
DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH

18 August 2011

Date: 24–27 October 2011

Location: Paradise Island Resort, Lankanfinolhu,
North Malé Atoll, Maldives

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 daily

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chair)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** (Chair)
3. **OUTCOMES OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE** (SC Chair)
4. **OUTCOMES OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION** (Secretariat)
5. **UPDATE ON THE KOBE PROCESS** (Chair)
6. **PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPEB06** (Chair)
7. **REVIEW OF DATA AVAILABLE ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH**
 - 7.1 Review of the statistical data available for ecosystems and bycatch species (Secretariat)
 - 7.2 Data from other sources (papers from CPCs)
 - 7.3 Regional Observer Scheme (Secretariat)
 - 7.4 Develop recommendations to the Scientific Committee.
8. **NEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH SPECIES**
 - 8.1 Review new information on the biology, stock structure, their fisheries and associated environmental data (CPC papers).
 - 8.2 Circle Hook symposium (Secretariat)
9. **SHARKS AND RAYS**
 - 9.1 Review of new information on the status of sharks
 - 9.2 Review of any National Plans of Action relating to reduction of shark bycatch in tuna fisheries
 - 9.3 Research programmes on sharks
 - 9.4 Improvement on shark identification
 - 9.5 Stock indicators / ERA on sharks
 - 9.6 Shark fin to body weight ratio
 - 9.7 Shark bycatch mitigation
 - Effect of terminal gear on shark by-catch: leaders (wire vs. monofilament), hooks (circle vs. tuna vs. J-hooks). Review of regional research results and/or open discussion / results from other oceans.
 - Best practices of shark handling / live release: circle hooks, wire leaders, live release. Shark post-release mortality in the PS and LL fisheries.
 - 9.8 Review of Resolutions and Recommendations on sharks:
 - Resolution 05/05 *Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC*
 - Resolution 10/12 *On the Conservation of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Agreement Area.*
 - 9.9 Develop recommendations to the Scientific Committee
 - 9.10 Update of shark species Executive Summaries (Chair).
10. **SEABIRDS**
 - 10.1 Review of new information on the status of seabirds

- 10.2 Review of any new National Plans of Action for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries
- 10.3 Research on interaction between seabirds and tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean
- 10.4 Identification sheets for observers
- 10.5 Review of Resolutions and Recommendations on seabirds:
 - Recommendation 05/09 *On incidental mortality of seabirds*
 - Resolution 10/06 *On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.*
- 10.6 Develop recommendations to the Scientific Committee
- 10.7 Update of seabird Executive Summary (Chair).

11. MARINE TURTLES

- 11.1 Review of new information on the status of marine turtles
- 11.2 Research on effect of marine turtles mitigating measures
- 11.3 Review of any national management plans/strategies for the reduction of marine turtle bycatch in tuna fisheries
- 11.4 Research on interaction between turtles and tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean
- 11.5 To develop recommendation on appropriate mitigation measures
- 11.6 To develop guidelines for appropriate handling and release
- 11.7 To develop regional standards for data collection, exchange and training
- 11.8 To produce a marine turtle Identification Guide
- 11.9 Review of Resolutions and Recommendations on turtles:
 - Recommendation 05/08 *On sea turtles*
 - Resolution 09/06 *On marine turtles*
- 11.10 Develop recommendations to the Scientific Committee
- 11.11 Update of marine turtle Executive Summary (Chair).

12. MARINE MAMMALS

- 12.1 Research programmes on marine mammals
- 12.2 Develop recommendations to the Scientific Committee.

13. OTHER BYCATCH AND BYPRODUCT SPECIES

- 13.1 Research programmes on other species
- 13.2 Develop recommendations to the Scientific Committee.

14. DEPREDATION

- 14.1 Review of available data and new information on depredation
- 14.2 Requirement for improvement of the data on depredation
- 14.3 Possible consequences of depredation on stock assessment
- 14.4 Review of Resolutions and Recommendations on depredation:
 - Resolution 00/02 *On A Survey Of Predation Of Longline Caught Fish*
- 14.5 Develop recommendations to the Scientific Committee.

15. ECOSYSTEM APPROACHES

- 15.1 Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for bycatch monitoring, analysis and management, in an RFMO context
- 15.2 Ecological interactions
- 15.3 Develop recommendations to the Scientific Committee.

16. RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITIES

- 16.1 Develop a draft work plan.

17. OTHER BUSINESS

- 17.1 Development of priorities for an Invited Expert/s at the next Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch meeting
- 17.2 Date and place of the Eighth Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch
- 17.3 Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the next biennium
- 17.4 Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the Seventh Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch.