

**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER TO  
26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission 16-20 May 2022**

**CCSBT Observer (Indonesia)**

The 26th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held in Seychelles on 16-20 May 2022. Delegates from 27 Contracting Parties, 1 Cooperating non-Contracting Party and 21 Observers including Invited Experts participated in the Session. The meeting was Chaired by the Chairperson, Ms Jung-re Riley Kim (Rep. of Korea).

The Commission considered the fish aggregating device (FAD) measure voted on at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOTC and additional legal advice provided by the FAO Legal Counsel. Following discussions on the validity of the vote taken at S25 and possible processes the Commission might use to arrive at a decision on whether to adopt PropE\_Rev2, Kenya informed the Commission that it was withdrawing the proposal.

**Adopted Resolution**

The Commission adopted 4 Conservation and Management Measures, as follows:

1. Resolution 22/01 on Climate Change as It Relates to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
2. Resolution 22/02 on Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels
3. Resolution 22/03 on a Management Procedure for Bigeye Tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence
4. Resolution 22/04 on a Regional Observer Scheme

**Amendments to the IOTC procedures**

The Commission adopted a procedure for the selection and recruitment of the IOTC Executive Secretary forthwith revising Rule V.2 and Appendix II of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.

The Commission adopted a new standard for letters of credentials, forthwith revising Appendix I of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.

**IOTC IUU Vessel List**

The IOTC IUU Vessels List was updated and 8 new vessels were added by the Commission in 2022.

**Requests for the Accession to the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party**

The Commission granted the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party to Liberia until the close of the 27th Session in 2023.

## **Other Issues**

In regard to the clarification of the status of the United Kingdom's membership of the IOTC as a coastal State, given competing claims to ownership of the Chagos Archipelago, the Commission agreed that its consultation with the United Kingdom under Article IV.4 of the IOTC Agreement has started and a final determination on the United Kingdom's status will be made at S27.

The Commission agreed to enter into collaborative arrangements with the International Whaling Commission, the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan, and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Meeting of the Parties.

## **Next Meeting**

The Commission agreed to convene two Special Sessions of the Commission in the first quarter of 2023 for the purpose of reaching agreement on a yellowfin tuna rebuilding plan and for advancing FAD management measure discussions, respectively.

The 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOTC will be held from 30 April to 12 May 2023, hosted by Mauritius.