

## **RESOLUTION 00/02. RESOLUTION ON A SURVEY OF PREDATION OF LONGLINE CAUGHT FISH**

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

*Convinced* that the proper management of all marine resources should be based on scientific finding and on the principle of sustainable use as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, the Kyoto Declaration and FAO's International Plans of Action and Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries,

*Mindful* that the 23rd session of COFI agreed that greater consideration should be given to the development of more appropriate ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, in collaboration with both FAO and regional fisheries bodies,

*Recalling* that in 1999, the Commission, recognizing the importance of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, endorsed a five year research programme on the predation by marine mammals and sharks on tuna caught on longlines, in order to collect comprehensive information, improve catch statistics, find possible methods of preventing predation and explore any possible implications for stock assessment of tunas and the ecosystem approach,

*Noting* that preliminary estimates of predation of tuna and tuna-like species caught by the longline fishery indicate damage rates in some parts of the IOTC Area in the range of 10-30 % (IOTC/SC/00/11),

*Also noting* that the Scientific Committee agrees that the extent of predation unknown and might have important implications in terms of catch statistics and stock assessments and encourage the participation in the survey of other Member and Non-Member countries,

ENCOURAGES all Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties to participate in the survey of predation of longline caught fish and submit the preliminary results to the Secretariat by the end of September 2001,

REQUESTS the Scientific Committee to present the preliminary results of the study on predation for its consideration at the Sixth Session of the IOTC in 2001.