



UPDATE ON PROGRESS REGARDING RESOLUTION 16/03 – ON THE SECOND PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOLLOW-UP

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 21 NOVEMBER 2016

PURPOSE

To provide the Scientific Committee (SC) with an opportunity to review and discuss the recommendations arising coming from the Second Performance Review and adopted by the Commission in Resolution 16/03.

BACKGROUND

In response to calls from the international community for a review of the performance of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) agreed in 2007 to implement a process of Performance Review. The IOTC formed a Review Panel, consisting of an independent legal expert, an independent scientific expert, six IOTC Members and a non-governmental organisations observer, which concluded its report to the Commission in January 2009. The Panel's review was based on the criteria developed as a result of a joint meeting of tuna RFMOs, Kobe, Japan, 2007 and concentrated on the following issues:

- Adequacy of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC Agreement) relative to current principles of fisheries management,
- Consistency between scientific advice and conservation and management measures adopted,
- Effectiveness of control measures established by the IOTC; and
- Efficiency and transparency of financial and administrative management.

In 2009, the first IOTC performance review panel published a report outlining 81 recommendations to improve the functioning of the IOTC. In 2015, a second performance review was completed and its recommendations were submitted for consideration of the Commission at its 20th Session.

DISCUSSION

At the 20th Session of the Commission held in May 2016, Members adopted Resolution 16/03 *On the second performance review follow-up*, endorsed the recommendations of the Panel Report, and establishes a Technical Committee with the objective of preparing a Program of Work with concrete actions on the recommendations, including priorities, proposed timelines, budgets, and a possible text of a new IOTC Agreement. The meeting of the Technical Committee on the Performance Review (TCPR) will take place from 2 - 3 March 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa. The recommendations relevant to the Scientific Committee that will be reviewed by the Technical Committee on the Performance Review are provided in [Appendix A](#) for consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Scientific Committee:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2016–SC19–08 which lists the recommendations from the performance review in [Appendix A](#).

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [2016: Update on progress regarding Resolution 16/03 – On the second performance review follow-up](#).

APPENDIX A

2016: UPDATE ON PROGRESS REGARDING RESOLUTION 16/03 – ON THE SECOND PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOLLOW-UP
(NOTE: NUMBERING AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS PER APPENDIX I OF RESOLUTION 16/03)

REFERENCE #	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE/STATUS	TIMELINE	PRIORITY
PRIOTC02.02 (para. 86)	<p><i>Status of living marine resources</i></p> <p>The PRIOTC02 RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>a) while continuing to work on improving data collection and reporting, the Scientific Committee should continue to utilise qualitative stock assessment methodologies for species where these is limited data available, including ecological risk based approaches, and support the development and refinement of data poor fisheries stock assessment techniques to support the determination of stock status.</p>	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<p>Ongoing: An ecological risk assessment is scheduled to take place in 2018 for the main shark species as well as for marine turtles in the Indian Ocean.</p> <p>In 2013, 2014 and 2015, data poor approaches to determining stock status were applied to a range of billfish and neritic tuna species. The WPM has been requested to consider options to rank stock status determination using a ‘tier’ approach to assist in the interpretation of the level of uncertainty present in assessment methods applied.</p>	TBD	TBD
	<p>b) confidentiality provisions and issues of accessibility to data by the scientists involved needs to be clearly delineated, and/or amended if necessary, so that stock assessment analysis can be replicated.</p>	<i>Scientific Committee & Commission</i>	<p>Ongoing: Input, output and executable files for the assessment of major stocks are archived with the Secretariat to allow replication of analyses. Access to operational data under cooperative arrangements, and those subject to confidentiality rules is still limited. In some cases, the Secretariat is bound by the domestic data confidentiality rules of Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties.</p> <p>Ongoing developments to the new integrated IOTC database are improving the accessibility of IOTC data sets for users outside the Secretariat, while ensuring that confidentiality rules are fully respected.</p>	TBD	TBD

	c) chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Scientific Committee and respective Working Parties, in conjunction with the IOTC Secretariat, develop guiding principles for the provision of papers to ensure that they are directly related to the Program of Work of the respective Working Party and/or Scientific Committee, as endorsed by the Commission, while still encouraging for new and emerging issues to be presented.	<i>Scientific Committee & Working Party Chairs and Vice-Chairs</i>	Pending	TBD	TBD
	d) ongoing peer review and input by external scientific experts should be incorporated as standard best practice for Working Parties and included in the Commission's regular budget.	<i>Scientific Committee & Commission</i>	Ongoing: External experts (Invited Experts) are regularly invited to provide additional expertise at Working Party meetings, although this does not constitute a formal process of peer review. The Scientific Committee in 2010 and 2011, agreed that once stock assessment models were considered robust, that peer review would be advantageous and funds will be requested to undertake peer reviews of stock assessments. The Scientific Committee reviewed the processes for Invited Experts, Consultants and Peer review at its 14 th Session in 2011 and recommended that all Working Party meetings in 2016 would extend an invitation to an external expert.	TBD	TBD
PRIOTC02.03 (para. 96)	<i>Data collection and reporting</i> The PRIOTC02 RECOMMENDED that: a) the Commission make further investments in data collection and targeted capacity building, which is necessary for further improvement in the provision and quality of data in support of the Commission's objectives, as well as to identify the sources of the uncertainty in data and work towards reducing that uncertainty.	<i>Commission</i>	Ongoing: There are multiple opportunities and sources of funding for capacity building on data collection and scientific analyses, both within the IOTC budget and in the context of other partnerships.	TBD	TBD

	b) while there are budgetary implications, the IOTC Secretariat staffing dedicated to data collection and data capacity building activities should be increased from 3 to 5 full-time data staff.	<i>Commission</i>	Pending: Recruitment of a P1 (Fisheries Officer) will be conducted in early-2017, however, the IOTC Data Section still remains severely understaffed given the increasing burdens on monitoring data compliance and technical support missions, support to the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme, development of the IOTC database and dissemination systems, and new work streams taking place in 2017 (e.g., E-monitoring, ROS Pilot Project, support for implementation of skipjack HCR [Res 16/02], and yellowfin catch reduction [Res.16/01].	TBD	TBD
	c) the IOTC Secretariat should facilitate discussions with coastal State non-CPCs and other non-CPCs fishing within the IOTC area of competence to formalise long-term strategies for data submission to the IOTC Secretariat, including all relevant historical data sets.	<i>IOTC Secretariat</i>	Ongoing: This is partially being addressed by the programme of work allocated to the IOTC Data Compliance and Support missions.	TBD	TBD
	d) steps to gain access to fine-scale data to be used in joint analysis, with sufficient protection of confidentiality, should be taken.	<i>IOTC Secretariat</i>	Ongoing: The collaborative longline CPUE (involving Japan, Rep. of Korea, and Taiwan,China and an independent fisheries consultant) has involved the sharing of operational level data. While the results of analyses, and joint-CPUE, have been published, the fine-scale data remains confidential. This capability should be part of the improved functionalities provided by the new IOTC database, depending on the quality of these fine-scale data and confidentiality restrictions.	TBD	TBD

	e) where budgets and other resources permit, to encourage data preparatory meetings preceding stock assessment review meetings (Working Parties).	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	Pending	TBD	TBD
	f) innovative and/or alternative means of data collection and reporting should be explored and, as appropriate, implemented, including a move towards electronic data collection and reporting for all fleets.	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	Ongoing: The IOTC Secretariat is currently developing an E-Reporting tool for the Regional Observer Scheme to facilitate reporting of ROS data.. A pilot E-monitoring project is also planned for 2017, focused on small-scale fisheries (e.g., gillnet, gillnet-longline multi-gear vessels) for which there are practical difficulties placing on-board observers, and for which there is currently little or no data reported to the IOTC Secretariat.	TBD	TBD
PRIOTC02.05 (para. 104)	Capacity building (Data Collection) The PRIOTC02 RECOMMENDED that: a) the Commission expand its current data support and data compliance missions and that the IOTC Secretariat should be granted increased autonomy to seek and attract external donor funds to support the work approved by the Commission, including supporting actions and/or capacity building initiatives from Compliance Missions that are applicable to more than two CPCs.	<i>Commission</i>	Ongoing: The IOTC Secretariat is actively engaged in a programme of data compliance and support missions, but is constrained by current staffing resources within the Data Section. In 2016, missions were conducted to Tanzania (Feb), Mauritius (Aug), and Indonesia (Oct). External funding for the missions was provided by EU DG-MARE.	TBD	TBD

	b) the IOTC should continue the workshop series aimed at Connecting the IOTC Science and Management processes. The aims of the workshop series should be to: 1) improve the level of comprehension among IOTC CPCs on how the scientific process informs the management process for managing of IOTC species and ecosystem-based management; 2) increase the awareness of IOTC Contracting Parties to their obligations, as stipulated in the Commissions' Conservation and Management Measures which are based on rigorous scientific advice; 3) improve the decision making process within the IOTC; and 4) to provide direct assistance in the drafting of proposals for Conservation and Management Measures.	<i>Commission & Secretariat</i>	Pending	TBD	TBD
PRIOTC02.06 (para. 106)	<i>Non-target species</i> The PRIOTC02 RECOMMENDED that the Commission should continue to improve upon the requirements of data collection and reporting mechanisms of non-IOTC species that interact with IOTC fisheries.	<i>Commission and Scientific Committee</i>	Ongoing	TBD	TBD
PRIOTC02.07 (para. 112)	<i>Quality and provision of scientific advice</i> The PRIOTC02 RECOMMENDED that: a) the Scientific Committee should continue the good work undertaken since the PRIOTC01 and strive to make further improvements in the way it communicates information about stock status and future prospects for the stocks to the Commission.	<i>Scientific Committee & Working Parties</i>	Ongoing	TBD	TBD
	b) an independent peer review process (and budgeting mechanism) for stock assessments should be implemented if IOTC science is to be considered to be in line with best practice and to maintain a high standard of quality assurance.	<i>Scientific Committee & Commission</i>	Ongoing: Invited external experts are routinely invited to participate in the meetings of the WP to provide additional expertise.	TBD	TBD

	c) the Scientific Committee, through its Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch should pursue the application of ecosystem modelling frameworks.	<i>Scientific Committee & Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch</i>	Ongoing: The WPEB has recently added an item into its Program of Work on the development for a plan for ecosystem based fisheries management approaches in the IOTC and has requested the development of a preliminary template. SC representatives and the Secretariat will participate in the tRFMO joint workshop on operationalization of the EAFM.	TBD	TBD
	d) continue to develop and adopt robust target and limit reference points, and species or fishery specific harvest control rules through management strategy evaluations, noting that this process has commenced for several species and is specified in IOTC Resolution 15/10 on target and limit reference points and a decision framework. The mandated Resolution 14/03 [superseded by Resolution 16/09] on enhancing the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers, will benefit from having communication between the Scientific Committee and the Commission more formally structured, facilitated dialogue to enhance understanding and inform decision making.	<i>Scientific Committee & Commission</i>	Ongoing: The 1 st Meeting of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures is due to take place in 2017.	TBD	TBD
	e) the Commission and its subsidiary bodies continue to ensure that meeting schedules and activities are rationalised so that the already heavy workload of those involved, and budgeting constraints, are taken into account.	<i>Commission & Scientific Committee</i>	Ongoing: All Working Parties are requested by the SC to rank activities in their respective programs of work as high, medium or low and allocate a numerical ranking within the high priority category.	TBD	TBD

	f) the Commission fully implements Resolution 12/01 <i>On the implementation of the precautionary approach</i> , so as to apply the precautionary approach, in accordance with relevant internationally agreed standards, in particular with the guidelines set forth in the UNFSA, and to ensure the sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources as set forth in Article V of the IOTC Agreement, including ensuring that a lack of information or increased uncertainty in datasets/stock assessment, is not used as a justification to delay taking management actions to ensure the sustainability of IOTC species and those impacted by IOTC fisheries.	<i>Commission</i>	Ongoing: A harvest control rule was adopted for skipjack tuna, and work is progressing on yellowfin, bigeye and albacore tunas, with support of external funding (FAO ABNJ Tuna Project)	TBD	TBD
	g) while there are budgetary implications, the IOTC Secretariat staffing dedicated to scientific analysis should be increased from 2 to 4 full-time science staff.	<i>Commission</i>	Pending	TBD	TBD
PRIOTC02.08 (para. 123)	Adoption of Conservation and Management Measures The PRIOTC02 RECOMMENDED that: a) the Science-Management Dialogue is strengthened to improve understanding of modern approaches to fisheries management, including the implementation of Harvest Strategies through the use of Management Strategy Evaluation. The Commission adopt a formal process of developing and implementing Harvest Strategies within a prescribed timeframe.	<i>Commission & Scientific Committee</i>	Ongoing: The Commission adopted Resolution 16/09, establishing a Technical Committee on Management Procedures, formalising a process to facilitate discussion and adoption of harvest strategies	TBD	TBD
PRIOTC02.21 (para. 204)	b) The IOTC should develop cooperative mechanisms, such as MoUs, to work in a coordinated manner on issues of common interest, in particular non-target species and an ecosystem approach with other RFMOs especially with SIOFA.	<i>Commission</i>	Ongoing: The IOTC is currently working with other tRFMOs, within the framework of the Kobe process, through joint meetings on the MSE, ecosystem approaches to management, harmonisation of observer schemes and a joint working group on FADs.	TBD	TBD

PRIOTC02.22 (para. 211)	<p><i>Special requirements of developing States</i></p> <p>The PRIOTC02 RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>a) the continuation and optimisation of the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund indefinitely as part of the IOTC Regular Budget, and that the MPF is used to support participation of all eligible Contracting Parties in order to create a more balanced attendance to both science and non-science meetings of the Commission.</p>	<i>Commission</i>	Ongoing: In 2017, 67 MPF applications were accepted by the IOTC Secretariat, the highest number to date – although a significant proportion of applicants were funded through external funding sources rather than the IOTC regular budget.	TBD	TBD
	<p>b) the IOTC Secretariat in partnership with development agencies and organisations, should develop a five year regional fisheries capacity development program to ensure coordinated capacity building activities across the region.</p>	<i>Secretariat & Commission</i>	Pending	TBD	TBD