
PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPTmT06

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 17 DECEMBER 2018

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 7th WPTmT with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous Working Party on Temperate Tunas (WPTmT) 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 6th Session of the WPTmT, participants agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the Secretariat on a range of issues. The subsequent table developed and agreed to by the WPTmT was provided to the SC for its endorsement.

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 A](#) to this paper:

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

RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION: Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

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

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

In addition to the Recommendations endorsed by the SC at its 18th Session, the SC also made several requests which, although are not passed to the Commission for its endorsement, are considered actions which the Scientific Committee

has the mandate to issue. The revised recommendations are contained in [Appendix A](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPTmT07(DP).

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPTmT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 6th Session of the WPTmT, and consider whether revised recommendations need to be sent to the SC for its consideration.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Progress made on the recommendations of WPTmT06.](#)

APPENDIX A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPTmT06

WPTmT05 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPTmT05	SC1X Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC19 (2016)	Progress / Comments
WPTmT06.01	<p>Review of the data available at the Secretariat for Temperate Tuna Species (para 21) The WTmT NOTED that length frequency samples for the Taiwanese driftnet fishery were collected during the 1980s and published in a former IPTP paper, and RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat process the information to ensure the data is available for future stock assessments.</p>	SC19 (Para. 38)	The WTmT NOTED that length frequency samples for the Taiwanese driftnet fishery were collected during the 1980s and published in a former IPTP paper, and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat process the information to ensure the data is available for future stock assessments.	Update: The data has been provided to the IOTC Secretariat but unfortunately it currently lacks geospatial information. Further processing (including an approximation of the spatial distribution for the measured samples) is necessary for this information to be incorporated and made available for the upcoming WPTmT Data Preparatory meeting in January 2019.
WPTmT06.02	<p>(para 22) NOTING changes in the length frequency distribution by the Taiwanese deep-freezing longline fleet since the early-2000s, and particularly the decline in the proportion of smaller sized fish sampled for lengths, the WPTmT RECOMMENDED that length frequency and biological data collected by Taiwanese observers be provided to the IOTC Secretariat in order to validate and better understand recent changes in the length frequencies collected by on-board sampling – including samples collected for albacore tuna, tropical tuna species, and swordfish. The WPTmT</p>	SC19 (Para. 39)	NOTING changes in the length frequency distribution by the Taiwanese deep-freezing longline fleet since the early-2000s, and particularly the decline in the proportion of smaller sized fish sampled for lengths, the SC REQUESTED that length frequency and biological data collected by Taiwanese observers be provided to the IOTC Secretariat in order to validate and better understand recent changes in the length frequencies collected by on-board sampling – including samples collected for albacore tuna, tropical tuna species, and swordfish, NOTING that all observer data submitted to the IOTC Secretariat is subject to Resolution 12/02 <i>Data</i>	Update: Observer data from Taiwanese observers for 2012-2017 has been submitted to the IOTC Secretariat. Their incorporation within the IOTC databases requires further processing, as these come in the form of highly aggregated observer trip reports that are provided as PDF

	NOTED that all observer data submitted to the IOTC Secretariat is subject to Resolution 12/02 <i>Data confidentiality policy and procedures</i> .		<i>confidentiality policy and procedures</i> .	documents. Most likely, this information will be fully available in time for the assessment in July 2019.
WPTmT06.03	(para 23) The WPTmT ACKNOWLEDGED the importance of port sampling of albacore tuna unloaded in Port Louis, Mauritius, and RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat provide additional support to Mauritius on how to collect and report this information. The WPTmT NOTED that the IOTC Secretariat has proposed a mission to Mauritius in August 2016 in support of this capacity building activity	SC19 (Para. 40)	The SC ACKNOWLEDGED the importance of port sampling of albacore tuna unloaded in Port Louis, Mauritius, and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat provide additional support to Mauritius on how to collect and report this information, NOTING that the IOTC Secretariat conducted a preliminary mission to Mauritius in August 2016 in support of this capacity building activity.	<p>Update: A project proposal has been developed (EU DG-Mare funding). Terms of reference include:</p> <p>a.) Scoping study to describe the sampling design for biological sampling;</p> <p>b.) Develop a biological sampling pilot project in 1 or 2 CPCs (e.g., in Mauritius or Indonesia) to facilitate the routine collection of Indian Ocean specific biological information for albacore tuna.</p> <p>Although tentatively planned for 2019, there have been issues identifying suitable consultants with experience in albacore biology. The IOTC Secretariat requests that the WPTmT review the TORs and feasibility of the current activity within the time-frame of end-2019.</p>

WPTmT06.04	<p><i>New information on biology, ecology, fisheries and environmental data relating to temperate tunas</i> (para 47) NOTING the general paucity of biological indicators available from the Indian Ocean, and particularly the lack of age-specific maturity as a primary source of uncertainty in the stock assessment of albacore tuna, the WPTmT RECOMMENDED a study on the growth curve of albacore tuna in the Indian Ocean as a high priority in the WPTmT Program of Work.</p>	SC19 (Para. 41)	NOTING the general paucity of biological indicators available from the Indian Ocean, and particularly the lack of age-specific maturity as a primary source of uncertainty in the stock assessment of albacore tuna, the SC RECOMMENDED a study on the growth curve of albacore tuna in the Indian Ocean as a high priority in the SC Program of Work.	Update: A consultant has been contracted through an EU grant to carry out this study and it will be presented at the WPTmT07(DP) meeting.
WPTmT06.06	<p><i>Date and place of the 7th and 8th Sessions of the WPTmT</i> (para 125) The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider rescheduling of future WPTmT meetings (currently held in July) to later in the year, e.g., August-early September, to enable the possibility of the latest years' data to be included in the assessment</p>	SC19 (Para. 42)	The SC CONSIDERED rescheduling future WPTmT meetings (currently held in July) to later in the year, e.g., August-early September, to enable the possibility of the latest years' data to be included in the assessment.	Update: No progress
WPTmT06.07	<p>(para 126) The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that future stock assessment cycle for albacore tuna should be conducted every three years (rather than two years), in line with the assessment of species covered by other IOTC Working Parties (e.g., WPTT, WPEB), and that the WPTmT should in addition convene during the year preceding the next stock assessment to focus on priority areas for improvement in the albacore assessment, such as the standardization of CPUE, or development of biological parameters.</p>	Nil	Nil	Update: Although initially planned for 2018, a data preparatory meeting was finalised for January 2019 in preparation of the assessment to be conducted in July of 2019.