



IOTC annual meeting – 16-20 May 2022

Meeting with stakeholders – LDAC – 22 March 2022

Marco Valletta

General framework of the meeting

- Hybrid meeting – according to precise modalities
- Consequences of the hybrid format
- Deadline for submission of the proposals: 16 April – **work with MS is still ongoing – so this is just an indication of our reflection**

Potential priorities for discussion:

1. Review of the existing FAD resolution
2. Assessment of the best way forward to bring the current rebuilding plan for yellowfin tuna in line with the scientific advice
3. Follow-up of last year discussion on skipjack
4. EU proposal on reviewing the current rules of procedure of the compliance committee
5. Additional issue: observers coverage, high seas inspections

Possible FAD proposal

- The 2021 debate – lessons learned and way forward
- The conclusions of both WG on FAD and IOTC scientific committee
- Potential EU proposal will have to improve the rationality of the current resolution and address three fundamental issues :
 1. Number of FADs
 2. Biodegradability
 3. Tracing and monitoring
- Importance of a stable legal framework and a fair approach addressing the different aspects

YFT discussion

- Resolution 21/01 an important step forward that should not be underestimated – EU biggest contributor
- The effectiveness of the rebuilding plan is put in question by the high number of objections (6)
- The new stock assessment confirms the situation of the stock and requests further catch reduction
- Limited uncertainty persist – peer review foreseen by 2023
- The solution has to be found through a mechanism that ensures that everybody takes a fair share of the catch reductions
- Additional catch reductions can be agreed only if we get rid of objections

Skipjack

- The EU comprehensive proposal of 2021 was rejected and a rendez-vous resolution proposed by the Maldives has been adopted
- In 2020 skipjack catches from the Indian Ocean were 555,211t and the maximum catch limit calculated applying the HCR is 513,572t for the period 2021-2023. Slight improvement as compared to last year
- We expect the subject to be on the table again this year and we are currently defining our position in this respect
- In line with the principles of our 2021 resolution, we have a general opening to discuss limited catch reductions, provided the envisaged solution is fair

Review of the RoP of the Compliance Committee

- Objective: to streamline and strengthen the CPCs compliance assessment in IOTC thus improving compliance
 - a) Increased involvement from CPCs and the Commission in the assessment and follow-up;
 - b) Framework of possible responses to non-compliance situations: the current letter of non-compliance is replaced by a non-exhaustive list of specific actions to be undertaken by the CPC;
 - c) Grading of the different infractions according to their seriousness;
 - d) Ensuring an appropriate follow-up to infractions.

Observers

- Lack of implementation of the observers' coverage: Resolution 11/04
- We should start a reflection on how the Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) can help in addressing some of the issues linked to the observer coverage
- The EU is considering tabling and discussing a proposal that would:
 - ✓ introduce precise metrics to calculate the observer coverage
 - ✓ allow the EMS, once adequate standards are adopted, to complement human observers or partially replace them in specific situations.

High sea boarding inspections framework

Objective: relaunch the discussion on the opportunity to establish a framework to conduct inspection at sea, to ensure the respect of IOTC CMM and support the fight against IUU fishing

Based on the latest draft prepared by the ad hoc IOTC working group on High Seas Boarding and Inspection in 2016

Provisions would be in line with the existing scheme in SIOFA to ensure regional coherence

- only authorised vessels and inspectors to conduction inspection;
- established priorities for inspection;
- planned notification and exchanges of report;
- established duty for the inspecting and inspected parties;
- definition of serious infringements.

Thank you!!!

marco.valletta@ec.europa.eu