
DRAFT: AGENDA FOR THE 15TH WORKING PARTY ON BILLFISH

Updated: 1 June 2017

Date: 10-14 September 2017

Location: San Sebastián, Spain

Venue: TBA

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 daily

Chair: Dr Tsutomu Nishida (Japan); **Vice-Chair:** Dr Evgeny Romanov (EU,France)

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chairperson)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
3. **THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS**
 - 3.1 Outcomes of the 19th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.2 Outcomes of the 21st Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.3 Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.4 Progress on the recommendations of WPB14 (IOTC Secretariat)
4. **NEW INFORMATION ON FISHERIES AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FOR BILLFISH**
 - 4.1 Review of the statistical data available for billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 4.2 Review new information on fisheries and associated environmental data (general CPC papers)
 - 4.3 New information on sport fisheries (all)
5. **SWORDFISH**
 - 5.1 Review new information on swordfish biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 5.2 Review of new information on the status of swordfish (all)
 - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
 - Stock assessments
 - Selection of Stock Status indicators for swordfish
 - 5.3 Development of management advice for swordfish and update of swordfish Executive Summary for the consideration of the Scientific Committee (all)
6. **MARLINS (Priority species for 2017: striped marlin)**
 - 6.1 Review new information on marlin biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 6.2 Review of new information on the status of marlins (all)
 - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
 - Stock assessments
 - Selection of Stock Status indicators for marlins
 - 6.3 Development of management advice for marlins and update of marlin species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee (all)
7. **INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH**
 - 7.1 Review new information on I.P. sailfish biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 7.2 Review of new information on the status of IP sailfish (all)
 - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
 - Selection of Stock Status indicators for IP sailfish
 - 7.3 Development of management advice for IP sailfish and update of IP sailfish species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee (all)

- 8. DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES (INCLUDING CLOSURES) FOR BILLFISH IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE**
- 9. WPB PROGRAM OF WORK**
- 9.1 Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2018–2022) (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
 - 9.2 Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPB meeting (Chairperson)
- 10. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 10.1 Date and place of the 16th and 17th Sessions of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
 - 10.2 Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the next biennium (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 10.3 Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 15th Session of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson)