



International Game Fish Association

Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum

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The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is a non-profit organization that represents recreational anglers throughout the world. IGFA was established in 1939, has active members in over 100 countries, is the governing body for international recreational fishing, and provides rules for ethical angling practices. Many of IGFA's members target the highly migratory species managed by IOTC. As an organization that is also committed to the conservation of gamefishes, this year the IGFA is deploying at least 20 PSAT tags in marlin from South Africa and Western Australia. The information gained from this exercise will be available to your scientific committee.

IGFA has appointed an International Committee of Representatives and has official representatives in nearly 100 countries and territories including IOTC Contracting Party nations. These representatives have been chosen for their integrity, fishing knowledge and concern for fisheries conservation. They report to IGFA on issues affecting our interests and are a primary way that IGFA participates in the international fishing community.

IGFA wishes to express our appreciation to IOTC for arranging the 16th Session of the Commission and our gratitude to the city of Fremantle, Australia for hosting. We hope IGFA, as an observer, will be able to contribute to the management policies of the Commission so that our marine resources are managed in a sustainable manner for all users for years to come. Furthermore, we would like to request that permanent observer status be given to the IGFA, a status we hold in all other major Tuna RFMO's.

IGFA's recommendations for this meeting are as follows

- That quotas for the fisheries managed by the IOTC be established as quickly as possible
- Regarding shark species, wire traces should be banned from the fishery, similar to the rule in Australia. Additionally, the IGFA is greatly concerned that a member of the IOTC would put forward a motion regarding the recreational fishing for some shark species without consultation with the international body (IGFA) who represents game and sport fishing anglers in many countries around the Indian Ocean; we feel that this is outside of the IOTC's jurisdiction.
- IGFA would also like to draw the Commission's attention to the recreational/charter fishing requirements for a biomass well above MSY in order to sustain viable recreational fisheries. Specifically, marlin, sailfish and other large pelagics are very important recreational species, and their utilization by this sector will frequently represent a more sustainable long term economic return for members within the IOTC area of competence.

All of the species that fall under the management of IOTC are vital to a healthy ocean ecosystem. It is distressing that the commercial value of a species today can play a more important role in the management decisions than the overall health of the populations and securing their existence for future generations. Recreational fisheries contribute immensely to the economies of many countries. A depleted fishery has no future whereas a sustainable fishery will provide greater long term economic value to all of the IOTC Contracting Party nations.

The International Game Fish Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping.

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