PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPTT19

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PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 20th WPTT with an update on the progress made in implementing those recommendations from the previous Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT) meeting which were endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC), and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants as appropriate given any progress.

BACKGROUND

At the 19th Session of the WPTT, 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 WPTT was provided to the SC for its endorsement at its December 2017 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) carry out other technical activities of relevance to the Commission.

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.

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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 WPTT18.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPTT:

1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2018–WPTT20–06 which detailed the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the WPTT19, and the requests of the 20th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC20), 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 WPTT19, noting that these will be provided to the SC for its endorsement.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Progress made on the Recommendations and Requests of WPTT19

APPENDIX I

Progress made on the recommendations of WPTT19

WPTT19 Rec. No.		SC20 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC20	Endorsed at S22	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPTT20
WPTT19.01 (para. 20)	***Review of the statistical data available for tropical tunas*** **ACKNOWLEDGING** the substantial gaps in reporting of mandatory IOTC datasets by many CPCs to the IOTC Secretariat, which increases the uncertainty of stock assessments and management advice based on these data, the WPTT strongly **RECOMMENDED** the Commission strengthen the penalty mechanisms adopted in *Resolution 16/06 On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC* to improve compliance by CPCs in terms of the submission of basic fishery data in accordance with Resolution 15/01 and 15/02.	SC20.37 (Para. 118)	Acknowledging the substantial gaps in reporting of mandatory IOTC datasets by many CPCs to the IOTC Secretariat, which increases the uncertainty of stock assessments and management advice based on these data, the SC strongly **RECOMMENDED** the Commission strengthen the penalty mechanisms adopted in *Resolution 16/06 On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC* to improve compliance by CPCs in terms of the submission of basic fishery data in accordance with Resolution 15/01 and 15/02..	(Para 126)	**Update:** Resolution 18/07 was adopted which supersedes Resolution 16/06.
WPTT19.02 (para. 73)	***Testing designs of Biodegradable FADs in natural conditions to mitigate the impacts of drifting FADs on the Ecosystem*** The WPTT **NOTED** that WPEB (2017) discussed some of the challenges in conducting biodegradable FAD studies (for example the limit on the number of active FADs per purse seine vessel in the Indian Ocean that may hinder the deployment of BIOFADs following experimental sampling designs, and also engagement with the fleet to deploy BIOFADs that may not be successful for fishing), and the WPTT **RECOMMENDED** the Commission consider special allocations for experimental FADs deployed for the collection of scientific data for vessels willing to participate in biodegradable FAD testing under protocols reviewed and endorsed by the Scientific Committee.	SC20.46 (Para. 163)	***Biodegradable FAD (BIOFAD) Project*** The SC noted the challenges in conducting studies on biodegradable FADs (for example the limit on the number of active FADs per purse seine vessel in the Indian Ocean that may hinder the deployment of BIOFADs following experimental sampling designs, and also engagement with the fleet to deploy BIOFADs that may not be successful for fishing). Thus, the SC **RECOMMENDED** the Commission consider special allocations for experimental FADs deployed for the collection of scientific data for vessels willing to participate in biodegradable FAD testing under protocols reviewed and endorsed by the Scientific Committee.	(Para 126)	**Update:** Resolution 18/04 was adopted detailing the BIOFAD Experimental project
WPTT19.03 (para. 107)	***Review of new information on the status of bigeye tuna: Nominal and standardised CPUE indices*** The WPTT **ACKNOWLEGED** the efficiency value of making the operational logbook data available to appropriate analysts outside of the responsible CPCs, and **RECOMMENDED** that high level arrangements for sharing and confidentiality should be pursued. **NOTING**	SC20.26 (para. 78)	***Review of new information on the status of bigeye tuna: Nominal and standardised CPUE indices*** The SC acknowledged the efficiency value of making the operational logbook data available to appropriate analysts outside of the responsible CPCs, and **RECOMMENDED** that high level arrangements for sharing and confidentiality should be pursued. Noting the	N/A	**Update:** The IOTC Secretariat explored with Japan the possibilities of using data access methods that maintain confidentiality and allow for more substantial analyses of the operational-level longline data held by Japan (a formal letter was communicated to Fisheries Agency of Japan in February 2018, IOTC REF: 6871). Japan has subsequently indicated that they would like

WPTT19 Rec. No.		SC20 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC20	Endorsed at S22	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPTT20
	the confidentiality issues with some of the datasets, the WPTT **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat and main stakeholders explore options to facilitate future data sharing agreements which, once in place, may not necessitate face-to-face meetings and could instead include remote processes.		confidentiality issues with some of the datasets, the SC **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat and main stakeholders explore options to facilitate future data sharing agreements which, once in place, may not necessitate face-to-face meetings and could instead include remote processes		to maintain the current arrangement of the data-sharing for the collaborative CPUE analysis.
WPTT19.04 (para. 108)	The WPTT **RECOMMENDED** that the joint longline CPUE standardization for tropical tunas should continue, and that further development work should be assigned a high priority. **ACKNOWLEDGING** that the law of diminishing returns will affect similar future analyses, the WPTT **SUGGESTED** that immediate priorities should focus on the following areas: • develop joint CPUE indices for other IOTC species (i.e., billfish and sharks); • explore possibilities for including CPUE data provided by other IOTC CPCs (particularly coastal fisheries); • identify a unified approach for species targeting using simulation testing (for example, the value of cluster analysis is clear in the temperate regions, but less so in tropical regions); • recover vessel identification details from historical data; • further develop the work on time-area interactions. Include a detailed examination of catch rates and related data in the piracy area, comparing pre-piracy and post-piracy effects. Potentially also consider the effects of localised depletion and renewal processes on catch rates. • conduct further size analyses to explore 1977 discontinuity (other oceans); • develop an Indian Ocean CPUE reference manual for practitioners to use • explore other distributions to improve model fit.	SC20.27 (Para. 79)	The SC **RECOMMENDED** that the joint longline CPUE standardization for tropical tunas should continue, and that further development work should be assigned a high priority. Acknowledging that the law of diminishing returns will affect similar future analyses, the SC suggested that immediate priorities should focus on the following areas: • develop joint CPUE indices for other IOTC species (i.e., billfish and sharks); • explore possibilities for including CPUE data provided by other IOTC CPCs (particularly coastal fisheries); • identify a unified approach for species targeting using simulation testing (for example, the value of cluster analysis is clear in the temperate regions, but less so in tropical regions); • recover vessel identification details from historical data; • further develop the work on time-area interactions. Include a detailed examination of catch rates and related data in the piracy area, comparing pre-piracy and post-piracy effects. Potentially also consider the effects of localised depletion and renewal processes on catch rates. • conduct further analyses to explore 1977 discontinuity (other oceans); • develop an Indian Ocean CPUE reference manual for practitioners to use • explore other density probability functions to improve model fit.	N/A	**Update:** This is being addressed through an expert consultancy and the update on this work will be presented to the WPTT20
WPTT19.05 (paras. 212-	***Development of management advice for skipjack tuna & update of skipjack tuna Executive Summary for the consideration of the Scientific Committee***	(para. 135)	***Development of management advice*** The SC noted the recommendation from the WPTT to	N/A	**Update:** In progress: The issue was discussed during the TCMP:

WPTT19 Rec. No.		SC20 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC20	Endorsed at S22	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPTT20
214)	The WPTT **NOTED** that when providing advice on stock status, IOTC stocks are considered to be overfished and subject to overfishing when the target reference points are breached, and there is no change to stock status when limit reference points are breached. The WPTT **NOTED** that this may not always be consistent with the intended application of target and limit reference points. For example, when managing stocks to a specific target reference point, the stock can breach the target in some years due to natural fluctuations in stock abundance or other sources of variability. In these years, the stock would be assessed as being overfished and/or subject to overfishing. The WPTT therefore **RECOMMENDED** that the Scientific Committee review the approach used to provide management advice, particularly in relation to how the outcomes from stock assessments are reported against target and limit reference points.		review the approach used to provide management advice, particularly in relation to how the outcomes from stock assessments are reported against target and limit reference points, and in particular the following issues related to the current reference points: i. **Status determination** – Currently IOTC stocks are considered to be overfished and subject to overfishing when stocks experience B<Bmsy and F>Fmsy according to the KOBE plot, and there is no change to stock status determination when limit reference points (if defined) are breached. This may not always be consistent with the intended application of target and limit reference points, as stocks can breach the target in some years due to natural fluctuations in stock abundance or other sources of variability. In these years, the stock would be assessed as being overfished and/or subject to overfishing. ii. **Level at which LRPs and TRPs are set** – Current values of target and limit reference points for IOTC species may equate to low levels of biomass relative to the biomass in the absence of fishing. Consideration should be given to the correspondence between MSY-based and depletion-based RPs when reporting stock status for each stock. iii. **The types of LRPs and TRPs** – Current guidance in Resolution 15/10 is to use depletion-based reference points when MSY-based reference points cannot be estimated robustly. The term 'robustly' can be subjective, and it would be helpful to articulate more precisely the circumstances under which depletion-based or MSY-based reference points should be used.		"The TCMP NOTED the request by the Commission and recommendation by the WPTT to discuss options to report stock status against limit reference points. The TCMP AGREED that the definition of status is a complex issue and RECOMMENDED discussions on potential refinements to the KOBE plots and definitions of "overfished" and "overfishing" in relation to target and limit reference points to be conducted in collaboration with other t-RFMO, ideally through the KOBE process. The TCMP RECOMMENDED that this issue is also discussed within the SC"
WPTT19.06 (para. 227)	***Parameters for future analyses: Yellowfin tuna CPUE standardisation and stock assessments*** The WPTT reiterated its previous **RECOMMENDATION** that development of the next stock assessment of yellowfin tuna should include, or be associated with, a detailed review of the existing data sources, including:	(Para. 89)	***Parameters for future analyses: Yellowfin tuna CPUE standardisation and stock assessments*** The SC **AGREED** that development of the next stock assessment of yellowfin tuna should include, or be associated with, a detailed review of the existing data sources, including: i. Size frequency data: Evaluation of the reliability of length composition from the longline fisheries	N/A	**Update:** In progress: • The review of YFT size data has to be deferred to next year, according to the availability the consultant. • The first phase of the tag modelling project has begun with NIWA scientists and the preliminary results will be presented at the WPTT and WPM

WPTT19 Rec. No.		SC20 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC20	Endorsed at S22	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPTT20
	i. Size frequency data: Evaluation of the reliability of length composition from the longline fisheries (including recent and historical data), review of anomalies in the (EU) PS length composition data, and the need for a thorough review of the size frequency data held by IOTC, in collaboration with the fleets involved, to improve the utilization of these data in tropical tuna stock assessments. *ii.* Tagging data: Further analysis of the tag release/recovery data set. *iii.* Alternative CPUE series: a review of the available data from the Indian tuna longline survey data.		(including recent and historical data), incorporation of unraised samples in addition to the already provided extrapolated EU purse seiners, thorough review of the other size frequency data held by IOTC, in collaboration with the fleets involved, to improve the utilization of these data in tropical tuna stock assessments. ii. Tagging data: Further analysis of the tag release/recovery data set. ***iii.*** Alternative CPUE series: a review of the available data from the Indian tuna longline survey data.		• EU has conducted the GLM analysis to standardize YFT CPUEs for the EU PS fleet which discriminated free schools and object-associated sets. These indices will be explored in the 2018 YFT assessment
WPTT19.07 (para 239)	***Revision of the WPTT Program of Work (2018–2022)*** The WPTT **RECOMMENDED** that the SC consider and endorse the WPTT Program of Work (2018–2022), as provided at Appendix IX.	(paras. 203-204)	***Program of Work (2018–2022) and assessment schedule*** The SC noted paper IOTC–2017–SC20–09 which provided the Scientific Committee (SC) with a proposed Program of Work for each of its Working Parties (WP), including prioritisation of the elements requested by each WP. The SC noted the proposed Program of Work and priorities for the Scientific Committee and each of the Working Parties and **AGREED** to a consolidated Program of Work as outlined in Appendix XXXVIa-g. The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of each working party shall ensure that the efforts of their working party are focused on the core areas contained within the appendix, taking into account any new research priorities identified by the Commission at its next Session.	N/A	**Update:** Completed.
WPTT19.09 (para. 248)	***Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 19th Session of the WPTT*** The WPTT **RECOMMENDED** that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPTT19, provided at Appendix X, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each of the three tropical tuna species under the IOTC mandate, and the combined Kobe plot for the three species assigned a	SC20.01 (para. 176)	***Tuna – Highly migratory species*** The SC **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission note the management advice developed for each tropical and temperate tuna species as provided in the Executive Summary for each species, and the combined Kobe plot for the four species assigned a stock status in 2017 (Fig. 4): ○ Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) – Appendix VIII ○ Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) – Appendix IX	(Para. 26)	**Update:** Completed

WPTT19 Rec. No.		SC20 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC20	Endorsed at S22	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPTT20
	stock status in 2017 (Fig. 17): ○ Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) – Appendix VI ○ Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) – Appendix VII ○ Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) – Appendix VIII		○ Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) – Appendix X ○ Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) – Appendix XI		

WPTT19 Report	WPTT19 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
Para. 16	***Review of the statistical data available for tropical*** The WPTT **NOTED** the main tropical tuna data issues that are considered to negatively affect the quality of the statistics available at the IOTC Secretariat, by type of dataset and fishery, which are provided in Appendix IV, and **REQUESTED** that the CPCs listed in the Appendix, make efforts to remedy the data issues identified and to report back to the WPTT at its next meeting.	**Update:** In progress. Updates to be provided by the IOTC Secretariat / CPCs during WPTT20.
Para. 27	***I.R. Iran tropical tuna fisheries*** The WPTT **NOTED** that the size-frequency data reported by I.R. Iran for some strata indicate larger sized specimens of tropical tunas (i.e., around 10kg heavier) compared to similar gears operating in the same area, and **REQUESTED** that scientists from I.R. Iran confirm whether the recorded sizes are not the result of sampling errors.	**Update**: I.R. Iran to provide an update during WPTT-20.
Para. 35 - 36	***Status of gillnet fisheries and data reconstruction of tropical tunas in Pakistan*** The WPTT further **NOTED** that the 2016 skipjack catches presented during the WPTT are significantly higher than the official, reconciled quantities recently submitted by Pakistan to IOTC and **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat provide assistance to Pakistan to validate the new catch series – including discrepancies between the catches estimated by the Government of Pakistan and WWF-Pakistan. The WPTT further **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat continues to support the work of WWF-Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan in the evaluation and reporting of the crew-based observer program, and facilitate the reporting of length and catch-and-effort data collected by the observer log-books.	**Update:** No progress. An IOTC Data Compliance and Support mission to Pakistan was planned for mid-2018 – and unfortunately postponed due to unforeseen circumstances – with the objective of evaluating the status of Pakistan's revised catch series. At the time of writing the mission has been rescheduled to late-2018.
Para. 44	***Thailand tuna fisheries*** The WPTT **NOTED** inconsistencies between the decrease in the number of foreign longline entries and the increase in catches, and **ENCOURAGED** Thailand to continue to collect and report the data to the IOTC Secretariat to determine the reasons for the inverse trend between	**Update:** No progress. The IOTC Secretariat currently only has access to aggregated landings of foreign fleets in Thailand (i.e., not by individual fleets) which limits the extent to which comparisons can be made with the data submitted by flag states of foreign longline vessels.

	the number of foreign vessel entries and catches landed. The WPTT **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat to investigate whether the data submitted by Thailand is consistent with the data submitted by the flag states of the foreign longline vessels.	
Para. 47	***Catches of yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna from longline in Kenya EEZ during the year 2016*** The WPTT **NOTED** the species composition of longline catches, with yellowfin tuna catches dominating in the first part of the year compared to bigeye tuna catches between September to December, and **REQUESTED** Kenya to consider any additional information collected by logbooks that might explain the differences in species composition in terms of changes in the vessel operations (e.g., number of hooks and depth of setting).	**Update:** Kenya to provide an update. The IOTC Secretariat has also noted that information on Kenya's longline fleet, including nominal catches and time-area catch-and-effort, have not been reported to the IOTC Secretariat since 2010 and requested that Kenya submit these data to the IOTC Secretariat as a matter of priority.
Para. 54	***Colonization of drifting fish aggregating devices (DFADs) in the Western Indian Ocean, assessed by fishers' echo-sounder buoys*** The WPTT **NOTED** the results indicate that the maximum possible density of biomass around a FAD is reached at approximately 30-40 days, after which time the biomass beneath the FAD does not increase further but instead plateaus. It is unclear as to whether this biomass comprises the same original fish or whether some depart while others arrive. The WPTT **REQUESTED** the authors investigate the results further to attempt to disentangle these events.	**Update:** N/A
Para. 82	***Proposals to revisions of the Supplementary Information to the IOTC Tropical Tuna Executive Summaries*** The WPTT **NOTED** the discussions following the presentation by the author, however, no consensus could be agreed on the proposals for the addition of new charts or changes to the existing format of the existing Executive Summaries (supplementary information). The WPTT **REQUESTED** that the proposed changes to the figures be discussed at the next session of the WPDCS to be considered by the SC prior to inclusion into the supplementary information to the Executive Summaries posted on the IOTC website.	**Update:** Document IOTC–2017–WPDCS13–INF05 was presented to the WPDCS and included in the report as Appendix VII. Paragraph 44 of the report goes on to state: WPDCS13.02 - The WPDCS **REQUESTED** feedback to be provided by WPDCS participants on the appropriate figures to be adopted for the Executive summary supporting information, and **ACKNOWLEDGED** the outcome of the consultation as provided in Appendix VII, **RECOMMENDING** that the proposed updates become integral part of future Executive Summaries supporting information for Tropical tunas.
Para. 85	***Review of the statistical data available for bigeye tuna*** The WPTT **NOTED** that catches of bigeye tuna are likely to be underestimated, particularly gillnet vessels of some countries which operate in offshore waters (and landing elsewhere), and **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat to address this issue during the Data Compliance and Support missions scheduled for 2018.	**Update:** Since WPTT-19, a Data Compliance and Support Mission was conducted in I.R. Iran, who have now begun to report detailed time-area catches (including offshore gillnets) according to the requirements of Resolution 15/02. An IOTC mission to Pakistan is also currently planned for late-2018 in order to evaluate the time-area catches reported by WWF's crew-based observer scheme.
Para. 115	The WPTT **NOTED** that the analysis is based on fine scale data whereas the size frequency data submitted by Japan to the IOTC Secretariat (up to 2008) is by 10 by 20 degree grid areas. The WPTT **REQUESTED** Japan to submit the historical size frequency data in 5 by 5 degree grids for all IOTC species, including billfish, for the period 1965-2008, in accordance with Resolution 15/02 mandatory data reporting requirements.	**Update:** Japan to provide an update during WPTT-20.
Para. 133	***Development of management advice on the status of bigeye tuna & update of the bigeye tuna Executive Summary for the consideration of the Scientific Committee***	**Update:** Completed

	The WPTT **ADOPTED** the management advice developed for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), as provided in the draft resource stock status summary and **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary for bigeye tuna with the latest 2016 catch data (if necessary), and for the summary to be provided to the SC as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration: Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) – Appendix VI	
Para. 147	***Data-derived stock status indicators for skipjack tuna of the Indian Ocean*** The WPTT **NOTED** the absence of some indicators that were presented in previous years in the EU purse seine statistics working papers (e.g., the number of fishing sets, etc.), which would provide additional indications of how fishing strategies have evolved over time. The WPTT **REQUESTED** that the EU scientists prepare this document for the next WPTT meeting in 2018.	**Update:** No progress
Para. 153	***Maldives pole and line skipjack tuna CPUE standardization 2004-2015*** The WPTT **NOTED** that the CPUE plots suggested that fishing power of the fleet has decreased in relative terms (MCMC plot) and it was suggested that this was unlikely, and that generally fishing power should increase over time. The WPTT **REQUESTED** that this issue should be looked at in more detail, but **NOTED** that a decrease in fishing power in the Maldives was possible (e.g., redirection of effort to other fisheries, fuel, bait collection). Also the sample used in the study did not cover the complete fleet and may not be representative of changes in the overall fleet.	**Update:** Maldives to provide an update.
Para. 199	***Stock Synthesis III (SS3) assessment of skipjack tuna*** The WPTT **CONSIDERED** the specifications for computing the TAC based on Resolution 16/02 and **NOTED** a possible contradiction in the TAC calculation based on the method specified by the Resolution and the method used in the simulation tested in the Harvest Control Rule. The WPTT therefore **REQUESTED** clarification from the authors of the simulation tests and the stock assessment scientist.	**Update:** The author of the simulation tests has clarified that the TAC calculation specified by the Resolution is consistent with the simulation tested in the HCR. Essentially: • To calculate TAC for the period 2018-2020, the estimated exploitation should be multiplied to the current spawning biomass • In the simulation tests, the OMs are projected forward by distributing the catch limits across the exploitable biomass and not the SSB only More details clarifications/rationales are also provided by the author.
Para. 211	***Development of management advice for skipjack tuna & update of skipjack tuna Executive Summary for the consideration of the Scientific Committee*** The WPTT **ADOPTED** the management advice developed for skipjack tuna as provided in the draft resource stock status summary and **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary for skipjack tuna with the latest 2016 catch data (if necessary), and for the summary to be provided to the SC as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration: Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) – Appendix VII.	**Update:** Completed
Para. 229	***Development of management advice for yellowfin tuna & update of yellowfin tuna Executive Summary for the consideration of the Scientific Committee*** The WPTT **ADOPTED** the management advice developed for yellowfin tuna as provided in the draft resource stock status summary and **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat update	**Update:** Completed

	the draft stock status summary for the yellowfin tuna with the latest 2016 catch data (if necessary), and for the summary to be provided to the SC as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration: Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) – Appendix VIII.	
Para. 237	***Revision of the WPTT Program of Work (2018–2022)*** The WPTT **REQUESTED** that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the WPTT, in consultation with the IOTC Secretariat, develop Terms of Reference (TOR) for each of the high priority projects that are yet to be funded, for circulation to potential funding sources.	**Update:** A number of priorities in the PoW are now fully funded and are now either in progress or in the early planning stages, including: (i) Direct methods of abundance estimation, (ii) Tag Modelling, and (iii) Review of LL and PS size frequency information.
Para. 247	***Date and place of the 20th and 21st Sessions of the WPTT*** **NOTING** the discussion on who would host the 20th and 21st Sessions of the WPTT in 2018 and 2019 respectively, the WPTT **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat liaise with CPCs to determine if they would be able to host the 20th and 21st sessions of the WPTT respectively (Table 12).	**Update:** In progress