



ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Last updated: 28 November 2011

Date: 12–17 December, 2011

Location: International Conference Centre, Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 daily

Chair: Dr. Francis Marsac

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (Chair)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chair)
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-01a: Draft agenda for the Fourteenth Session of the Scientific Committee.
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-01b: Draft annotated agenda for the Fourteenth Session of the Scientific Committee.
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-02: Draft list of documents.
3. **ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS** (Chair)
 - The Third Session of the Commission decided that its subsidiary bodies would be open to the participation of observers from Member parties of FAO, from international organisations and from non-governmental organisations, which had attended previous meetings or were admitted to attend Commission Sessions.
4. **ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION** (Secretariat)
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-03: Outcomes of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission (Secretariat).
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-04: Previous decisions of the Commission (Secretariat).
5. **ACTIVITIES OF THE IOTC SECRETARIAT IN 2011** (Secretariat)
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-05: Report of the secretariat – Activities in support of the IOTC science process in 2011 (Secretariat).
The Secretariat will report on its activities during the 2011 calendar year. It will also outline the technical activities planned for 2012 regarding the acquisition, processing and dissemination of information regarding fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean.
6. **NATIONAL REPORTS FROM CPCs** (CPCs)
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-NR01 to NR32 (CPCs).
 - Discussions on improving/modifying the National Reporting Template.
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-33: Status of development and implementation of Nation Plans of Action for seabirds and sharks (Secretariat).
7. **REPORTS OF THE 2011 IOTC WORKING PARTY MEETINGS** (Chairs)
 - 7.1. IOTC-2011-WPB09-R: Report of the Ninth Session of the Working Party on Billfish
 - 7.2. IOTC-2011-WPTmT03-R: Report of the Third Session of the Working Party on Temperate Tunas
 - 7.3. IOTC-2011-WPTT13-R: Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas
 - 7.4. IOTC-2011-WPEB07-R: Report of the Seventh Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch
 - 7.5. IOTC-2011-WPNT01-R: Report of the First Session of the Working Party on Neritic Tunas
 - 7.6. IOTC-2011-WPDCS08-R: Report of the Eighth Session of the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-45: Review of IOTC discussions and recommendations for shark conservation in the Indian Ocean (Australia)
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-46: A comparison between stocks and between 2011 stock assessment results of yellowfin in the Indian and Eastern Pacific oceans (European Union)
8. **UPDATE ON THE KOBE PROCESS** (Chairs)
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-06: Report of the First Meeting of the Bycatch Joint Technical Working Group (Chair WPEB)
 - IOTC-2011-SC14-07: Recommendations arising from the KOBE III meeting (Chair SC)

- 9. EXAMINATION OF THE EFFECTS OF PIRACY ON FLEET OPERATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT CATCH AND EFFORT TRENDS** (Chair)
- 9.1. *The Commission, at its 15th Session recognized that piracy activities in the western Indian Ocean, have had substantial negative consequences on the activities of some fleets, as well as the level of observer coverage in these areas. The Commission requests that the Scientific Committee assess the effect of piracy on fleet operations and subsequent catch and effort trends (para. 40 of the S15 report).*
- 10. STATUS OF TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE RESOURCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN** (Chair)
- 10.1 Tuna – Highly migratory species
- IOTC–2011–SC14–08: Status of the albacore resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–09: Status of the bigeye tuna resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–10: Status of the skipjack tuna resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–11: Status of the yellowfin tuna resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–12: Status and management of southern bluefin tuna (from CCSBT)
- 10.2 Tuna and mackerel – Neritic species
- IOTC–2011–SC14–13: Status of the bullet tuna resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–14: Status of the frigate tuna resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–15: Status of the longtail tuna resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–16: Status of the Indo-Pacific king mackerel resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–17: Status of the Kawakawa resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–18: Status of the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel resource
- 10.3 Billfish
- IOTC–2011–SC14–19: Status of the swordfish resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–20: Status of the black marlin resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–21: Status of the blue marlin resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–22: Status of the striped marlin resource
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–23: Status of the Indo-Pacific sailfish resource
- 11. STATUS OF MARINE TURTLES, SEABIRDS AND SHARKS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN** (Chair)
- 11.1 Marine turtles
- IOTC–2011–SC14–24: Status of marine turtles
- 11.2 Seabirds
- IOTC–2011–SC14–25: Status of seabirds
- 11.3 Sharks
- IOTC–2011–SC14–26: Status of blue sharks
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–27: Status of silky sharks
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–28: Status of oceanic whitetip sharks
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–29: Status of scalloped hammerhead sharks
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–30: Status of shortfin mako sharks
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–31: Status of bigeye thresher sharks
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–32: Status of pelagic thresher sharks
- 12. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME** (Secretariat)
- IOTC–2011–SC14–34: National Implementation of the regional observer scheme by CPCs (Secretariat).
The IOTC Regional Observer Scheme started on July 1st, 2010 (Resolution 10/04 – superseded by Resolution 11/04). CPCs should report on the action taken for its implementation in their respective countries.
- 13. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION** (Chair & Secretariat)
- IOTC–2011–SC14–35: On the implementation of the precautionary approach (Secretariat)
 - IOTC–2011–SC14–36: Development of a Management Strategy Evaluation process for the IOTC (Chair)
The Commission, at its 15th Session endorsed the development of a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) in the framework of IOTC and requests that this process be continued in 2011 (para. 43 of the S15 report).
- 14. EVALUATION OF DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING SYSTEMS** (Secretariat)
- IOTC–2011–SC14–38: Evaluating the ability of IOTC CPCs and other fishing parties in the Indian Ocean to produce close-to-real time estimates of catches of yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna (Secretariat).
- 15. DATA PROVISION NEEDS – BY GEAR** (Chair WPDCS)
- The Commission, at its 15th Session requested that the Scientific Committee in its 2011 Session, to evaluate the data provision needs for longline, purse seine, gillnet and pole-and-line gear types, notably regarding*

information relating to the vessel characteristics and the definition of the pole-and-line 'fishing event'. The evaluation is requested in order to ensure that consistent and uniform information is collected to assist the IOTC to fulfil its mandate. The Scientific Committee should make appropriate recommendations to the 2012 Commission meeting (para. 45 of the S15 report).

16. OUTLOOK ON TIME-AREA CLOSURES (Chair)

- IOTC–2011–SC14–39: Evaluation of the IOTC time-area closure (Chair WPTT)
- IOTC–2011–SC14–40: A preliminary investigation into the effects of Indian Ocean MPAs on yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*, with particular emphasis on the IOTC closed area (S. Martin, C. Mees, C. Edwards, and L. Nelson)

The Commission, at its 15th Session reiterated the **request** that the Scientific Committee should evaluate the time-area closure established in Resolution 10/01 for the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence, in terms of its impacts on the stocks of tuna and tuna-like species (para. 47 of the S15 report).

17. ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES; IMPACTS OF THE PURSE SEINE FISHERY; JUVENILE TUNA CATCHES (Chair)

- 17.1 The Commission, at its 15th Session **requested** that the Scientific Committee provide clear advice outlining alternative management approaches which would provide effective protection of a possible southwest Indian Ocean swordfish stock (para. 46 of the S15 report).
- 17.2 The Commission, at its 15th Session **requested** that the Scientific Committee provide advice to the Commission that adds to the information currently available or already requested of the Scientific Committee regarding the take of juvenile yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and other species, and on alternative management measures, including an assessment of the impact of current purse seine activities, including the size/fishing capacity (and gear types i.e. mesh size etc.) of vessels, and the potential implications that may arise for tuna and tuna-like species. Such advice should include options for capping purse seine effort and use in conjunction with drifting FADs in the Indian Ocean (para. 105 of the S15 report).
- IOTC–2011–SC14–41: Withdrawn.

18. PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW PANEL (Secretariat)

- IOTC–2011–SC14–37: Update on progress regarding resolution 09/01 – on the performance review follow-up (Secretariat and Chair)
- The Commission, at its 15th Session **agreed** that the Secretariat and Chair of each of the three Committee's should further develop the status table by including a work plan with proposed timelines and priorities. The Secretariat was tasked with ensuring the revised table is provided to the respective Committee's in advance of their next Sessions, in accordance with the rules of procedure (para. 125 of the S15 report).

19. SCHEDULE AND PRIORITIES OF WORKING PARTY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2012 AND TENTATIVELY FOR 2013 (Secretariat)

- IOTC–2011–SC14–42: Proposed schedule and priorities for IOTC Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2012 and 2013 (Secretariat).

20. OTHER BUSINESS (Chair)

- 20.1 Rules for the appointment of an invited expert
- IOTC–2011–SC14–43: Rules for the appointment of an invited expert (Chair).
- 20.2 Guidelines for the appointment of a consultant
- 20.3 Peer review process for IOTC stock assessments
- IOTC–2011–SC14–44: Peer review of IOTC stock assessments (Chair).
- 20.4 IOTC Regional Tuna Tagging Programme – Tagging Symposium

21. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM (Chair)

- Rules of procedure of the IOTC: Rule X.6: *The Scientific Committee shall elect, preferably by consensus, a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson from among its members for two years. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson shall be eligible for re-election for another two-year term.*

22. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT, AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (Chair)