

Report from the CCSBT Observer (Indonesia) to the 6th Special Session and 27th Annual Meeting of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Observer for CCSBT (Indonesia)

1. The 6th Special Session of the IOTC was held in Mombasa, Kenya from 3-5 February 2023 chaired by Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Rep. of Korea).
2. The Special Session was held to consider the use of fish aggregating devices (FAD) in the IOTC area. The Commission adopted two Conservation and Management Measures, one on anchored FADs, the other on drifting FADs.
 - a. Resolution 23/01 *On management of Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (AFADs)* was adopted by consensus after discussion.
 - b. Resolution 23/02 *On Management of Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs) in the IOTC area of competence* was adopted by vote. A number of Contracting Parties voiced concern about holding a vote on the measure.
3. 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). The meeting was held between 8-12 May 2023 in Mauritius.
4. Letters of Credentials were received from 29 Contracting Parties and 1 Cooperating Non-contracting Party (Liberia). The Commission admitted 29 Observers (including the invited experts).
5. 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. These amendments were adopted to streamline and strengthen the IOTC compliance assessment process.
6. The Commission adopted the following nine Conservation and Management Measures:
 - a. Resolution 23/03 *On Establishing a Voluntary Fishing Closure in the Indian Ocean for the Conservation of Tropical Tunas.*
 - b. Resolution 23/04 *On Establishing Catch Limits for Bigeye Tuna in the Area of IOTC Competence.*
 - c. Resolution 23/05 *On Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-scale Fishing Vessels.*
 - d. Resolution 23/06 *On the Conservation of Cetaceans.*
 - e. Resolution 23/07 *On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.*
 - f. Resolution 23/08 *On Electronic Monitoring Standards for IOTC Fisheries.*
 - g. Resolution 23/09 *On a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Working Group.*

- h. Resolution 23/10 *Terms of Reference for a Working Party on Socio-Economics.*
 - i. Recommendation 23/11 *To Enhance Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Decision Making Process.*
7. 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.
 8. The Commission adopted a programme of work and budget and a corresponding scheme of contributions amounting to USD 4,401,862 for the 2024 calendar year.
 9. 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).
 10. The Commission adopted a schedule of meetings for 2024. 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 and Mr Qayiso Mketsu (South Africa) as second Vice Chairperson for the next biennium.
 11. The 27th Session of the IOTC, and associated meetings, will be held from 5-17 May 2024, hosted by Thailand.