
PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPDCS11

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 2ND NOVEMBER 2016

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 12th Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS) with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous WPDCS, which were endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC), and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants.

BACKGROUND

At the 11th Session of the WPDCS, participants agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the IOTC Secretariat on a range of issues. The subsequent table developed and agreed to by the WPDCS was provided to the SC for its endorsement at its November 2015 meeting.

DISCUSSION

The Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee include the following seven core tasks, which are to be supported by the various Working Parties.

- a) recommend policies and procedures for the collection, processing, dissemination and analysis of fishery data;
- b) facilitate the exchange and critical review among scientists of information on research and operation of fisheries of relevance to the Commission;
- c) develop and coordinate cooperative research programmes involving Members of the Commission in support of fisheries management;
- d) assess and report to the Commission on the status of stocks of relevance to the Commission and the likely effects of further fishing and of different fishing patterns and intensities;
- e) formulate and report to the sub-commission, as appropriate, on recommendations concerning conservation, fisheries management and research, including consensus, majority and minority views;
- f) consider any matter referred to by the Commission;
- g) to carry out other technical activities of relevance to the Commission.

Noting the core tasks of the SC, and hence the WPDCS, participants are reminded that any recommendations developed during a Session, must be carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e. a specific CPC of the IOTC, the Secretariat, another subsidiary body of the Commission or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time from for delivery of the action (i.e. by the next working party meeting, or other date).

Recalling that the SC, at its 16th Session adopted a set of reporting terminology SC16.07 (para. 23), which was subsequently endorsed by the Commission at its 18th Session in 2014 (S18, para 10), to further improve the clarity of information sharing from, and among the science bodies, the following two term levels should be noted when interpreting the Reports and [Appendix I](#) to this paper:

Level 1: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:

RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION: Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the

recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

Level 2: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a CPC, the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:

REQUESTED: This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a Committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalise the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

In addition to the Recommendations endorsed by the SC at its 18th Session, the SC also made several requests which, although are not passed to the Commission for its endorsement, are considered actions which the Scientific Committee has the mandate to issue. The revised recommendations are contained in [Appendix I](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPDCS12.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPDCS:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–06 which detailed the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the WPDCS11, taking into consideration the recommendations from the SC and decisions of the Commission;
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary, the recommendations, and for these to be combined with any new recommendations arising from the WPDCS12, noting that these will be provided to the SC for their endorsement.

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Progress made on the recommendations of WPDCS11



APPENDIX A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPDCS11

WPDCS011 Rec. No.		SC18 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC18	Endorsed at S20	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS12
(Nil)	(Nil)				
WPDCS11.01 (para. 18)	<i>Progress report of the Secretariat on data related issues</i> NOTING that total catches for Yemen have been repeated in the IOTC database since 2012, due to the lack of information available to the IOTC Secretariat, the WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat conduct a thorough review of alternative information available to estimate the recent catches for Yemen (for example, using information available on international trade data).	(Nil)		N/A	<i>Update:</i> Nil
	<i>Resolution 15/02 Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC's)</i>	SC18.19 (Para. 72)	The SC RECOMMENDED the Commission develop penalty mechanisms through the IOTC Compliance Committee to improve compliance by CPCs that do not currently comply with the submission of basic fishery data requirements as stated in Resolution 15/01 and 15/02.	Yes	(Para. 115) The Commission ADOPTED Resolution 16/06 <i>On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC (Appendix XXI)</i> , which requires CPCs to include information in their Annual Reports (<i>Report of Implementation</i>) on actions taken to implement their reporting obligations for all IOTC fisheries, including shark species caught in association with IOTC fisheries, in particular the steps taken to improve their data collection for direct and incidental catches.
WPDCS11.02 (para. 53)	NOTING that the units of effort requested for longliners in IOTC Resolution 15/02 and 11/04 are not consistent as the former requests numbers of hooks and the latter numbers of sets, the WPDCS reiterated its previous RECOMMENDATION that provisions in	SC18.20 (Para. 78)	NOTING that the units of effort requested for longliners in IOTC Resolution 15/02 and 11/04 are not consistent as the former requests numbers of hooks and the latter numbers of sets, the SC RECOMMENDED that provisions in Resolution 15/02 are amended to include a	N/A	<i>Update:</i> Nil



WPDCS011 Rec. No.		SC18 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC18	Endorsed at S20	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS12
	Resolution 15/02 are amended to include a requirement for longline fleets to report effort in terms of both number of hooks and number of sets, and that reporting of effort in terms of number of sets is also requested from surface purse seine fleets in addition to the current requirements to report effort as fishing days.		requirement for longline fleets to report effort in terms of both number of hooks and number of sets, and that reporting of effort in terms of number of sets is also requested from surface purse seine fleets in addition to the current requirements to report effort as fishing days.		
WPDCS11.03 (para. 53)	Capacity Building Activities: Data Collection and Processing in Coastal Countries, and Compliance with Minimum Requirements NOTING the issues detailed in paragraph 52, the WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Commission allocate substantially more funds – including funds for consultancies and additional fixed term staff at the IOTC Secretariat – to fully implement the priorities identified by the WPDCS Program of Work.	(Nil)		N/A	Update: In 2010 the Commission allocated USD\$400,000 for a range of projects related to capacity building in data collection and reporting. The Commission now allocates an annual Capacity Building budget line as part of its Regular Budget. Despite being 'saved' in 2015, in 2016 that amount has been increased and will be fully spent. A summary of current activities can be found on the IOTC website: http://iotc.org/about-iotc/capacity-building
WPDCS11.04 (para. 60)	Further analysis of length frequency data from longline fleets and likely impacts on the assessments (Taiwan,China) The WPDCS RECOMMENDED further analysis to fully understand the recent changes in length composition reported by Taiwan,China – in particular whether there have been changes to the sampling protocols and selection of fish for sampling – and that the decline in the number of samples of small specimens of tropical tunas in particular may originate from high grading of catch onboard Taiwan,China longliners following the implementation of quotas on the Taiwan,China longline fleet in the Indian Ocean (i.e. only large specimens from the catch measured for length).	SC18.21 (Para. 79)	The SC RECOMMENDED further analysis to fully understand the recent changes in length composition reported by Taiwan,China – in particular whether there have been changes to the sampling protocols and selection of fish for sampling – and that the decline in the number of samples of small specimens of tropical tunas in particular may originate from high grading of catch onboard Taiwan,China longliners following the implementation of quotas on the Taiwan,China longline fleet in the Indian Ocean (i.e. only large specimens from the catch measured for length).	N/A	Update: Nil
WPDCS11.05	All other related fleets/issues	(Nil)		N/A	Update: Nil



WPDCS011 Rec. No.		SC18 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC18	Endorsed at S20	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS12
(para. 63)	<p>NOTING that in both cases of the Japan and Taiwan,China size-frequency data, further analysis as a high priority for the WPDCS Programme of Work was suggested, given the potential impact on stock assessment, the WPDCS RECOMMENDED joint work on the documentation of procedures for the collection, processing and reporting of size frequency data continues, based on a template to be produced by the IOTC Secretariat, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full description of the type of sampling platforms used (e.g. commercial boats, research boats, training boats, etc.), and collecting sources (e.g. fishermen, researchers, scientific observers, etc.) • Full description of the sampling protocols used, on each (e.g. full enumeration of every set, every other set, first 30 fish from each set sampled for size, etc.), by type of sampling platform and collecting source. • Type of measurements collected (e.g. gilled-and-gutted weight, fork length, etc.) and measurement tools used (calliper, measuring board, measuring tape, scale, etc.) by type of sampling platform, collecting source, and species. • Type of time-area stratification used for each species (e.g. quarter and defined area) and procedures used for the estimation of sampled weights in each stratum, including all equations used for the conversion of non-standard measurements into standard measurements, by species (e.g. deterministic conversion using a single length weight equation for all areas and time periods, etc.). 				



WPDCS011 Rec. No.		SC18 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC18	Endorsed at S20	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS12
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of any other procedures which involve the use of length frequency data (e.g. estimation of weights from the numbers reported in logbooks and substitution scheme in the case that lengths are not available in areas where there are catches and effort recorded, etc.). 				
WPDCS11.06 (para. 67)	<p>WPDCS Programme of Work</p> <p>The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider and endorse the WPDCS Program of Work (2016–2020), as provided at Appendix V.</p>	(Nil)	(Nil)	N/A	Update: Nil
WPDCS11.07 (para. 69)	<p>NOTING the very heavy workload at the IOTC Secretariat and the ever increasing demands by the Commission and the Scientific Committee, and also the capacity to respond to requests for assistance by countries, the WPDCS strongly RECOMMENDED that at least three additional Fishery Officers be hired to join the IOTC Secretariat (Data Section: 1 x P4, 1 x P3 and 1 x P1), and to commence work by 1 January 2017.</p>	(Nil)	(Nil)	N/A	Update: The new Data Coordinator has joined the IOTC Secretariat on March 2016. The opening of the two other expected positions (1 x P3 and 1 x P1) are still being evaluated.
WPDCS11.08 (para. 74)	<p>Review of the draft, and adoption of the report of the 11th Session of the WPDCS</p> <p>The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPDCS11, provided at Appendix VII.</p>	(Nil)	(Nil)	Yes	Update: Nil

WPDCS11 Report	WPDCS11 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
Para. 22	<p><i>IOTC Secretariat Report</i></p> <p>NOTING that the fisheries detailed below (paragraph 17) account for a substantial quantity of catches of IOTC species, the WPDCS REQUESTED that all of the CPCs listed address the issues identified, and report progress made at the next WPDCS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marked changes in total catches and species and gear composition reported for the coastal fisheries of Indonesia in recent years; and uncertainty concerning the levels of catch of small tunas around anchored FADs (Rumpons), in particular yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna. • Catches reported are not broken by gear: gillnet and longline fishery of Sri Lanka. • Uncertain estimates of total catch for the commercial longline fishery of India; driftnet fishery of Pakistan; handline and driftnet fishery of Yemen; and coastal fisheries of Madagascar. • Catches not reported by species: requirement to estimate the catches of bigeye tuna on the majority of coastal fisheries, such as the pole-and-line fishery in the Maldives. • Very poor reporting of data on the level of discards of tuna and tuna-like species, and incidentally caught species, across the majority of fisheries and time periods. • Insufficient implementation of minimum requirements for operational catch-and-effort data, which compromise reporting of catch-and-effort statistics to the IOTC: longline fisheries of Indonesia and India; driftnet fisheries of I.R. Iran and Pakistan; gillnet and longline fishery of Sri Lanka. • Poor reporting of catch-and-effort data, for major tuna species and neritic tuna species: all coastal fisheries, in particular those operating in India and Indonesia. • Lack of size frequency data for most major coastal fisheries, including the longline fishery of India, the driftnet fishery of Pakistan, and coastal fisheries of Indonesia, Indian and Yemen. • Levels of coverage for Japan and quality of the size data available for longliners flagged in Taiwan,China in recent years. • Levels of reporting of observer trip reports below those recommended by the Commission (a minimum of 5% of the total number of fishing operations shall be covered by scientific observers). 	<p>Update: [Pending]</p> <p>Indonesia: Sri Lanka: India: Pakistan: Outcomes from a WWF project (observers) have provided revised catch data and species compositions that markedly contrast with official figures. Pakistan government is in the process of assessing these alternative results and possibly revise official estimates. Yemen: Madagascar: Maldives: I.R. Iran: Taiwan,China:</p>



<p>Para. 30-31</p>	<p>Tagging database: update</p> <p>The WPDCS NOTED the update provided on the status of the IOTC tagging database and new tags recovered during 2014–15. Recoveries from longline fisheries remain at very low levels, at around 1% of total recoveries across all gears, and also compared to recoveries from purse seiners (e.g. around 420 recoveries reported by longline vessels compared to almost 26,900 recoveries on purse seine vessels).</p> <p>The WPDCS NOTED that such low rates of recovery by longline vessels may be for various reasons, in particular a low reporting rate by longline vessel crews, and REQUESTED that the countries representing the main longline fleets ensure that skippers are aware of the importance of reporting and returning recovered tags</p>	<p>Update: [Pending]</p>
<p>Para. 32</p>	<p>IOTC Website data pages: discussion of potential improvements</p> <p>NOTING that reports originating from the technical workshops and meetings involving the IOTC Secretariat are generally disseminated through the IOTC website, the WPDCS REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat improves the way in which technical reports are publicised to increase their dissemination, e.g. through IOTC email lists or signposting on the IOTC website.</p>	<p>Update: FAO has recently (May 2016) started the process of incorporating most of the features currently available under the IOTC website within a dedicated section of the FAO one. Further requests related to document management and dissemination, including those specifically targeting technical reports and meeting outcomes, should be considered in the context of this revised corporate strategy. Recent developments in the revision of the IOTC database management processes might improve the support to the dissemination of datasets and assessment inputs.</p>
<p>Para. 58</p>	<p>Further analysis of length frequency data from Longline fleets and likely impacts on the assessments</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>NOTING that additional work is required by Japan, the WPDCS REQUESTED that this work is undertaken in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat, to understand the lack of coherence in the historical time series between the size frequency data, catch-and-effort and nominal catch reported by Japanese longline vessels.</p>	<p>Update: [Pending]</p> <p>Japan:</p>
<p>Para. 61</p>	<p>Further analysis of length frequency data from Longline fleets and likely impacts on the assessments</p> <p>Seychelles</p> <p>The WPDCS NOTED that size frequency samples collected on deep-freezing longline vessels under the flag of Seychelles would be useful to compare with the main Taiwan,China fleet to assess the recent changes in length composition, and REQUESTED Seychelles to submit the complete dataset of size frequency samples for 2009 and 2010 which are currently only partially recorded in the IOTC Secretariat database.</p>	<p>Update: [Pending]</p> <p>Seychelles:</p>



Para. 62	The WPDCS REQUESTED that Seychelles collaborate with IRD and the IOTC Secretariat in terms of analysis of the operational (logbook) level data collected for catch-and-effort and size frequency data, to better understand inconsistencies noted in the data for the main Taiwanese longline fleet.	<i>Update:</i> [Pending] Seychelles: IRD:
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