

RESOLUTION 05/01

ON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR BIGEYE TUNA

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,

RECALLING the adoption by IOTC of Resolution 01/04 in relation to the limitation of fishing capacity on bigeye tuna of contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPC's),

ACKNOWLEDGING that the limitation of fishing capacity alone will not be sufficient to limit effort or total catch of tuna and tuna-like species, particularly bigeye tuna,

AWARE that due to illegal activity and underestimation of the total mortality of bigeye the current assessment of the status of the stock is likely to be overly optimistic, and

RECOGNISING that the Scientific Committee has recommended that a reduction in the catches of bigeye tuna from all fishing gears should be implemented as soon as possible

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

1. Contracting and co-operating non-contracting parties (CPC's) shall limit their catch of bigeye tuna to their recent levels of catch reported by the Scientific Committee.
2. The Commission shall request Taiwan Province of China to limit their annual bigeye catch in the IOTC area to 35,000 tonnes.
3. At the 10th Session of the Commission shall establish, for a three year period, interim catch levels for CPC's catching more than 1000t of bigeye tuna.
4. CPC's, including developing coastal states, in particular small island developing states and territories, with catches under 1000 tonnes who intend to substantially increase these catches will be allowed to submit 'Fleet Development Plans' during the 3 year interim period referred to in paragraph 3 above.
5. During this three year period the Commission shall develop a mechanism to allocate, for specific time periods, bigeye tuna quotas for all CPC's.
6. Future access to the tuna and tuna-like resources found within the area of competence of the IOTC will, in part, be determined on the level of responsibility shown by CPC's in relation to this measure.
7. The Scientific Committee be tasked to provide advice, including advice on;
 - the effects of different levels of catch on the SSB (in relation to MSY or other appropriate reference point);
 - the impact of misreported and illegal catch of bigeye tuna on the stock assessment and required levels of catch reduction; and
 - evaluation of the impact of different levels of catch reduction by main gear types.
8. In relation to the foregoing, the Commission took note of the developing coastal states, in particular small island developing states and territories within the IOTC convention area whose economies depend largely on fisheries.