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**RESOLUTION 14/03**  
**ON ENHANCING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS**

**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 that 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;

NOTING recommendation 30 of the Performance Review Panel, adopted by the Commission as Resolution 09/01 *on the performance review follow-up* requesting that new guidelines for the presentation of more user-friendly scientific reports in terms of stock assessments should be developed;

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);

ACKNOWLEDGING that continuing dialog between scientists and managers is necessary to define appropriate HCRs for the IOTC tuna and tuna-like stocks;

CONSIDERING scientific advice provided by the Scientific Committee as the corner stone for establishing an effective management framework for stocks and fisheries under the purview of the IOTC;

RECOGNISING that the Commission has limited time during its annual Sessions to consider the level of detail contained within the annual report of the Scientific Committee, and that a dedicated Science-Management Dialogue process be instituted to assist in the synthesis of the SC recommendations and in particular on how they may be used to develop scientifically-based Conservation and Management Measures would be highly beneficial to the IOTC process;

HIGHLIGHTING the need to further enhance the dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists in the coming years in order to achieve the Agreement objectives in the most efficient and effective way;

STRESSING that such enhanced dialogue should, in particular, allow the Commission to focus on the establishment of management frameworks that take into account the recommended interim Target and Limit Reference Points, consistent with Resolution 13/10 *on interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework*, or any subsequent revision;

RECALLING that provisions laid down in Resolution 10/05 *on the establishment of a meeting participation fund for developing IOTC Member and Non-Contracting Cooperating Parties (CPC's)*, establishing a meeting participation fund should ease the attendance of fisheries scientist and managers from developing Contracting Parties and therefore contribute to an inclusive and participative dialogue;

EMPHASISING that the Commission management decisions should be based on the best available science independently developed by the Scientific Committee;

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

1. A Science and Management Dialogue process dedicated to enhance the decision making response of managers to existing Resolutions and recommendations made by the Scientific Committee to the IOTC, is established with the objective of:

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- a) Enhancing communication and to foster mutual understanding between fisheries managers, stakeholders and scientists;
  - b) Promoting the efficient use of scientific resources and information;
2. In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives
- a) The Secretariat shall institute a series of Science and Management Dialogue Workshops;
  - b) These Science and Management Dialogue Workshops shall be held in 2015, 2016 and 2017, as needed, prior to the respective Commission Annual Sessions;
  - c) The Commission shall review the products of the Workshops at its Annual Session and also provide further directions to the Secretariat for conduct of subsequent Science and Management Dialogue Workshops; In the light of this review, the Commission may suggest additional topics to be examined by this dialogue.
  - d) The Science and Management Dialogue Workshops shall be open to Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, advisers, Scientific Committee members and accredited observers. Other experts may be invited depending on the topics to be discussed;
  - e) The structure of the meetings shall include an open forum/dialogue;
  - f) To the degree possible, the Secretariat should investigate all sources of funding including the Meeting Participation Fund to support participation by up to two individuals from each CPC requiring such support.
3. The Terms of Reference, for the Science and Management Dialogue Workshops should include:
- a) Identifying and recommending management strategies for the IOTC fisheries, which are consistent with the objectives of the IOTC Agreement, including such as, socioeconomics, food security, etc., identified by the Commission, 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 strategies 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 13/10 *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 13/10 *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 13/10 *on interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework* (or any subsequent revision).
4. The effectiveness of the Science and Management Dialogue Workshops shall be reviewed no later than at the Annual Session of the Commission in 2018.
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