

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE IOTC SECRETARIAT: 2016

Submitted by: IOTC Secretariat, Last updated: 8 May 2017

1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE IOTC

1. **Contracting Parties:** In 2016, the IOTC consisted of 31 Contracting Parties: Australia, Belize, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (OT), Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep. of), Japan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania (United Rep. of), Thailand, United Kingdom (OT) and Yemen.
2. Belize had previously notified the FAO Director-General of its withdrawal from the membership of IOTC, which became effective on 31 December 2016.
3. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCP):** In 2016, there were 4 CNCPs to the IOTC: Bangladesh, Djibouti, Liberia and Senegal.

2. MISSION OF THE IOTC SECRETARIAT AND STRATEGY OF IMPLEMENTATION

4. The mission of the IOTC Secretariat is:

“To facilitate the processes required to implement the policies and activities of the Commission, whose goal is to achieve the objectives stated in the IOTC Agreement.”

In essence, these processes include the acquisition, processing and dissemination of information that constitutes the basis for informing the Commission’s decisions, as well as supporting the actions taken by Contracting Parties (Members) and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) (collectively termed CPCs) to effectively implement those decisions. The structure of the IOTC Secretariat in 2016 is provided in [Fig. 1](#).

2.1 Professional Staff – Recruitment activities

5. In 2016, two Professional grade staff members departed the IOTC Secretariat:
 - a. P5 Deputy Secretary/ Science Manager in July 2016
 - b. P3 Administrative Officer in March 2016.
6. These vacancies were added to the existing vacancies at the beginning of the year of:
 - a. D1 Executive Secretary (since October 2015);
 - b. P4 Data Coordinator;
 - c. P4 Stock Assessment Expert;
7. The recruitment process for the P4 Data Coordinator and the Stock Assessment Expert (P4) were completed and the selected candidates commenced on March 2016 and November 2016.
8. The Administrative Officer post was filled through a mechanism know as lateral transfer as the incumbent was already employed by FAO in a comparable position at the FAO Representation in Mozambique, therefore shortening the time required for recruitment.

2.2 General Service Staff – Recruitment activities

9. The G4 Office Assistant left the IOTC Secretariat in September 2016 and this post was filled temporarily by the existing G4 Office Assistant employed under an existing EU funded project

3. REPORTING STRUCTURE

10. To facilitate accountability, the activities of the IOTC Secretariat in 2016 have been grouped into six (6) major functional areas which reflect the 'Program of work and budget' approved by the Commission at its 20th Session in 2016, as follows:

- **Support to scientific activities:** The acquisition and processing of scientific data, as required by the Scientific Committee to conduct stock status analyses. Supply of stock assessment services as required by the working groups.
- **Support to compliance activities:** Maintenance of lists of vessels and compliance databases, reporting on compliance by Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs). Providing support to CPCs in the implementation of IOTC Resolutions.
- **Communications and public information:** Considered essential in allowing CPCs to follow the progress of the Commission's work in a transparent way, and to increase the visibility of the Commission's activities to the general public.
- **Support to meetings:** Logistic support in the facilitation of meetings, preparation of reports and maintenance of the meetings calendar
- **Information Technology:** Provide basic computer infrastructure, including maintenance of the network and servers, as well as Internet support.
- **Administration:** Financial administration in conjunction with FAO, administration of extra-budgetary funds, travel arrangements, general logistical support to the activities of the technical sections.

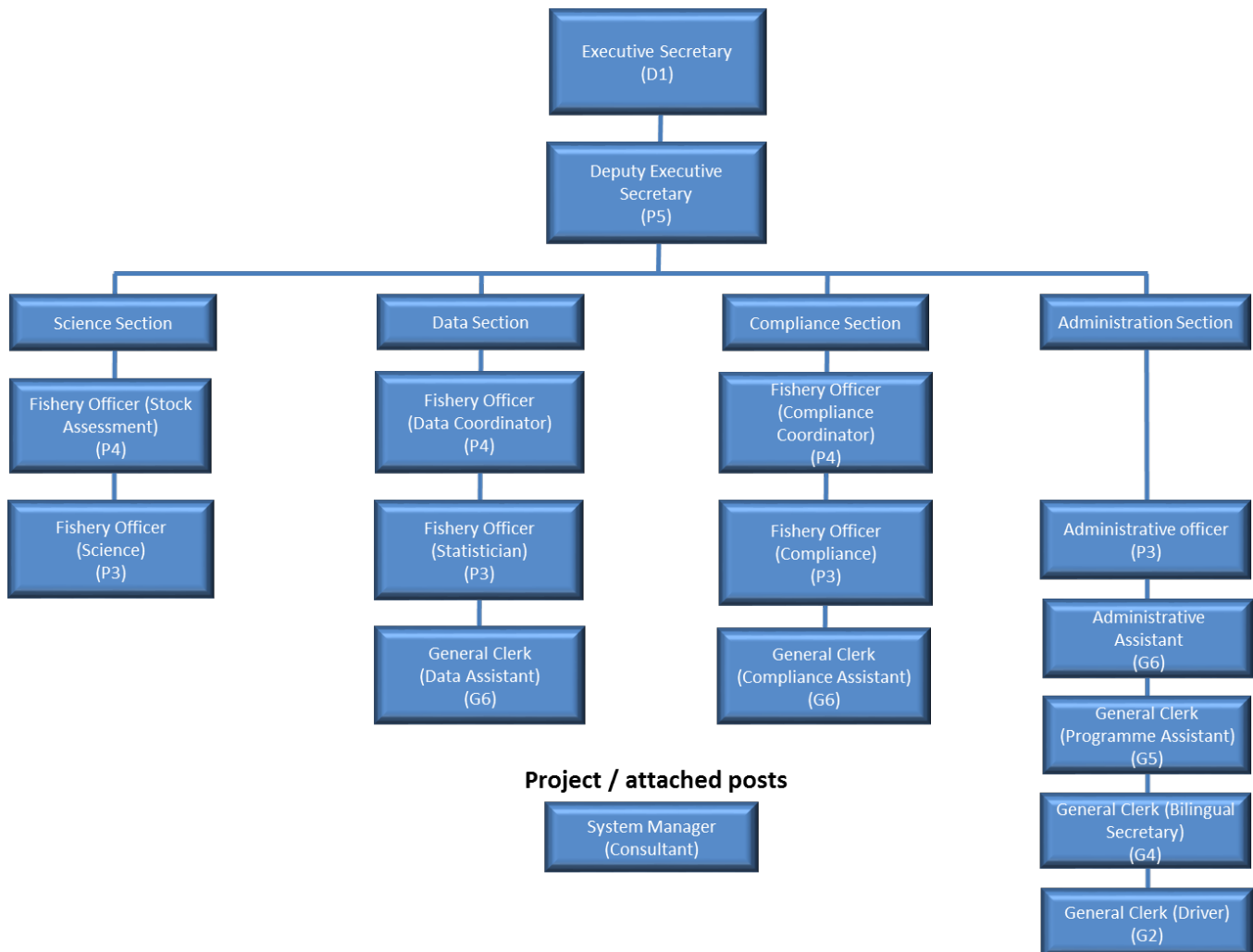


Fig. 1. Structure of the IOTC Secretariat in 2016.

4. SUPPORT TO SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

4.1 Role of the IOTC Secretariat in technical matters

11. The IOTC Secretariat currently provides the following services in the scientific processes of the Commission:
- Advice and training in data collection;
 - Advice and training on stock assessment methods;
 - Advice, management and coordination of a limited range of scientific activities (e.g. previously tagging; CPUE standardisation);
 - Preparation and provision of summary mandatory fisheries statistics for use by CPCs for research and the production of stock assessments (e.g. catch at size and catch at age);
 - Preparation and reporting on the status of the IOTC databases to Working Parties;
 - Drafting of species Executives Summaries;
 - Drafting and production of the Working Party and Scientific Committee reports;
 - Organisation of the Working Parties and Scientific Committee;
 - Preparation of background documents for the Working Parties and the Scientific Committee;
 - Stock assessments on species as determined by the Scientific Committee.

4.2 Science Staffing

12. The IOTC Secretariat's scientific support services area was staffed by six (6) positions as follows:
- Deputy Executive Secretary & Science Manager (P5) (*vacant since July 2016*)
 - Fishery Officer (Stock Assessment) (P4) (*vacant until December 2016*)
 - Fishery Officer (Data Coordinator) (P4) (*vacant until February 2016*)
 - Fishery Officer (Statistics) (P3)
 - Fishery Officer (Science) (P3)
 - General Clerk (Data Assistant) (G6)

4.3 Scientific meetings

4.3.1 IOTC meetings – Working parties & Scientific Committee

13. In 2016, seven (7) Working Party meetings were organised and facilitated by the IOTC Secretariat (Table 1). The current Chairs and Vice-Chairs for each Committee and Working Party are provided at Appendix I.
14. Appendix II lists the documents produced by the IOTC Secretariat in support of Working Party meetings held in 2016. In addition, the IOTC Secretariat produced revised Executive Summaries for all of the IOTC stocks, as well as for sharks, seabirds and marine turtles in association with various experts, totalling 25 Executive Summaries.
15. The IOTC Secretariat facilitated the participation of invited experts that were selected to attend each of the Working Party meetings in 2016. The names and affiliations of each of the Invited Experts are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Invited Experts for Working Party meetings in 2016

Working Party	Date and place	Name	Affiliation
Neritic Tunas	21–24 June, Seychelles	Dr. Shiji Zhou	CSIRO, Australia
Temperate Tunas	18-21 July, Shanghai, China	Nil	Nil
Billfish	6–10 September, Seychelles	Dr. Humber Andrade	Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco, Brazil
Ecosystems and Bycatch	12–16 September, Seychelles	Dr. Malcolm Francie	NIWA, New Zealand
Tropical Tunas	5–10 November, Seychelles	Nil ¹	Nil
Methods	11–13 November, Seychelles	Dr. Ana Parma	Argentina
Data Collection and Statistics	28-30 November, Seychelles	Nil	Nil

¹ Due to exceptional circumstances the invited expert had to withdraw from the meeting at the last minute

Table 2. Scientific Meetings held in 2016 and previous years. Numbers in brackets represent numbers for the previous working party meeting.

Working Party	Date and place of most recent meeting	No. of participants							Meeting Participation Fund							No. of documents (and for the previous meeting)
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Neritic Tunas	21-24 June, Victoria, Seychelles	–	28	35	42	37	31	20	–	9 ²	10	11	13	9	11	Total: 28 (32) Working papers: 26 (29) Information papers: 2 (3)
Temperate Tunas	18-21 July, Shanghai, China	15*	16	26	–	27	–	29	–	2	3	–	3	–	4	Total : 29 (30) Working papers : 29 (26) Information papers : 0 (4)
Billfish	6-10 Sep, Victoria, Seychelles	12	27	23	24	21	23	18	0	5	5	10	4	9 ³	6	Total: 29 (40) Working papers: 28 (32) Information papers: 1 (8)
Ecosystems and Bycatch	12-16 Sep, Victoria, Seychelles	37	49	48	32	37	38	34	9 ⁴	7 ⁵	7	11	5	8 ⁶	11	Total: 53 (64) Working papers: 42 (52) Information papers: 11 (12)
Methods	11-13 Nov, Victoria, Seychelles	18*	–	22	–	34	26	29	–	–	1	–	3 ⁷	6 ⁸	4	Total: 18 (24) Working papers: 17 (14) Information papers: 1 (10)
Data Collection and Statistics	28-30 Nov, Victoria, Seychelles	28	21	–	23	30	20	32	–	2	–	5	1	4	6	Total: 33 (17) Working papers: 28 (11) Information papers: 5 (6)
Tropical Tunas	5-10 Nov, Victoria, Seychelles	39	49	47	46	53	44	44	11	13	8	10	6	6	15	Total: 42 (46) Working papers: 39 (37) Information papers: 3 (9)
Scientific Committee	1-5 December, Victoria, Seychelles	41	50	54	75	62	71	65	7	10	12	11	15	13	10	Working papers: TBA (14) Executive Summaries: 25 Information papers: TBA (1)

² Another 7 scientists were supported by IOTC through the Capacity Building funds as they were also attending the capacity building workshop in Chennai, India (WPNT01)

³ 2 scientists attended both the WPB and WPEB;

⁴ 6 scientists attended both the WPTT and WPEB

⁵ 3 scientists attended both the WPTT and WPEB

⁶ 2 scientists attended both the WPB and WPEB

⁷ 3 scientists attended both the WPM and SC

⁸ Funded by the ABNJ tuna project

4.3.2 IOTC meetings – Science Meeting Participation Fund usage

16. The IOTC Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) was utilised for the indicated scientific meetings and Working Parties indicated in [Table 2](#). The total allocation for MPF in 2016 was US\$150,000 with a further US\$50,000 being approved at the 20th Commission. MPF expenditure in 2016 reached US\$285,088, of which US\$74,066 was extra-budgetary Membership contributions and partnership association from Australia and China. There was therefore an over-expenditure in 2016 of US\$11,022 which was taken from the 2017 allocation.
17. Noting that the intention of the MPF was to utilise the funds, as a first priority, to support the participation of scientists from developing Contracting Parties in scientific meetings of the IOTC, including Working Parties, the IOTC Secretariat facilitated the participation of 67 individuals from developing Contracting Parties of the IOTC to the seven (7) working Party meetings held in 2016, as detailed in [Table 2](#). The total level of participation in the MPF for scientific meetings increased in 2016 (96) from those in 2015 (53) (50 in 2014, 58 in 2013, 46 in 2012, 33 in 2011 and 19 in 2010) ([Table 2](#)).
18. The 2016 non-scientific meetings of the CoC13, SCAF13 and S20 in La Reunion, France, accounted for a significant expenditure against the MPF budget (US\$43,813) but this was considerably lower than the same meetings in 2015. In 2016 the IOTC Secretariat facilitated the participation of 29 individuals from developing CPCs of IOTC to the non-scientific meetings, as detailed in [Table 3](#).

Table 3. Participants of non-scientific meetings supported by the MPF in 2016, with 2014 and 2015 participant numbers presented for comparison.

Meeting	2014	2015	2016
Compliance Committee	13	11	19
Standing Committee on Administration and Finance	12	11	19
Session of the Commission	13	13	19

4.4 Science activities (2016)

19. Neritic tunas: In 2016 two data-poor stock assessment methods (an Optimised Catch-Only Method and Catch-MSY) were used to assess the status of stocks for Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*), narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) and Indo-Pacific king mackerel (*Scomberomorus guttatus*) in collaboration with the invited expert and an external consultant.
20. Blue shark: During the stock assessment conducted on blue shark in 2015, the historical catch series was considered to be the major source of uncertainty and so in preparation for the next stock assessment in 2017, the IOTC Secretariat worked on methods to generate alternative catch estimates for the historical data series. The main methods that were used are:
- Disaggregation techniques – a method to estimate the species composition of reported aggregate shark catches (SKH) was developed based on the methods used for disaggregating the IOTC main species, i.e. using ratios from proxy fleets, time periods and regions.
 - Estimation of ‘missing’ catches – two methods were developed to estimate the unreported catches of blue sharks. One was based on a ratio of blue sharks to target catches, by fleet, over time. The second was based on a statistical modelling approach using GAMs to predict catches based on the input variables: target species catches, time, fleet, and area (E/W). These are being developed further in collaboration with the stock assessment consultant for use in 2017.
21. Seabirds: In 2016 a data call was circulated among CPCs based on a proposal by BirdLife for data to review the effectiveness of Resolution 12/06. These data were collated and reviewed by the IOTC Secretariat in collaboration with the Chairpersons of WPEB and the SC.
22. IOTC Species ID guides: Work is ongoing to translate, typeset, format and print the IOTC Species ID guides into the priority languages identified by the SC. An update on current progress is available in IOTC-2016-SC19-07.

23. Cetacean ID guides: ToRs for the development of a set of cetacean ID guides for the Indian Ocean are in the final stages of development and the work is due to commence shortly.

4.5 Data-related activities

4.5.1 Data-related activities: Capacity building and other initiatives

24. Integrated IOTC database: The new Data Coordinator arrived at the IOTC Secretariat in March 2016 and has been leading the finalization of the new IOTC Integrated Tuna Database. Migration of the main IOTC datasets has now been completed, and development is now being focused on dissemination of the elements of the database on the IOTC website and also integration of stock assessment dataset procedures.
25. The regular suite of datasets have been supplied for all scientists engaged in stock assessment activities and reports on status of IOTC databases produced for relevant Working Parties and SC, and for the preparation of the Country Reports of the Compliance Committee. In addition to the standard fishery datasets, the IOTC Secretariat has updated the RTTP tagging dataset to incorporate new information.
26. The IOTC Secretariat continues to facilitate or provide direct support to developing coastal states using funds from the IOTC capacity building budget or other collaborating agencies. In particular, the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF) has provided resources and advice for the strengthening of data collection systems in more than 20 countries in the region since its inception in 2002. The IOTC Secretariat has also cooperated with COI-SmartFish, the BOBLME Project, the ABNJ Project, the ISSF, and other initiatives in recent years in the coordination and execution of capacity building activities in developing coastal states of the Indian Ocean. In addition, the IOTC Secretariat is also working collaboratively with CMS, IOSEA, NOAA, WWF-Pakistan and WWF-USA on capacity building activities to support the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme in developing coastal states.
27. Following is a summary of the capacity building activities undertaken since the end of SC18⁹:
- Data compliance and support missions, including:
 - Tanzania (Feb-2016)
 - Mauritius (Aug-2016)
 - Indonesia (Oct-2016)
 - Mauritius: assessment of size and biological data for albacore tuna unloading in Port Louis, Mauritius (Aug-2016).
 - Indonesia: technical assistance mission to support IOTC-OFCF Pilot sampling project of artisanal fisheries.

28. Below is a non-exhaustive list of the capacity building activities planned for 2017¹⁰

- Support to WWF Observer Workshop for northern Indian Ocean CPCs (Iran, January)
- IOTC data compliance and support missions (e.g., I.R. Iran) (TBC)
- Indonesia pilot project of artisanal fisheries (on-going)
- Support to the implementation of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme (on-going), and development of the Regional Observer Scheme Pilot Project
- Regional Observer Scheme E-monitoring: pilot
- Regional Observer Scheme E-Reporting tool: pilot testing and roll-out workshops
- Assistance in Catch Assessment Survey of artisanal fisheries in Kenya

4.5.2 Other data initiatives

29. CLAV: The IOTC Secretariat is responsible for the coordination of activities concerning the global Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV), a regularly updated list including the authorized vessels of the five t-RFMOs.

⁹ For more information on these activities refer to: IOTC capacity building activities in support of developing coastal IOTC CPCs: 2016 activities. IOTC–2016–WPDCS12-08, or email: secretariat@iotc.org.

¹⁰ Ditto 5

Collaboration between the IOTC Secretariat and FAO-FIPS continued in 2016. Since 2015, the CLAV has been further enhanced using funds from the FAO Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project. The main objective of the CLAV component of the Project is ensuring that updates of the CLAV occur in as close-to real time as possible in the future.

30. **Regional Observer Scheme:** In 2015 a project proposal was developed to support the collection, reporting and management of data under the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme. Work on of an electronic reporting interface and database, integrated with the new IOTC database system has progressed throughout 2016, and is due to conclude in early-2017 followed by testing and roll-out of the new ROS reporting system to a small number of pilot CPCs. This project has been developed in collaboration with WWF, and is jointly funded by the EU and NOAA.
31. **Sport fisheries project:** The project aims to improve the data reporting coverage of sports and recreational fisheries in the western Indian Ocean. The activities include compiling a directory of sport fishing centres in the western Indian Ocean region, development of a database and standardized reporting forms adapted to Sport Fishing Centres in the western Indian Ocean region, and deliver training materials to Sports Fishing Centres to improve the reporting of sports fisheries data to the IOTC Secretariat.
32. **CITES data mining and indicator development:** A data-mining workshop was held in Victoria, Seychelles from 2-4 November 2016, led by a consultant, Dr Joel Rice. This was part of the WPEB Program of Work and funded by CITES. The main objectives of this workshop were to conduct data mining to compile historical data for CITES-listed oceanic whitetip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) and hammerhead sharks, namely *Sphyrna lewini*, *S. mokarran* and *S. zygaena* and develop descriptive indicators related to stock status. This work is now complete and the final report was received by the end of December 2017.

Table 4. Missions of staff from the IOTC Secretariat during 2016 in relation with capacity building activities in the Indian Ocean.

Country	Date	Staff	Description
Science and Data			
Tanzania	Feb-2016	Fisheries Statistician/Data Assistant	Data compliance and support mission, including support for implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme
Mauritius	Aug-2016	Fisheries Statistician/Data Assistant	i.) Data compliance and support mission; ii) Assess the feasibility of collecting length and biological information for albacore tuna, particularly for foreign longline vessels unloading in Mauritius
Indonesia	Oct-2016	Fisheries Statistician/IOTC-OFCF Project Manager	Technical assistance mission: reporting of catch-and-effort, size data and Regional Observer data; Assistance for continuation of IOTC-OFCF Indonesia pilot sampling project
Compliance			
Comoros	26-30 Jan	Compliance Officer	Compliance Support Mission & implementation of PSM
Tanzania	25-26 Jan	Compliance Coordinator	Follow-up Compliance Support Mission
Kenya	28-29 Jan	Compliance Coordinator	Follow-up Compliance Support Mission
Mauritius	28-29 Feb	Compliance Officer	Follow-up Compliance Support Mission & implementation of PSM
Maputo	6-10 Jun	Compliance Officer/PSM trainer	Regional PSM training course on monitoring landings and transshipments
Seychelles	4-6 May	Compliance Officer	E-PSM training
France (EU)	19-20 May	Compliance Officer	E-PSM training
South Africa - Durban	4-8 Jul	Compliance Officer/PSM trainer	National PSM training course
South Africa	18-22 Jul	Compliance Officer	E-PSM training
Mozambique	8-12 Aug	Compliance Officer	E-PSM training
Indonesia	16-19 Aug	Compliance Coordinator	Follow-up Compliance Support Mission
Madagascar	22-26 Aug	Compliance Officer	E-PSM training
Mauritius	5-9 Sep	Compliance Officer	E-PSM training
Tanzania	19-20 Sep	Compliance Officer	E-PSM training

Kenya	22-23 Sep	Compliance Officer	E-PSM training
South Africa	28-30 Sep	Compliance Coordinator	Follow-up Compliance Support Mission
Malaysia	11-13 Oct	Compliance Coordinator	Follow-up Compliance Support Mission
Thailand	3-7 Oct	Compliance Officer/2 PSM trainers	Regional PSM training course on national interagency collaboration and regional cooperation
Madagascar	16/19 Feb	Compliance Officer	Follow-up Compliance Support Mission \$ implementation of PSM
Sri Lanka	15-18 Nov	Compliance Officer	E-PSM training
Malaysia	21-25 Nov	Compliance Officer	E-PSM training
Oman	17-29 Dec	Compliance Officer	E-PSM training

4.5.3 Management Strategy Evaluation

33. The IOTC Scientific Committee and its Working Party on Methods (WPM) had been tasked with undertaking the process of a management strategy evaluation to develop management procedures for discussion at the Technical Committee on Management Procedures. To this avail, the IOTC Secretariat has undertaken multiple capacity building exercises at times in partnership with WWF under the umbrella of the FAO Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project, to reinforce the capacity of coastal CPC's to participate in the process.

4.6 IOTC publications and information products

4.6.1 IOTC Website

34. The IOTC website continues to be a portal for communicating science related information to a variety of audiences. The IOTC Secretariat has completed the development of a new website, as requested by the Commission. After indications from FAO that the IOTC website will have to migrate under the corporate FAO website, and following instructions from the Commission, technical consultations were conducted between the with the FAO offices and the IOTC Secretariat, to clarify the nature of the services currently offered by the IOTC website.

5. SUPPORT TO COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

35. The *IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels* has increased significantly and often require special attention from the IOTC Secretariat to ensure its accuracy.. The processing and quality assurance of IOTC data sets continues to account for substantial resources in the IOTC Secretariat, and often requires repeat requests for clarification of data issues between IOTC Secretariat staff and data liaison officers in national fisheries organisations. Collaboration with the Administrator of the Consolidated List of Authorised Vessels (CLAV) have resulted in the identification of additional errors and subsequent corrections of a number of entries into the database.

36. The maintenance of the *IOTC Record of Active Vessels* also requires the active involvement of staff of the IOTC Secretariat, as data submissions from various parties often reveal discrepancies and inconsistencies that the staff attempt to resolve through contacts with the various parties involved.

37. *Regional Observer Programme (ROP)* to monitor transshipment at sea for large-scale tuna longline vessels. With greater focus being placed on using the data from this Programme to identify possible infractions, the IOTC Secretariat now have to identify and point out possible infractions to the fleets participating in the Programme. The level of activities under this Programme increased significantly during 2016, which resulted in the IOTC Secretariat having to seek an amendment to the contract to make provision for the increased expenditure incurred. A one year extension of the current contract was also approved by the FAO, for the year 2017. A new tender for the at-sea Transshipment Programme will be launched in the second half of 2017.

5.1 Capacity building activities: Compliance Support Missions

38. *Follow-up Compliance Support Missions (CSM)* are intended to bring the work of the Commission and the Compliance Committee closer to the CPCs. The follow-up CSM are a combination of capacity building and planning exercise to engage in activities that would support the issues that were identified during the review of country based Compliance Report at the last session of the Compliance Committee. The follow-up CSMs are carried by the IOTC Secretariat staff over a period of three days, to an audience composed of national officers in offices involved in the implementation of IOTC Resolutions. The outcome is a Compliance Action Plan and an agreed timeline with the CPC on addressing outstanding compliance issues. To date, seventeen (17) CSMs have been successfully conducted in the following countries: Comoros, India, Indonesia, I.R. Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles/Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Thailand. Further follow-up missions are planned for the 2017/18 intersessional period.

5.2 Capacity building activities: Training in Port State Measures Resolution

39. The other component is specific to the implementation of Resolution 10/11 *on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing*. This training is primarily intended for field personnel and their supervisors, as it focuses more in the operational aspects of the Resolution on Port State Measures. It implements at national level, a training course for government officials on IOTC Port State Measures for CPCs in the region. To support this activity, one training package has been developed relating to the implementation of Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities.
40. A regional PSM training on national interagency cooperation and regional cooperation has been developed and conducted (October 2016, Thailand) with a view to foster the links between the national agencies involved in implementing PSM and to strengthen cooperation between port State CPCs.
41. With the support of the Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) of the World Bank, the IOTC Secretariat has developed an electronic Port State Measures application (e-PSM), accessible through the IOTC web site, to support the implementation of IOTC Resolutions on PSM. The e-PSM application became functional in May 2016. As required by the paragraph 3 of the Resolution 16/11, the IOTC Secretariat has provided training to port State CPCs on the use of the e-PSM application. The five days training was conducted in two sessions: the 1st session targeted the fishing industry (representatives of foreign fishing vessels / agents) on how to use the application and submit an advance request to enter a port (AREP) through the application; the 2nd session targeted the personnel of the competent authority of the port State.

5.3 Funding of Compliance related activities

42. Funding for these activities are being provided through cooperation with several initiatives, following presentation of the capacity building initiatives to potential financing agencies. [Table 4](#) summarises all the missions relating to compliance.
43. The IOTC Secretariat has:
- a) signed a Grant Agreement with the European Union for the provision of €150.000 to finance the Compliance Support Missions and other activities in 2016.
 - b) received financing from the following agencies/projects:
 - Indian Ocean Commission’s SmartFish Programme, financed under the 10th European Development Fund, provided financial support to undertake, in qualifying countries, Compliance Support Missions and National PSM training courses. A project for developing a set of harmonized terms and definitions for IOTC Conservation and Management Measures was also initiated in 2015.
 - World Bank Project (under Global Partnership for Oceans) through the Indian Ocean Commission (financing to undertake, in qualifying countries, Compliance Support Missions, to develop the PSM information Sharing System and to transpose of relevant IOTC CMMs into national legislation in accordance to Article X of the IOTC Agreement.
 - The FAO Project “Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”, supported by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), (assisted with the further development of CLAV and various other capacity building activities including regional training on the e-PSM application).

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

6.1 Documents (papers and reports)

44. The IOTC Secretariat continues with the publications of all reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies (Working Parties and Committees). All reports are currently published in electronic format only, following the decision by the Commission at its 17th Session to go paperless.

7. SUPPORT TO MEETINGS

7.1 Logistic support in the facilitation of meetings

45. The IOTC Secretariat continues to work with several translators for the provision of translation services, and preparation of documents in both languages of the Commission for the Sessions of the Commission, and all Committees. In order to reduce staff costs, the translation of documents to the official languages of the Commission (English and French) has been outsourced as necessary. Unless there is a substantial increase in

the workload relating to translation, the current approach is an effective way of proceeding under the current budget limits.

7.2 Preparation of reports

46. The IOTC Secretariat staff provided the necessary support to all IOTC meetings in 2016 related to the development and dissemination of meeting reports. In 2016, all IOTC meeting reports were developed, finalised and disseminated efficiently and in a short timeframe to ensure CPCs had access to the most recent meeting findings and recommendations soon after the completion of a meeting (usually within one week).

8. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

47. The provision of computer infrastructure, including maintenance of the network and servers, as well as Internet support was providing by a consultant paid under the provisions of Headquarters Agreement with the Republic of Seychelles. These services were also extended to general meeting support and IOTC website maintenance.

9. ADMINISTRATION

48. The personnel and financial administration of the IOTC is managed through the FAO ERP system called the GRMS. This includes the administration of extra-budgetary funds, travel arrangements, general logistical support to the activities of the technical sections.

10. OTHER ACTIVITIES

10.1 Contacts with other organisations

49. The IOTC Secretariat routinely maintains contacts with other organisations in the region with the purpose of coordinating scientific activities to the extent possible. This is essential to avoid duplication of efforts with similar organisations (e.g. other tuna RFMOs – CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT and WCPFC).
50. **Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs):** The IOTC Secretariat maintains close links with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) primarily through the discussions of possible future coordination and cooperation in fisheries projects involving tuna fisheries. The IOTC Secretariat is currently involved in a number of joint activities with the IOC Project Integrated Regional Fisheries Strategy (IRFS) also known as SmartFish, mostly on Compliance issues, but it is expected that there will be collaboration on data-collection activities between the IRFS and IOTC.
51. **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs):** The IOTC Secretariat also maintains close links with a number of NGOs, such as INFOFISH, WWF, IPNLF, PEW and ISSF.

11. RECOMMENDATION/S

52. That the SCAF **NOTE** paper IOTC–2017–SCAF14–03 which provides the SCAF with an update on the activities of the IOTC Secretariat in support of the Commission in 2016.

APPENDIX I

2016: LIST OF CHAIRS, VICE-CHAIRS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE TERMS FOR ALL IOTC BODIES

Group	Chair / Vice-Chair	Chair	CPC/Affiliation	1 st Term commencement date	Term expiration date (End date is until replacement is elected)	Comments
Commission	Chair	Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al-Mazroui	Oman	01-May-15	End of Com. in 2017	1 st term
	Vice-Chairs	Mr Jeongseok Park	Rep. of Korea	10-May-13	End of Com. in 2017	2 nd term
		Mr Saut Tampubolon	Indonesia	01-May-15	End of Com in 2017	1 st term
CoC	Chair	Mr Herminio Tembe	Mozambique	04-May-13	End of CoC in 2017	2 nd term
	Vice-Chair	Mr Hosea Gonza Mbilinyi	Tanzania	04-May-13	End of CoC in 2017	2 nd term
SCAF	Chair	Dr Benjamin Tabios	Philippines	31-May-14	End of SCAF in 2017	2 nd term
	Vice-Chair	Mr Bojrazsingh Boyramboli	Mauritius	31-May-14	End of SCAF in 2017	2 nd term
TCAC	Chair	Mr Don MacKay	Independent consultant	21-Feb-16	End of TCAC in 2017	2 nd term
	Vice-Chair	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
SC	Chair	Dr Hilario Murua	EU,Spain	27-Dec-15	End of SC in 2017	1 st term
	Vice-Chair	Dr Shiham Adam	Maldives	27-Dec-15	End of SC in 2017	1 st term
WPB	Chair	Dr Tsutomu Nishida	Japan	05-Sept-15	End of WPB in 2017	1 st term
	Vice-Chair	Dr Evgeny Romanov	EU,France	05-Sep-15	End of WPB in 2017	1 st term
WPTmT	Chair	Dr Jiangfeng Zhu	China	21-Jul-16	End of WPTmT in 2018	1 st term
	Vice-Chair	Dr Toshihide Kitakado	Japan	21-Jul-16	End of WPTmT in 2018	1 st term
WPTT	Chair	Dr Shiham Adam	Maldives	19-Nov-14	End of WPTT in 2018	2 nd term
	Vice-Chair	Dr Gorka Merino	EU,Spain	19-Nov-14	End of WPTT in 2018	2 nd term
WPEB	Chair	Dr Rui Coelho	EU,Portugal	16-Sept-13	End of WPEB in 2017	2 nd term
	Vice-Chair	Dr Reza Sharifar; Dr Ross Wanless	I.R. Iran / BirdLife	11-Sept-15	End of WPEB in 2017	1 st term
WPNT	Chair	Dr Farhad Kaymaram	I.R. Iran	29-May-15	End of WPNT in 2017	1 st term
	Vice-Chair	Dr Mathias Igulu	Tanzania	29-May-15	End of WPNT in 2017	1 st term
WPDCS	Chair	Dr Emmanuel Chassot	EU,France	02-Dec-14	End of WPDCS in 2017	2 nd term
	Vice-Chair	Mr Stephen Ndegwa	Kenya	22-Oct-14	End of WPDCS in 2017	2 nd term
WPM	Chair	Dr Toshihide Kitakado	Japan	21-Oct-15	End of WPM in 2017	1 st term
	Vice-Chair	Dr Iago Mosqueira	EU	21-Oct-15	End of WPM in 2017	1 st term

APPENDIX II

2016: LIST OF PAPERS WITH PARTICIPATION FROM IOTC SECRETARIAT STAFF

Document number	Title
13th Session of the Compliance Committee	
IOTC-2016-CoC13-03_Rev1	Summary report on the level of compliance
IOTC-2016-CoC13-04a	Report on establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels – Secretariat’s Report
IOTC-2016-CoC13-04b	A Summary of the IOTC Regional Observer Programme During 2015 – Contractor’s Report
IOTC-2016-CoC13-05 Rev1	Report on the implementation of a limitation of fishing capacity of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties.
IOTC-2016-CoC13-05 Add1	Collection of fleet development plans
IOTC-2016-CoC13-06	Performance review update (Resolution 09/01 – on the performance review follow-up)
IOTC-2016-CoC13-07 Rev1	Concerning the IOTC Provisional IUU vessels list
IOTC-2016-CoC13-08a_Rev4	Complementary elements for discussion under item 7 of the agenda for the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2016-CoC13-08c	Summary report on possible infractions observed under the Regional Observer Programme
IOTC-2016-CoC13-08c Add1	Identification of repeated infringements under the Regional Observer Programme
IOTC-2016-CoC13-09_Rev1	Summary report on Compliance Support Activities
IOTC-2016-CoC13-08b Add2	Response to 2014 possible infractions from Thailand under the Regional Observer Programme
IOTC-2016-CoC13-09 Rev2	Summary report on Compliance Support Activities
IOTC-2016-CoC13 10	Summary report on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels
IOTC-2016-CoC13-11	Summary of Compliance with the drifting FADs Management Plans
IOTC-2016-CoC13-11 Add1	Collection of fish aggregating devices management plans
IOTC-2016-CoC13-13	Harmonized Terms and Definitions for IOTC Conservation and Management Measures
IOTC-2016-CoC13-14	Review of progress made on elaborating a proposal for an IOTC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme
IOTC-2016-CoC13-15	Implementation of Recommendations of the Compliance Committee in 2015
IOTC-2016-CoC13-CR01-37	37 x Compliance reports for each CPC
13th Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance	
IOTC-2016-SCAF13-04	Financial Statement: Fiscal Year 2015
IOTC-2016-SCAF13-05	Financial Statement and variations: Financial Year 2016
IOTC-2016-SCAF13-03	Progress Report of the IOTC Secretariat: 2015
IOTC-2016-SCAF13-09	Program of work and budget for 2017 and Indicative Budget for 2018
IOTC-2016-SCAF13-10	Update on Progress Regarding Resolution 09/01 – on the Performance Review Follow-up
IOTC-2016-SCAF13-11	Cost and benefit of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) within and outside of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
IOTC-2016-SCAF13-12	Amendment of the IOTC Financial Regulations
IOTC-2015-SCAF13-07	Membership of Sierra Leone and Guinea in the IOTC
20th Session of the Commission	
IOTC-2016-S20-04	Actions arising from the previous Session of the Commission (S19)
IOTC-2016-S20-06	Applications for membership in accordance with article IV.2 of the Agreement, and for acquisition of the Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status
IOTC-2016-S20-08	Update on progress regarding Resolution 09/01 – <i>on the performance review follow-up</i>
IOTC-2016-S20-09	Proposal for amendments to the Rules of Procedure (2014) of the Commission
IOTC-2016-S20-10	Proposal for amendments to the Financial Regulations (1999) of the Commission
IOTC-2016-S20-11	Conservation and management measures requiring action by the Commission in 2016
IOTC-2016-S20-12	Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement
IOTC-2016-S20-13	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IOTC and the Convention on the Conservation of Highly Migratory Species of Wild Animal (CMS)
IOTC-2016-S20-14	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IOTC and the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) of Japan

6th Session of the IOTC Working Party on Neritic Tunas

Document number	Title
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–03	Outcomes of the 18 th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–04	Outcomes of the 20 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–05	Review of current Conservation and Management Measures relating to neritic tuna species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–06	Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPNT05 and SC18 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–07 Rev_1	Review of the statistical data available for the neritic tuna species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–08	Revision of the WPNT Program of Work (2017–2021) (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–09	Improving the core IOTC data management processes (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–10	Overview of the pilot sampling project of artisanal fisheries in North and West Sumatra: implications on IOTC catch estimates of neritic tunas in Indonesia. (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–16	A Productivity Susceptibility Analysis for neritic tuna species (J.Robinson, IOTC Consultant)
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–17 Rev_1	Assessment of Indian Ocean longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) using data poor catch-based methods (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–18 Rev_1	Assessment of Indian Ocean narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) using data poor catch-based methods (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPNT06–21 Rev_1	Assessment of Indian Ocean Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) using data poor catch-based methods (IOTC Secretariat)
6th Session of the IOTC Working Party on Temperate Tunas	
IOTC–2016–WPTmT06–03	Outcomes of the 18 th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPTmT06–04	Outcomes of the 20 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPTmT06–05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to temperate tuna (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPTmT06–06	Progress made on the recommendations of WPTmT05 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPTmT06–07	Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for albacore (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPTmT06–08	Revision of the WPTmT Program of Work (2017–2021) (IOTC Secretariat)
14th Session of the IOTC Working Party on Billfish	
IOTC–2016–WPB14–03	Outcomes of the 18 th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPB14–04	Outcomes of the 20 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPB14–05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPB14–06	Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPB13 and SC18 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPB14–07 Rev1	Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for billfish species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPB14–08 Rev1	Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2017–2021) (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPB14–09 Rev1	Improvement in the core IOTC data management processes (IOTC Secretariat)
12th Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch	
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–03	Outcomes of the 18 th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–04	Outcomes of the 20 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to ecosystems and bycatch (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–06	Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPEB11 and SC18 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–07	Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for ecosystems and bycatch species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–08	Improvements to the IOTC database (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–09 Rev_1	Update on the implementation of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–10 Rev_1	Status of development and implementation of National Plans of Action for seabirds and sharks, and implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–11	Revision of the WPEB Program of Work (2017–2021) (IOTC Secretariat)

Document number	Title
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–36	Preliminary Analysis and Data Development for Blue Shark (<i>Prionace glauca</i>) Catch Reconstruction (J.Rice and S.Martin)
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–37	Progress report on data mining for CITES-listed species, stock status and review of mitigation measures for Oceanic whitetip shark (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>) (J.Rice)
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–INF04	Blue Shark catches reported to the IOTC Secretariat, and a review of current estimation procedures (IOTC Secretariat)
18th Session of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas	
IOTC–2016–WPTT18–03	Outcomes of the 18 th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPTT18–04	Outcomes of the 20 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPTT18–05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to tropical tunas (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPTT18–06	Progress made on the recommendations of WPTT17 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPTT18–07	Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for tropical tunas (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPTT18–08	Revision of the WPTT Program of Work (2017–2021) (IOTC Secretariat)
7th Working Party on Methods	
IOTC–2016–WPM07–03	Outcomes of the 18 th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPM07–04	Outcomes of the 20 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPM07–05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relating to methods (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPM07–06	Progress on the recommendations of WPM06 (IOTC Secretariat, Chair & Vice-Chair)
IOTC–2016–WPM07–07	Revision of the WPM Program of Work (2017–2021) (IOTC Secretariat, Chair & Vice-Chair)
12th Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics	
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–03	Outcomes of the 18 th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–04	Outcomes of the 20 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–05	Review of current Conservation and Management Measures relating to the WPDCS (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–06	Progress on the recommendations of WPDCS11 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–07	Report on IOTC Data Collection and Statistics (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–08	IOTC capacity building activities in support of developing coastal IOTC CPCs (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–09	Revision of the WPDCS Program of Work (2017–2021) (IOTC Secretariat, Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–18	Improving the management of European Union and assimilated Purse Seine fleets size-frequency data received by the Secretariat (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–19	Considerations about alternative definitions of total catches, discards and bycatch and their possible impact on the IOTC data submission forms (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–20	Implications on data collection and reporting for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties subject to catch reductions according to Resolution 16/01 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–22	The Regional Observer Scheme strategic plan (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–25	Improving the core IOTC data management processes (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–26	Data as resources: how to enhance data sharing capabilities between the Secretariat and the scientific community (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–28	A bycatch data exchange protocol for the Indian Ocean (IOTC Secretariat)
19th Session of the Scientific Committee	
IOTC–2016–SC19–03	Outcomes of the 20 th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–SC19–04	Previous decisions of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–SC19–05	Report of the Secretariat – Activities in support of the IOTC science process in 2016 (IOTC Secretariat)

Document number	Title
IOTC–2016–SC19–06	Status of development and implementation of national plans of action for seabirds and sharks, and implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–SC19–07	2016: Update on the implementation of the regional observer scheme (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–SC19–08	2016: Update on progress regarding Resolution 09/01 – on the performance review follow-up (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–SC19–09	Revision of the program of work (2016–2020) for the IOTC science process (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–SC19–10	Proposed schedule of Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2017 and 2018 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–SC19–14	Development of a pilot project for the ROS (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2016–SC19–INF01	Preliminary results of data mining for oceanic whitetip sharks with respect to IOTC Resolution 13/06 (J. Rice, IOTC Consultant)
IOTC–2016–SC19–INF02	A review of the response to the seabird data call in IOTC circular 2016-043 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2016-SC19-ES1-ES25	Executive Summaries for IOTC species and the main bycatch species