



SWIOFC/WPCCTF/19/7 E

## SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

### Ninth Working Party on Collaboration and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries

Maldives, 29 September 2019

### OUTCOMES OF THE 23<sup>rd</sup> IOTC SESSION

The 23rd Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held in Hyderabad, India from 17-21 June 2019. The meeting was chaired by Ms Susan Imende (Kenya). A total of 163 delegates attended the session, comprising 130 delegates from 24 Contracting Parties (Members) of the Commission, 3 delegates from 2 Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, 28 delegates from 12 Observers to the Commission (including 7 Invited Experts) and 2 delegates from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Seven Conservation and Management Measures were adopted by the Commission as follows:

Resolution 19/01 On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of competence.

Reflects concerns on the status of the stock – and implies catch reductions for different fleets, changes to use of supply vessels, overcatch adjustments and the encouragement to phaseout gillnets and set at 2 m.

Resolution 19/02 Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan.

Encourage CPCs to submit Management Plans for the use of FADs and set limits for their use.

Resolution 19/03 On the conservation of mobulid species caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Recognizing the ecological and cultural significance of mobulid rays in the Indian Ocean and the concerns about possible impacts on these species by the different fisheries occurring from coastal areas to the high seas, prohibits targeting and retaining mobulid rays and requires live release.

Resolution 19/04 Concerning the IOTC Record of Vessels Authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Updates existing measures and includes additional information requirements (IMO number, vessel details, owners) and colored vessel photographs.

Resolution 19/05 On a ban on discards of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna, and non-targeted species caught by purse seine vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Presents a clarification to the clause on retention. The exception to the list of non-targeted species retained now includes: “fish unfit for human consumption, and/or species which are prohibited from retention, consumption, or trade through domestic legislations and international obligations”

Resolution 19/06 On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels.

Incorporate amendments related to reporting requirements. Transshipment operations within the Maldives between pole and line fishing vessels, and collector vessels flagged in the Maldives and registered on the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels shall be exempted from the data reporting requirements

Resolution 19/07 On vessel chartering in the IOTC Area of Competence.

Present amendments related to what needs to be reported by the chartering vessel, and the attribution of catches in a chartering arrangement to the chartering contracting party.

The Report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, held in Hyderabad, India, from 17-21 June 2019, including the detailed adopted CMMs, is available for downloading at the IOTC website [https://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019/09/IOTC-2019-S23-RE\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019/09/IOTC-2019-S23-RE_FINAL.pdf)