
SCHEDULE OF WORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES FOR KEY SPECIES IN THE IOTC AREA

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Management procedures (also known as ‘harvest strategies’) are widely acknowledged as being best practice for developing sustainable management measures that achieve agreed objectives for sustainably managing fishery resources. This is reflected in Resolution 15/10, which notes that the objectives of the Commission include ‘*to maintain stocks in perpetuity and with high probability, at levels not less than those capable of producing their maximum sustainable yield*’. Resolution 15/10 also sets out interim limit and target reference points and the Scientific Committee has been instructed to ‘*develop and assess, through the management strategy evaluation process, the performance of harvest control rules to achieve target reference points on average and avoid limit reference points with a high probability*’.

The development of management procedures for key IOTC species is now well underway. However, the process for developing candidate management procedures through the IOTC committees and sub-committees, and the adoption of management procedures by the Commission, is a complex and iterative process that will likely require several rounds of advice, consideration and review.

The 20th Session of the IOTC Commission noted the substantial work underway in developing management procedures for IOTC species and requested the development of a work plan reflecting the elements of management procedures to be developed and the roles and responsibilities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. To this end, Australia presented this schedule of work to the 7th meeting of the Working Party on Methods (IOTC-2016-WPM07-12) and the 19th Scientific Committee (IOTC-2016-SC19-INF04) and has revised it to account for feedback provided through those processes.

This schedule of work outlines the process that will need to be followed and the decisions that need to be made to develop management procedures for key IOTC species (at the stock or fishery level) in the IOTC area of competence. It provides a guide for the IOTC committees and sub-committees, as well as the Commission, to understand their roles and responsibilities in the process of developing and adopting management procedures. It also provides indicative timeframes for this work, which may be subject to change. They are drawn from Resolution 15/10 but have been modified to take account of recent delays and shifts in the progression of management procedure development.¹ In this sense, the schedule of work is intended to be a ‘living’ document that the Commission owns and uses (including updating as required) to catalyse, track and confirm its ongoing commitment to the development of management procedures.

References:

- Resolution 12/01 On the implementation of the precautionary approach
- Resolution 15/10 On target and limit reference points and a decision framework
- Resolution 16/02 On harvest control rules for Skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence
- Resolution 16/09 On establishing a Technical Committee on Management Procedures

¹ Resolution 15/10 provides some guidance on indicative timeframes for the Scientific Committee’s development of management procedures for key IOTC species. Management procedures for albacore and skipjack tuna were requested to be completed in 2015 for presentation to the Commission in 2016, while management procedures for yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and swordfish were requested to be completed by 2017 for presentation to the Commission in 2018. A harvest control rule was adopted for skipjack tuna in 2016 (Resolution 16/02). However, the indicative timeframes for completion of management procedures for other species are unlikely to be met due to uncertainty in funding and requisite decision points.

Schedule of work for the development of management procedures for key species in the IOTC Area.

A more detailed explanation of the roles of the Working Parties (WPs), Scientific Committee (SC), Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) and the Commission are provided at Annex 1.

Year	Albacore	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Swordfish
2017	<p>WPs/SC: Undertake MSE and provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs</p>	<p>WPs/SC: Apply HCR using results from 2017 stock assessment to calculate total annual catch limit (TAC)</p>	<p>WPs/SC: Undertake MSE and provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs</p>	<p>WPs/SC: Undertake MSE and provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs</p>	<p>WPs/SC: Develop framework and seek funding for MSE. Advise TCMP and Commission on progress</p>
2018	<p>TCMP: Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives</p> <p>Commission: Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs</p> <p>WPs/SC: Consider recommendations from the Commission and</p>	<p>TCMP: Provide advice to the Commission on outcomes from the application of the HCR</p> <p>Commission: Endorse and implement the TAC calculated from the HCR and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to refine the HCR and/or MSE</p> <p>WPs/SC: Consider recommendations from the Commission and</p>	<p>TCMP: Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives</p> <p>Commission: Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs</p> <p>WPs/SC: Consider recommendations from the Commission and</p>	<p>TCMP: Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives</p> <p>Commission: Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs</p> <p>WPs/SC: Consider recommendations from the Commission and</p>	<p>WPs/SC: Develop initial operating model and undertake MSE to</p>



	undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs	further refine the HCR through MSE as directed	undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs	undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs	provide initial advice on the performance of candidate MPs
2019	TCMP: Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives	TCMP: Provide advice to Commission on elements of the HCR that require a decision by the Commission	TCMP: Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives	TCMP: Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives	TCMP: Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives
2019	Commission: Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies. Decision and adoption of an MP <u>or</u> provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need for further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs WPs/SC: Undertake MSE and provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs	Commission: Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies.	Commission: Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies. Decision and adoption of an MP <u>or</u> provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need for further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs WPs/SC: Undertake MSE and provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs	Commission: Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies. Decision and adoption of an MP <u>or</u> provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need for further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs WPs/SC: Undertake MSE and provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs	Commission: Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs WPs/SC: Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs
2020	TCMP: Provide advice to		TCMP: Provide advice to	TCMP: Provide advice to	TCMP: Provide advice to the

	<p>Commission on elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives</p>		<p>Commission on elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives</p>	<p>Commission on elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives</p>	<p>Commission on elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives</p>
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		<p>WPs/SC: Apply HCR using results from 2020 stock assessment to calculate total annual catch limit (TAC)</p>			<p>WPs/SC: Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs</p>

Annex 1: Explanation of roles in the development of candidate Management Procedures

Working Parties and Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee (SC) and Working Parties (WPs) are responsible for undertaking the technical development of candidate management procedures (MPs), through formal Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), and providing advice on candidate MPs to the Commission.

The Working Party on Methods (WPM) is the primary WP for the development of candidate MPs, but other WPs, such as the Working Party on Tropical Tuna (WPTT), Working Party on Temperate Tuna (WPTmT) and the Working Party on Billfish (WPB), may also contribute to MP development for relevant species.

'Undertake MSE'

- This involves developing operating models and evaluating the performance of candidate management procedures, which include harvest control rules and the pre-specification of data inputs and analyses, against the Commission's objectives.

'Provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs'

- This involves using the agreed performance statistics and standardised figures and tables to communicate results from MSE. Advice from the SC and WPs to the Commission also includes advice on the appropriateness of limit reference points (LRP) and target reference points (TRP), as required under Resolution 15/10.

Technical Committee on Management Procedures

Resolution 16/09 states that the objectives of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) include to *'Enhance the decision making response of the Commission in relation to management procedures, including recommendations made by the Scientific Committee'* and to *'Enhance communication and foster dialogue and mutual understanding between the Scientific Committee and the Commission on matters relating to management procedures'*.

'Provide advice to Commission'

- This involves assisting the Commission to consider the elements of MPs that require a decision by the Commission, including identifying and evaluating candidate MPs that aim to meet the Commission's objectives.

'On elements of candidate MPs that require a decision by the Commission'

- Elements of the MPs to be considered include the overarching management objectives, target and limit reference points, harvest control rules, and the performance of MPs against management objectives.

Commission

The Commission is ultimately responsible for guiding the MP process and making decisions on the adoption of MPs, drawing on the advice provided by subsidiary bodies.

'Decision and adoption of an MP'

- This involves considering a proposed MP, which may take the form of a conservation and management measure proposed by a Commission member, or endorsement of a candidate MP.

'Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies'



- This involves the Commission considering advice from the WPs, SC and TCMP on the performance of MPs in achieving the Commission's objectives. In making decisions on adopting MPs, the Commission may also seek advice on compliance and implementation issues from the Compliance Committee.

'Provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need for further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs'

- This involves the Commission providing direction to the WPs and the SC on the need to further refine candidate MPs or develop new candidate MPs through formal MSE. This advice will in turn assist the Commission in its consideration and adoption of MPs.