
REVISION OF THE WPM PROGRAM OF WORK (2017–2021)

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT¹, 24 OCTOBER 2016

PURPOSE

To ensure that participants at the 7th Working Party on Methods (WPM06) revise the Program of Work for the WPM by taking into consideration the specific requests of the Commission and Scientific Committee.

BACKGROUND

Scientific Committee

At the 18th Session of the SC:

- (Para. 152) The SC **NOTED** paper IOTC–2015–SC18–09 which provided the Scientific Committee (SC) with a proposed Program of Work for each of its Working Parties (WP), including preliminary prioritisation of the elements requested by each WP. The aim of is to develop an overall Program of Work Plan for 2015–19 which will deliver the information the Commission has requested to meet the objectives of the IOTC.
- (Para. 153) The SC **NOTED** the proposed Program of Work and priorities for the Scientific Committee and each of the Working Parties and **AGREED** to a consolidated Program of Work as outlined in Appendix XXXIV. The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of each working party shall ensure that the efforts of their working party are focused on the core areas contained within the appendix, taking into account any new research priorities identified by the Commission at its next Session.
- (Para. 154) The SC **REQUESTED** that during all future Working Party meetings, each group not only develop a Draft Program of Work for the next five years containing low, medium and high priority projects, but that all High Priority projects are ranked. The intention is that the SC would then be able to review the rankings and develop a consolidated list of the highest priority projects to meet the needs of the Commission. Where possible, budget estimates should be determined, as well as the identification of potential funding sources.

Commission

At Sessions of the Commission, Conservation and Management Measures adopted contained elements that call on the Scientific Committee, via the WPM, to undertake specific tasks. These requests will need to be incorporated into a revised Program of Work for the WPM:

- **Resolution 16/02 On harvest control rules for skipjack tana in the IOTC area of competence**

DISCUSSION

Participants at the WPM07 are requested to consider the priorities set by the Commission and the Scientific Committee, via Conservation and Management Measures, and revise its Program of Work (previously outlined in paper IOTC–2016–WPM07–03) to match those priorities.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPM:

¹ secretariat@iotc.org; sarah.martin@iotc.org

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2016–WPM07–07, which encouraged the WPM to further develop and refine its Program of Work for 2017–2021 to align with the requests and directives from the Commission and Scientific Committee.
- 2) **RECOMMEND** a revised Program of Work for 2017–2021 to the Scientific Committee for its consideration and potential endorsement.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: DRAFT: Working Party on Methods Program of Work (2017–2021)

APPENDIX A
DRAFT: WORKING PARTY ON METHODS PROGRAM OF WORK (2017-2021)

Table 1. Priority topics for obtaining the information necessary to deliver the necessary advice to the Commission. Resolution 15/10 elements have been incorporated as required by the Commission.

Topic	Sub-topic and project	Priority ranking	Lead	Est. budget (potential source)	Timing					
					2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1. Management Strategy Evaluation	1.1 Albacore	5	EU (JRC)							
	1.1.1 Implementation of initial set of simulation runs and results			\$25,000 (TBD)						
	1.1.2 Revision of Operating Models based on WPM and SC feedback, including possible robustness tests			\$25,000 (TBD)						
	1.1.3 Revision of Management Procedures and Indicators after presentation of initial set to MPD03 and Commission			\$30,000 (TBD)						
	1.1.4 Evaluation of new set of Management Procedures (if required)		\$?? (TBD)							
	1.2 Skipjack tuna	6	Maldives							
	1.2.1 Implementation of initial set of simulation runs and results			\$?? (TBD)						
	1.2.2 Revision of Operating Models based on WPM and SC feedback, including possible robustness tests			\$?? (TBD)						
	1.2.3 Revision of Management Procedures and Indicators after presentation of initial set to MPD03			\$?? (TBD)						

1.2.4	Evaluation of new set of Management Procedures (if required)			\$?? (TBD)					
1.3	Bigeye tuna	2	Australia (CSIRO)	\$75,000 (IOC)					
1.3.1	Software tools for model conditioning and evaluation of MPs								
1.3.2	Demonstration of initial OMs and first set of candidate MPs								
1.3.3	Development of Bigeye OM based on new spatial structure				May				
1.3.4	Revision of Operating Models based on WPM and SC feedback, including possible robustness tests			\$?? (TBD)	Dec				
1.4	Yellowfin tuna	1	Australia (CSIRO)	\$75,000 (IOC)					
1.4.1	Software tools for model conditioning and evaluation of MPs								
1.4.2	Demonstration of initial OMs and first set of candidate MPs								
1.4.3	Revision of Operating Models based on WPM and SC feedback, including possible robustness tests				May				
1.4.4	Final Model with MP's			\$?? (TBD)	Dec				
1.5	Effective communication of Management Strategy Evaluation	3	Chair						
1.5.1	Exploration of tools for effective presentation of MSE results			Nil					

	1.5.2	Implementation and adaptation of those tools for IOTC needs			\$8,000 (COI)						
	1.6	Swordfish	4	TBD	\$?? (TBD)						
	1.6.1	Initial OM									
	1.6.2	Conditioning and OM set up									
	1.6.3	Generic MP tests									
	1.6.4	Final Model with MP's									
2.	Tier approach for providing stock status advice	2.1 Develop a 'Tier' approach for providing stock status advice, based on the type of indicators used to determine stock status (e.g. CPUE series, stock assessment model)	7	Consult.							
	2.1.1	Review of current practices and recommendation for the consideration at WPM07 and SC19.			\$10,000 (TBD)						

Note that Resolutions 14/03 and 16/02 have certain hard deadlines and to achieve them this work needs to be completed. These are noted below.

From Resolution 14/03:

Para. 2 (Point 2): These Science and Management Dialogue Workshops shall be held in 2015, 2016 and 2017, as needed, prior to the respective Commission Annual Sessions.

Para. 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

From Resolution 16/02:

Para 12: The HCR, including the control parameters, will be reviewed through further Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), but no later than 2021 (i.e. five years from its implementation). Subject to the result of that review the current HCR may be refined or replaced with an alternative HCR.



Table 2. Management Strategy Evaluation schedule for the IOTC Working Party on Methods (WPM) 2017-2021

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Working Party on Methods</i>						
Albacore						
Skipjack tuna						
Bigeye tuna	Complete MSE process					
Yellowfin tuna	Complete MSE process					
Swordfish		Commence MSE process				

Note: the assessment schedule may be changed dependant on the annual review of fishery indicators, or SC and Commission requests. ALB: albacore; BET: bigeye tuna; YFT: yellowfin tuna; SKJ: skipjack tuna.