenditures up to a maximum of \$10,000 per budgetary year, subject to consideration and authorisation by both the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson of SCAF. The IOTC Heads of Delegations will be immediately informed of each such expenditure.
    - (b) In the event that a proposed emergency use of the WCF exceeds \$10,000 per budgetary year, after consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson of SCAF, the Executive Secretary shall seek agreement for the expenditure from the Members of the Commission via email to the respective HOD and ALT. If, within 3 working days of being notified, a Head of Delegation raises an objection to the proposed emergency use of the WCF, a meeting of the IOTC Heads of Delegations shall be convened immediately to consider and decide on the matter;
  - (ii) accommodate extraordinary but foreseeable large and one-off expenses to the operational budget as determined by the Commission at its Annual Session when adopting the budget for the next fiscal year;
  - (iii) cover any expenses in an amount that prevents the annual budget from exceeding an increase of 10%, beyond the control of the Commission, as determined by the Commission at its Annual Session.
  - (iv) Implement activities funded by a voluntary contribution that have been prioritized by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
7. Except as provided for in paragraph 6(i)(a) of these WCF Rules of Procedure, in accordance with Article XIII of the IOTC Agreement, the Commission should decide on each extraordinary use of the WCF, as defined in paragraph 6, by consensus of its Members. However, if, after every effort has been made, a consensus cannot be reached, the matter will be put to a vote and decided by the position of a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting.

**APPENDIX 8.**  
**IOTC BUDGET FOR 2024 AND INDICATIVE BUDGET FOR 2025 (USD)**

		Actuals 2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff costs</b>				
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Professional</b>				
	Executive Secretary (D1)	199,441	209,731	193,955	197,834
	<i>Science</i>				
	Science Manager (P5)	156,175	157,578	153,979	157,059
	Stock Assessment Expert (P4)	135,718	137,920	135,007	137,707
	Fishery Officer (Science P3)	105,270	105,643	103,832	105,909
	<i>Compliance</i>				
	Compliance Manager (P5)	150,904	151,972	148,581	151,553
	Compliance Coordinator (P4)	140,806	143,330	140,209	143,013
	Compliance Officer (P3)	101,578	103,146	101,421	103,449
	<i>Data</i>				
	Data Coordinator (P4)	137,496	137,920	135,007	137,707
	Statistician (P3)	105,065	105,643	103,832	105,909
	Fishery Officer (P2) Data	-	89,230	85,680	87,394
	Fishery Officer (P1) Data	67,766	69,083	68,140	69,503
	<i>Admin.</i>				
	Administrative Officer (P3/P4)	125,747	128,190	123,073	125,535
<b>1.2</b>	<b>General Service</b>				
	Administrative Assistant	24,563	20,478	23,682	24,156
	Office Associate	21,440	17,430	20,870	21,288
	Database Assistant	24,563	20,478	23,682	24,156
	Office Assistant	15,707	13,121	15,766	16,081
	Driver	11,969	0	0	0
	Overtime	1,245	5,100	5,100	5,202
	<b>Total Salary Costs</b>	<b>1,525,454</b>	<b>1,615,993</b>	<b>1,581,818</b>	<b>1,613,454</b>
1.3	Employer Pension and Health	423,543	437,021	484,028	493,708
1.4	Employer FAO Entitlement Fund	632,563	670,875	700,000	714,000
1.5	Adjustment entitlement fund	27,534			
1.6	Improved Cost Recovery Uplift	75,627	78,993	80,210	81,814
	<b>Total Staff Costs</b>	<b>2,684,722</b>	<b>2,802,883</b>	<b>2,846,055</b>	<b>2,902,976</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Operating Expenditures</b>				
2.1	Capacity Building	17,885	62,000	65,000	65,000
2.2	Co-funding Science/Data grants	0	0	0	0
2.3	Co-funding Compliance grants	0	0	0	0
2.4	Consultants/Service Providers	411,685	542,400	422,180	422,180
2.5	Duty travel	83,794	165,000	145,000	145,000
2.6	Meetings	182,507	17,000	84,000	84,000
2.7	Interpretation	75,964	135,000	220,000	220,000
2.8	Translation	99,412	115,000	105,000	105,000
2.9	Equipment	18,342	35,000	20,000	20,000
2.10	General Operating Expenses	60,290	76,000	83,350	83,350
2.11	Contingencies	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
	<b>Total OE</b>	<b>949,879</b>	<b>1,157,400</b>	<b>1,154,530</b>	<b>1,154,530</b>
	<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>3,634,601</b>	<b>3,960,283</b>	<b>4,000,585</b>	<b>4,057,506</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Additional Contributions Seychelles</b>	-31,917	-28,750	-28,750	-28,750
<b>4</b>	<b>FAO Servicing Costs</b>	162,338	178,213	180,026	182,588
<b>5</b>	<b>Meeting Participation Fund</b>	25,000	0	250,000	250,000
				-	-
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,790,022</b>	<b>4,109,746</b>	<b>4,401,862</b>	<b>4,461,344</b>

7%

**APPENDIX 9.**  
**IOTC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2024 (USD)**

Country	World Bank Classification in 2020	OECD Membership	Average catch for 2019-2021 ( in metric tons)	Base Contribution	Operations Contribution	GNI Contribution	Catch Contribution	Total Contribution (in USD)
Australia	High	Yes	4,638	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$13,765	\$194,014
Bangladesh	Middle	No	7,479	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$4,440	\$74,642
China	Middle	No	64,809	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$38,472	\$108,674
Comoros	Middle	No	13,862	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$8,229	\$78,431
European Union	High	Yes	238,831	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$708,874	\$889,123
France(Terr)	High	Yes	0	\$15,179	\$0	\$146,729	\$0	\$161,908
India	Middle	No	153,614	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$91,188	\$161,390
Indonesia	Middle	No	425,860	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$252,798	\$323,001
Iran, Islamic Republic of	Middle	No	257,777	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$153,022	\$223,224
Japan	High	Yes	11,571	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$34,343	\$214,592
Kenya	Middle	No	3,435	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$2,039	\$72,241
Korea, Rep of	High	Yes	21,033	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$62,428	\$242,677
Madagascar	Low	No	8,513	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$0	\$5,053	\$38,573
Malaysia	Middle	No	22,352	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$13,269	\$83,471
Maldives	Middle	No	141,630	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$84,074	\$154,276
Mauritius	Middle	No	24,871	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$14,764	\$84,966
Mozambique	Low	No	6,423	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$0	\$3,813	\$37,333
Oman	High	No	103,044	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$61,169	\$241,418
Pakistan	Middle	No	43,059	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$25,560	\$95,763
Philippines	Middle	No	0	\$15,179	\$0	\$36,682	\$0	\$51,861
Seychelles	High	No	133,856	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$146,729	\$79,460	\$259,708
Somalia	Low	No	0	\$15,179	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,179
South Africa	Middle	No	827	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$491	\$70,693
Sri Lanka	Middle	No	102,898	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$61,082	\$131,285
Sudan	Low	No	170	\$15,179	\$0	\$0	\$101	\$15,280
Tanzania	Middle	No	16,334	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$9,696	\$79,898
Thailand	Middle	No	22,664	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$36,682	\$13,454	\$83,656
United Kingdom	High	Yes	214	\$15,179	\$0	\$146,729	\$634	\$162,542
Yemen	Low	No	31,210	\$15,179	\$18,341	\$0	\$18,527	\$52,047
			<b>Total</b>	<b>440,186</b>	<b>440,186</b>	<b>1,760,745</b>	<b>1,760,745</b>	<b>4,401,862</b>

The World Bank has replaced GNP with gross national income (GNI per capita). GNI more fairly compares nations with widely different populations and standards of living.

**APPENDIX 10.**  
**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2024**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG)	12 February
Vessel Monitoring System Working Group (VMSWG)	13 February
Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM)	14-16 February
MSE Task Force	12-16 February
Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP)	19-21 February
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC) 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting	25-28 February
Compliance Committee (CoC)	5-7 May
Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF)	8 May
Report adoption: CoC (am) / SCAF (pm)	9 May
Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP)	10-11 May
<b>Commission (S28)</b>	13-17 May
Ad hoc Working Group on FADs (WGFAD)	27-28 May
Working Party on Tropical Tunas – data preparation (WPTT-DP)	29-31 May
Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WGEMS)	12-14 June
Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT)	8-12 July
Working Party on Billfish (WPB)	9-12 September
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB)	23-27 September
Ad hoc Working Group on FADs (WGFAD)	4-8 October
Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC) 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting	15-18 October
Working Party on Methods (WPM)	24-26 October
Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT)	28 October-2 November
Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS)	26-30 November
Scientific Committee (SC)	2-6 December