



# Summary of IOTC Outcomes 2022

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GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

## Yellowfin Tuna

### PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

#### Reason for failure:

India, Oman & Somalia - maybe others) noted they would not accept any cuts.

#### Consequences:

- Another special session was agreed for February.
- Anything agreed at that session, or at the 27th session, will begin in Jan 24 - so we face an additional 12 months fishing overfished yellowfin way above MSY.
- We estimate that catches could be around 440,000mt whereas MSY is 349,000mt. As a result the stock is likely to decrease further, necessitating larger cuts to rebuild.

## Skipjack HCR

### PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

#### Reason for failure:

EU & Maldives were unable to agree on a joint text, but the primary reason for withdrawal was because some CPCs had said they would object to any cuts.

#### Consequences:

- The skipjack catch will continue to exceed the agreed harvest control rule TAC.
- This may have consequences on the MSC certified skipjack fisheries\* as they have conditions to demonstrate that exploitation levels required under the HCR are being achieved. I have asked the MSC to clarify the situation.

\* CFTO Indian Ocean Purse Seine Skipjack fishery; Echebatar Indian Ocean purse seine skipjack tuna & Maldives pole & line skipjack tuna.

## FAD Management Improvements

### PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

#### Reason for failure:

The EU's FAD proposal was withdrawn following several objections to a lack of dFAD closure, and the inclusion of aFADs in the proposed CMM.

#### Consequences:

- Another special session was agreed. Details TBC.
- It was a huge missed opportunity to improve the management of FADs in the Indian Ocean.

## Strengthening Statistical Reporting

### PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

#### Reason for failure:

Many coastal states refused to support it. The primary point of contention was a proposal for coastal fisheries to report catches monthly.

#### Consequences:

- This was a recommendation from SciCom.
- We may continue to struggle with poor data reporting.

## Strengthening The CPCs Compliance Assessment

### PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

#### Reason for failure:

Blocked by India & Somalia.

#### Consequences:

- Discussions will continue intersessionally. However, this discussion has been ongoing for four years now.
- The proposal would have established a framework of possible responses to non-compliance situations, grading of the different infractions according to their seriousness, ensuring an appropriate follow-up to infractions, improving overall compliance.
- Backward step in combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

## Strengthening High-Seas Boarding To Combat IUU Fishing

### PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

#### Reason for failure:

Blocked by India

#### Consequences:

- Unclear what will happen to the proposal. EU may re-table.
- However, this proposal would have equipped the IOTC with a monitoring, control and surveillance tool able to improve compliance with CMMs.
- As above - this is a backwards step in combatting IUU.



## Bigeye Management Procedure

**ADOPTED**

### Consequences:

- Next step is for the SciCom to recommend a TAC for bigeye based upon the management procedure.
- Big question is whether this will be adopted and how it is allocated.

## Climate Change Measures

**ADOPTED**

### Consequences:

- Good proposal which aims support improving CPCs understanding of the impact of climate change on tuna stocks and the ecosystems of which they are part, and build the capacity of developing State CPCs to address the impacts of climate change on tuna stocks and fisheries, through the improvement of climate science in such states.
- However, agreeing two special sessions whereby hundreds of delegates will fly across the globe does seem somewhat in conflict with the aims.

## Transshipment Improvements

**ADOPTED**

### Consequences:

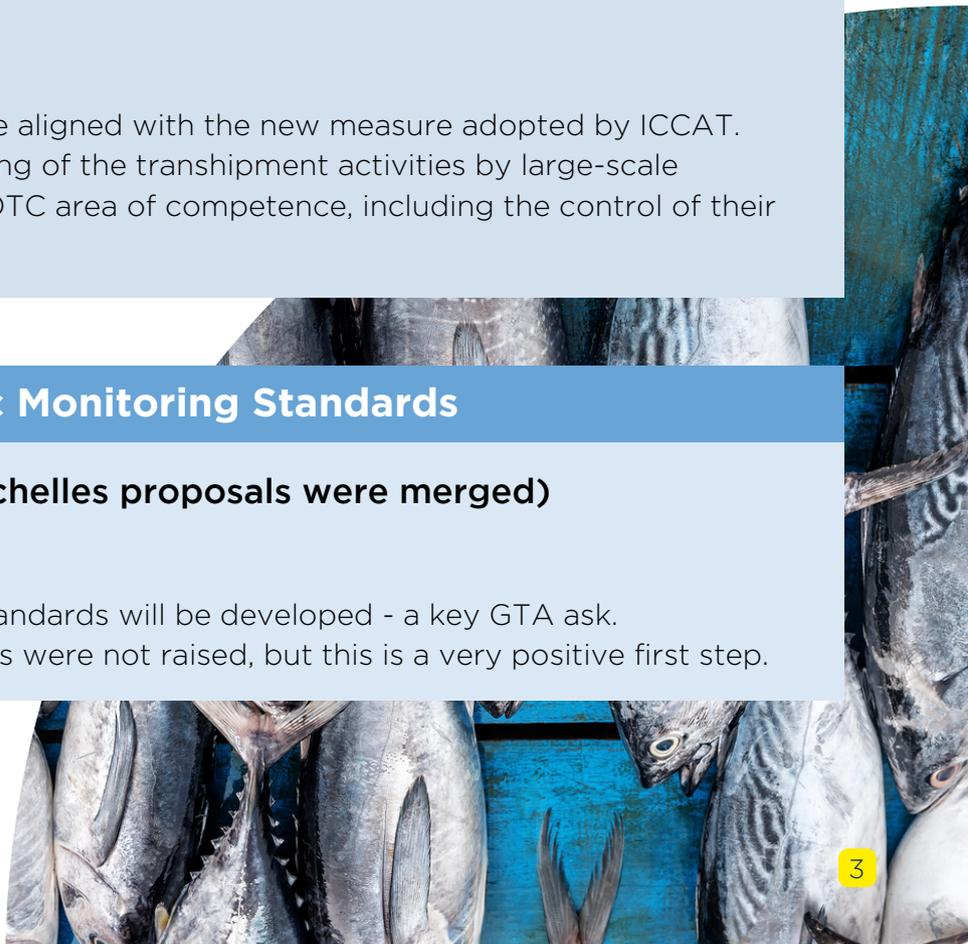
- Good proposal. IOTC are aligned with the new measure adopted by ICCAT.
- Will ensure the monitoring of the transshipment activities by large-scale longline vessels in the IOTC area of competence, including the control of their landings.

## Developing Electronic Monitoring Standards

**ADOPTED** (EU & Seychelles proposals were merged)

### Consequences:

- Electronic Monitoring standards will be developed - a key GTA ask.
- Observer coverage levels were not raised, but this is a very positive first step.





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