

ON ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES DIALOGUE

SUBMITTED BY: MALDIVES, 22 APRIL 2016

Explanatory Memorandum

The IOTC Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Work Program was formulated in earnest following adoption of the proposal to implement precautionary approach for managing IOTC species in 2012. The Work Program was endorsed at S15 and the MSE work on key tropical species (ALB, SKJ, YFT and BET) started with oversight of the Chair of the WPM.

Since then major advances have been made. A major impediment for progress so far has been lack of understanding of the principles and processes of the MSE by the commissioners and the managers. To that end, a series of the workshops and capacity building exercises have been conducted to help understand the process. These include 'Workshops on Connecting the IOTC Science and Management Processes' and more recently following the adoption of the Resolution 14/03 'On Enhancing the Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers' series of workshops on 'Management Procedures Dialogue'. So far 3 workshops of each have been held with the objective of educating and creating dialogue between the scientists and managers. Furthermore, information sessions on Management Procedures evaluated using MSE have been held during the Scientific Committee and Commission meetings.

While the MSE work on SKJ and ALB have progressed to an advanced stage for which managers need to agree on management policy (such as admissible risk level of breaching limit reference points and the desired degree of precaution in achieving management objectives according to the decision framework in Resolution 15/10), but so far there has not been an agreed process and mechanism to capture the discussions and the consensus in a formal way to present to the Commission for adoption.

This gap was identified in the most recent WPM06 where it was proposed to form a high level Technical Committee on Management Procedures. The idea is to have members of the Commission represented at this Committee where MP/MSE material are presented in a more formal way for the science and management dialogue to enhance decision-making

RESOLUTION 16/XX

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Keywords: Reference Points, Harvest Control Rules, Precautionary Approach, Management Strategy Evaluation.

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

HAVING responsibility for the sustainable utilisation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean;

RECOGNISING the need for action to ensure the achievement of IOTC objectives to conserve and manage tuna resources in the IOTC area of competence;

RECALLING Article 6, paragraph 3, of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA), on the strengthening of existing organisations and arrangements;

RECALLING that the IOTC Scientific Committee has initiated a process leading to a Management Strategy Evaluation process to improve upon the provision of scientific advice on Harvest Control Rules (HCRs);

FURTHER RECALLING that the IOTC has embarked upon a dialogue process as agreed in Resolution 14/03 *on enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers*, which required that a series of three Science and Management Dialogue Workshops is held between 2014 and 2017;

NOTING the need, expressed by the Scientific Committee, to strengthen the communication on the MSE process between the Scientific Committee and the Commission, in order to facilitate consideration of the elements of the MSE that require endorsement by the Commission ;

RECOGNISING that the Scientific Committee RECOMMENDED that the Commission consider establishing a formal communication channel for the science and management dialogue to enhance decision-making through a dedicated Technical Committee on Management Procedures (SC18.18);

ADOPTS in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, that:

1. A Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) co-chaired by the Commission Chair (or designee) and the Scientific Committee Chair (or designee) is established with the objectives to address the priorities identified in Resolutions 14/03 *on enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers*, 15/10 *on target and limit reference points and a decision framework* or any subsequent resolutions addressing Management Strategy Evaluation and Management Procedures.
2. The TCMP shall meet prior and in conjunction with the annual Commission Session, to facilitate full attendance by CPCs and shall present its report to the Session that follows.
3. The TCMP shall focus on the presentation of results and exchange of information necessary for the Commission to consider possible adoption of Management Procedures utilizing standard formats for the presentation of results to facilitate understanding of the material by a non-technical audience.
4. The agenda of the TCMP shall place emphasis on the elements of each Management Procedure that require a decision by the Commission. The adoption of Management Procedures is an iterative process that allows for adjustments as the work, and the understanding of the elements involved, progresses.
5. The Terms of Reference, for the TCMP should include:
 - a. Identifying, evaluating, and recommending management procedures for the IOTC fisheries, which are consistent with the objectives of the IOTC Agreement, including socioeconomics, food security, etc., identified by the Commission, the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries and the precautionary approach for the consideration of the Commission. Specifically, consideration of the following:
 - b. Overarching management objectives to guide the development of management procedures for the IOTC fisheries;

- c. Target and Limit Reference Points with reference to the use of interim B_{MSY} and F_{MSY} or other proxies as Target and Limit Reference Points as identified in Resolution 15/10 on interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework (or any subsequent revision);
 - d. Harvest Control Rules (HCRs), and associated probabilities of achieving these targets or limits, allowing, in particular, the implementation of a precautionary approach as required by Resolution 15/10 on interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework (or any subsequent revision);
 - e. Risks to the fishery and the resource at these limit and target reference points in the context of different hypothetical HCR's and assessing the time and probability to rebuild stocks to the prescribed targets for stocks identified in Resolution 15/10 on target and limit reference points and a decision framework (or any subsequent revision).
 - f. Specifications for the roles and responsibilities of both fisheries managers and scientists, and clarifications for possible interactions and feedback between them, in each step of the process (e.g., from technical work to be developed in WP/SC to the decision making process).
 - g. Data monitoring systems and management procedure implementation control to assure the effectiveness of any of the HCR agreed.
6. The need for a continuation of the Management Procedures Technical Committee shall be reviewed no later than at the Annual Session of the Commission in 2019.