

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION 03/6 BY AUSTRALIA

RECOMMENDED TO COMMISSION A REPORT ON MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR TUNA AND TUNA LIKE SPECIES

THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION (IOTC):

RECOGNISING the need for action to ensure the achievement of the IOTC's objectives to conserve and manage tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC Area of Competence.

ACKNOWLEDGING the diversity of participants in the IOTC, including their varying geographic, political, social and economic situations,

RECOGNISING that since its 4th session the Scientific Committee has recommended that a reduction in catches of Bigeye tuna from all fishing gears should be implemented as soon as possible, and has at its 6th session expressed concern over current catches of Yellowfin tuna and Swordfish,

AGREES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IX PARAGRAPH 8 OF THE IOTC AGREEMENT:

that Contracting and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties will work in the inter-sessional period before IOTC 9 to develop Terms of Reference for a Working Group of the Commission that will meet in 2005 to consider conservation and management options that may be applicable to the highly migratory fish stocks of the Indian Ocean.