



Summary of IOTC Outcomes 2023

GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna



PROPOSAL ADOPTED

Consequences:

- Establishes catch limits to ensure that the total annual catches (TAC) recommended by the Scientific Committee are upheld.
- Only applicable to CPC's harvesting more than 2,000 tonnes. Coastal developing CPC's subject to less of a reduction than distant water nations and developed CPC's.
- Requests the SC to conduct an impact analysis by fleet on BET stock, including an analysis on the contribution to increased MSY by replacing FADs fishery with free-school fishery.

On electronic monitoring standards



PROPOSAL ADOPTED

Consequences:

- This Resolution directs the IOTC Scientific Committee to develop and agree on electronic monitoring minimum standards for Indian Ocean fisheries by 2024 at the latest.

To enhance co-operation in the IOTC



PROPOSAL ADOPTED

Consequences:

- Notes the increasing polarization of views of CPCs over some of the crucial issues in the IOTC, resulting in deadlock.
- A symbolic Resolution, suggesting that CPCs should "enhance and recall the spirit of cooperation".

On a FAD working group



PROPOSAL ADOPTED

Consequences:

- Seeks to clarify the responsibilities of the ad hoc Working Group (WG) on FADs. It had only met 3 times since the adoption of the relevant Resolution in 2015 and there was uncertainty over its role.
- The Resolution will mean that the WG will meet once a year now unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

On the conservation of cetaceans



PROPOSAL ADOPTED

Consequences:

- Proposal aims to ensure the sustainability of cetaceans in the IOTC area of competence through expanding the scope of application to longline and gillnet.
- Asks CPCs to collect and report as much information and data as possible including use of Electronic Monitoring System.

On reducing incidental longline bycatch of seabirds



PROPOSAL ADOPTED

Consequences:

- Amends Res 12/06 to include hook-shielding devices as an additional option for seabird mitigation, reflecting the recommendations made by the IOTC Scientific Committee.
- The measure is optional for fleets to implement but ensures they won't be prevented from doing so.

Program for transshipment by large scale



PROPOSAL ADOPTED

Consequences:

- Extends a pilot project for two more years which exempts Indonesian wooden carrier vessels from a regional observer programme which monitors transshipment at sea by large scale fishing vessels.
- This allows them to transship fresh and frozen fish.

Interim plan for rebuilding yellowfin tuna



PROPOSAL ADOPTED

Consequences:

- To achieve rebuilding of the Bigeye and Yellowfin stocks and bring back Skipjack catches closer to the MSY level in a collective effort.
- **It should be noted that this proposal was revised from its original wording so that it is a purely voluntary measure, meaning it is likely to have little impact on rebuilding the stock.**



PROPOSAL ADOPTED

Consequences:

- This Resolution establishes a working party to identify socio-economic indicators and data standards that would be required to be submitted by CPCs as well as other sources of derived data.
- It further requires that in adopting any measures in relation to management, conservation, and optimum utilisation of stock, the Commission considers the need for the continuity of supplies and the potential impacts on the socio-economic development of developing coastal States.
- The Resolution makes the Commission consider the potential magnitude of impacts, both positive and negative, that resolutions and recommendations may have on developing coastal States, and the outcomes of such decisions are discussed particularly where there may be significant jeopardy to the national economies, or constrain coastal States development.

On high seas boarding and inspection scheme



PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

Reason for failure:

- Either deferred or to be potentially taken offline for bilateral/other discussion.

Consequences:

- It would have established a high seas boarding and inspection (HBSI) scheme to equip IOTC with monitoring, control and surveillance tools with the aim of improving compliance with conservation and management measures.

On replacement of dFADs Resolution



PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

Reason for failure:

- While the EU and Korean dFAD proposal merged early on, following debate, the Chair concluded that an agreement could not be reached.

Consequences:

- Tried to address the "fracture" on FADs by replacing Resolution 23/02 on managing dFADs. It sought to task the Scientific Committee with exploring the effectiveness of different mitigation measures on the health of stocks.

On management of dFADs



PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

Reason for failure:

- While the EU and Korean dFAD proposal merged early on, following debate, the Chair concluded that an agreement could not be reached.

Consequences:

- Would have amended Resolution 23/02 which placed management measures on use of dFADs.

On the recording and reporting of catch and effort data



PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

Reason for failure:

- Either deferred or to be potentially taken offline for bilateral/ other discussion.

Consequences:

- It was a proposed amendment to Resolution 15/01 which mandated a requirement for recording and reporting of catch and effort data. The amendment would have extended this mandate to record and report on bait data

On the conservation of sharks



PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

Reason for failure:

- Either deferred or to be potentially taken offline for bilateral/ other discussion.

Consequences:

- Proposal would have removed "redundancies and inconsistencies" within the IOTC's existing CMMs for sharks, and sought to improve legal certainty by merging, improving and superseding these Resolutions: 18/02, 17/05, 13/06, 12/09 and 13/05.

Amend 21/01: an interim plan for rebuilding yellowfin tuna



PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

Reason for failure:

Merged with a proposal from Kenya and temporarily Mauritius, who eventually withdrew. There was lots of debate and discussion but an agreement could not be reached.

Consequences:

- Amendment would have exempted small island development states (SIDS) and least developed states (LDSs) who rely on tuna fishing for sustenance from the previous catch limits set at 2,000 tonnes for their artisanal fisheries for those ships below 10m operating in the EEZ of LDS and SIDS.

Amend 21/01: an interim plan for rebuilding yellowfin tuna



PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

Reason for failure:

Merged with a proposal from Tanzania and temporarily Mauritius, who eventually withdrew. There was lots of debate and discussion but an agreement could not be reached.

Consequences:

- Proposal would have seen yellowfin tuna catches distributed equally between IOTC members based on the most recent Scientific Committee advice.

Tropical tunas conservation & management plan



PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

Reason for failure:

Subject to revision so that only affected skipjack and not all three tropical tuna species, however it was still unsuccessful.

Consequences:

- Proposal would have established a common management plan for the three tropical species.
- Catch limits would have been defined stock by stock and applied over 3 years to allow the fleets to adapt.
- In order to avoid that objections could undermine the proposal, entry into force would have been conditional to the absence of objections corresponding to more than 20% of the level of catches of any 3 tropical tunas.



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