

## PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPB08

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT AND CHAIR, 17 JUNE 2011

### PURPOSE

To provide an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from previous Working Party on Billfish (WPB) meetings, and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants.

### BACKGROUND

At the Eighth Session of the Working Party on Billfish, 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 WPB also contained specific responsibilities for those who were expected to undertake the tasks recommended, as well as a series of deadlines.

### 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) to carry out other technical activities of relevance to the Commission.

Noting the core tasks of the SC, and hence the WPB, and the fact that the Scientific Committee, Commission and CPCs in general have struggled to implement previous recommendations from the WPB, the Secretariat and Chair undertook a review and subsequent revision of recommendations from the WPB08 meeting in an attempt to provide clearer direction and delegation of responsibility for each recommendation.

The revised recommendations are contained in Appendix A for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPB.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Working Party on Billfish **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Eighth Session of the WPB, and consider the proposed draft revisions to those recommendations yet to be completed.

That the Working Party on Billfish **AGREE** to the revised recommendations, and for these to be combined with any new recommendations arising from WPB09, noting that these will be provided to the Scientific Committee for their endorsement.

### ATTACHMENTS

**Attachment A:** Progress made on the recommendations of WPB08.

## ATTACHMENT A:

### PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPB08

#	Data and statistics					
	Recommendation	Responsibility	Year Issued	Revise (Y/N)	Revision of recommendation	Due date
1	<p>Members having artisanal fisheries for swordfish and marlins to improving their collection and reporting of species and gear information</p> <p><i>Progress: In recent years Sri Lanka has reported catches of marlins for its offshore fleet. However, catches of marlins are not reported by gear and, when reported by species, trends in catches are thought to be unreliable; e.g. the catches of marlins reported show marked changes in species composition over the years. In addition, Sri Lanka reports highly aggregated catches for its coastal fisheries; this makes it really difficult for the IOTC Secretariat to derive catches by species from the existing data.</i></p> <p><i>In September 2010 Sri Lanka requested the assistance of the IOTC-OFCF Project to address these issues. During the same month the IOTC-OFCF Project proposed several activities to assist Sri Lanka including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>strengthening of data management systems at the Statistical Unit of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Sri Lanka (MFAR); this activity will be initiated in July 2011</i></li> <li><i>strengthening of sampling effort for coastal and offshore fisheries, to be carried out by the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA); this activity is pending follow-up from NARA.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>In 2010 MFAR informed the IOTC Secretariat that it has plans to implement logbooks on fishing vessels under the flag of Sri Lanka. To date Sri Lanka has not reported catch-and-effort data to the IOTC as per the required standards.</i></p>	Sri Lanka IOTC-OFCF	2001	Y	<p><b>Noting</b> that to date, Sri Lanka has been unable to provide accurate statistics for billfish species to the IOTC, due to poor species identification and low levels of sampling coverage for its coastal fisheries;</p> <p>The WPB <b>recommends</b> that as a matter of priority, Sri Lanka increase sampling coverage to attain at least the coverage levels recommended by the Commission, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>catches sampled for at least 5% of the vessel activities for coastal fisheries, including collection of catch, effort and size data for IOTC species and main bycatch species;</li> <li>implementation of logbook systems for offshore fisheries.</li> </ul> <p>The information collected through the above activities should allow Sri Lanka to estimate catches by gear and species for billfish and other important IOTC or bycatch species.</p> <p>The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the IOTC-OFCF Project assist Sri Lanka to strengthen sampling efforts on its coastal and off-shore fisheries in late 2011, where required.</p>	2012

2	<p>Members having artisanal fisheries that catch substantial amounts of billfish to providing catch and effort and size data for those fisheries, including catches of billfish disaggregated by species</p> <p><i>Progress: The IOTC Secretariat visited Iran (February 2011) to assess the status of data collection and processing, including strengthening of data management systems and implementation of pilot sampling activities to assess the quality of the statistics collected from gillnet fisheries.</i></p> <p><i>A second mission to Iran is currently being planned for June 2011, in order to finalize agreement for the implementation of the above activities.</i></p>	<p>Iran</p> <p>India</p> <p>Pakistan</p> <p>Iran Secretariat</p>	<p>2008</p> <p>2008</p> <p>2008</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The WPB <b>noted</b> the IOTC Secretariat's recent activities in Iran, which aimed to finalize agreement for the implementation of systems to strengthen data management and to implement pilot sampling activities to assess the quality of the statistics being collected from gillnet fisheries.</p> <p>The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the IOTC Secretariat travel to India and Pakistan in order to assess the status of data collection and reporting systems in those countries, and to report back to the WPB at its 2012 session;</p> <p>The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the IOTC Secretariat assist Pakistan and India in the strengthening of data collection and reporting systems, where required, so as to facilitate reporting of statistics for billfish species as per IOTC standards.</p> <p>The WPB <b>recommends</b> that as a matter of priority, Iran, India and Pakistan provide catch-and-effort data and size data for billfish, in particular gillnet fisheries, as soon as possible, noting that this is already a mandatory reporting requirement.</p>	<p>End 2012</p>
3	<p>The Secretariat to coordinate catch-and-effort data collection from major sport fishing bodies in the Indian Ocean and analysis of the information retrieved (CPUE and size data)</p> <p><i>Progress: A representative of the African Billfish Foundation will attend WPB09. The WPB had previously agreed to work closely with the BF in the design of a Project Proposal for the collection of data from sport fisheries in the region.</i></p>	<p>Chair WPB Secretariat</p> <p>Billfish Foundation</p>	<p>2001</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The WPB <b>recommends</b> that as a matter of priority, the Chair of the WPB, in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat and the African Billfish Foundation, facilitate the acquisition of catch-and-effort and size data from sport fisheries, by developing and disseminating reporting forms to Sport Fishing Centres in the region and to report back to the WPB at its meeting in 2012.</p>	<p>WPB10</p>
4	<p>Members having industrial fisheries for swordfish, marlins and sailfish to improving their collection and reporting of species information. This should include tools to assist fishers and data collectors to correctly identify billfish species</p> <p><i>Progress: Nil to the IOTC Secretariat's knowledge</i></p>	<p>Secretariat</p>	<p>2001</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the IOTC Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant experts, develop species identification cards for marlins and sailfish by the next meeting of the WPB.</p>	<p>WPB10</p>
5	<p>India to report catch-and-effort and size data for billfish species for its commercial longline fishery.</p> <p><i>Progress: India reported very incomplete catch-and-effort statistics for its longline fishery in 2010; to date, no size data has been reported for commercial longliners</i></p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>India</p> <p>Oman</p> <p>Philippines</p> <p>Malaysia</p>	<p>2003</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The WPB <b>recommends</b> that as a matter of priority, the IOTC Secretariat liaise with India, Oman, Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia in order to improve the quality of the data reported from their longline fleets, by species, and to report back to the WPB at its next meeting.</p>	<p>WPB10</p>
6	<p>The Republic of Korea to revise its catch-and-effort data series as soon as possible.</p> <p><i>Progress: The IOTC Secretariat revised in 2009 the nominal catch data series of Korea using the existing nominal catches</i></p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Korea, Rep.</p> <p>Japan</p>	<p>2003</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the IOTC Secretariat liaise with the Republic of Korea to inform them about the new nominal catches estimated for its longline fishery.</p> <p><b>Noting</b> that Japan has advised the WPB that their scientists are</p>	<p>End 2011</p>

	<i>and catch-and-effort data. Japan informed the WPTT in 2010 that scientists from Japan are assisting the Republic of Korea in the review of the catch-and-effort data series for longline vessels under the flag of Korea.</i>				assisting the Republic of Korea in the review of catch-and-effort data series for longline vessels under the flag of Korea; The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the IOTC Secretariat follow-up with Japan and Korea in order to obtain a new catch-and-effort data series from the Republic of Korea as soon as possible.	
7	The IOTC Secretariat to follow-up on the logbook programmes initiated by Indonesia and Taiwan,China for the collection of catch-and-effort data from their fresh-tuna longline fleets  <i>Progress: Taiwan,China – Complete. Reported catch-and-effort data for the years 2007-09 for the first time in 2010, with logbook coverage at around 20%. It was indicated that logbook coverage will increase in the future.</i>  <i>Progress: Indonesia started implementation of logbooks on vessels under its flag in 2009. However, to date the Secretariat has not received catch-and-effort data from Indonesia.</i>	Taiwan,China  Secretariat Indonesia	2003  2003	N  Y	–  The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the IOTC Secretariat send a mission to Indonesia to assist in the reporting of catch-and-effort data and to report progress to the WPB at its next meeting.	–  End 2011
8	Taiwan,China to collect and provide size data from its fresh tuna longliners  <i>Progress:Taiwan,China has not reported size data for its fresh-tuna longline fishery to date.</i>	Taiwan,China	2003	Y	The WPB <b>recommends</b> that Taiwan,China collect and provide size data for billfish caught by its fresh tuna longliners, noting that this is already a mandatory requirement.	End 2011
9	The EU-Spain LL to provide catch-and-effort and size data of marlins and sailfish by time and area strata  <i>Progress: Nil. Need to address this issue to the SC.</i>	Secretariat EU-Spain	2003	Y	The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the IOTC Secretariat liaise with the EU-Spain in order to assess the status of catch-and-effort data for these species, as the data is thought to be routinely reported in the logbooks.  The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the EC-Spain longline fleet provide catch-and-effort and size data of marlins and sailfish by time and area strata, noting that this is already a mandatory reporting requirement.	End 2011
10	The EU-Portugal, EU-UK, Kenya, Guinea, Senegal and Tanzania to collect and report size data for billfish species for its longline fleets  <i>Progress: No data has been received so far. The EU-Portugal informed the IOTC Secretariat that it will be reporting this information soon.</i>  <i>In 2011 Senegal informed the Commission that vessels flagged in Senegal have not operated in the IOTC Area since 2007.</i>	EU(Portugal, UK) Kenya Guinea Tanzania	2009	Y	The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the EU-Portugal to report size data for billfish species for its longline fleets, noting that this is already a mandatory reporting requirement.  <b>Noting</b> that eleven longliners from the EU-United Kingdom, Kenya, Guinea, and Tanzania have operated in the Indian Ocean in recent years;  The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the EU-United Kingdom, Kenya, Guinea, and Tanzania make every possible effort to collect and report size data for billfish species for their longline fleets, noting that this is already a mandatory reporting requirement.	End 2011

11	The Secretariat to request EC-Portugal to provide more information on the activities of longliners under its flag, especially concerning the limited fishing area covered by year <i>Progress: Complete. EU-Portugal reported the information requested.</i>	EU-Portugal	2009	N	–	–
12	Japan to increase size sampling coverage (to cover a minimum of 10% of the catch (in number) by quarter by 10deg latitude – 20 deg longitude area) from its longline fleet. <i>Progress: Japan initiated implementation of an observer programme on its commercial fishery in July 2010; size data will be collected through observers. 2010 data has not been submitted yet. (in 2009 88 swordfish were measured on Japanese longliners for 1027 t of catch reported).</i>	Secretariat Japan	2003	Y	The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the IOTC Secretariat assess levels of reporting for Japan upon receiving size data for 2010 and report back to the next meeting of the WPB.  The WPB <b>recommends</b> that Japan increase sampling coverage to attain the minimum recommended by the Commission (1 fish by metric ton of catch by type of gear and species).	WPB10  WPB10
13	Members ensuring that logbook coverage is appropriate to produce acceptable levels of precision (CV to be initially set at less than 20%) in their catch and effort statistics for billfish species. The Secretariat to request countries to include levels of precision in their reports of catch-and-effort for billfish species <i>Progress: The WPDCS agreed to set minimum levels of coverage for industrial fisheries at 5% of the fishing activity (e.g. 5% of the vessels operating or trips to be sampled for catch data). In addition, the WPDCS set minimum coverage rates for length data to 1 fish per ton caught for both industrial and artisanal fisheries.</i>	Secretariat WPDCS	2008	Y	The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the WPDCS monitor that Members are ensuring that logbook coverage is appropriate to produce acceptable levels of precision (CV to be initially set at less than 20%) in their catch and effort statistics for billfish species.  The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the Secretariat request countries include levels of precision in their reports of catch-and-effort for billfish species.	WPDCS  End 2011
14	Members with observer programmes to analyse the data collected to estimate discards of billfish species and the precision of these estimates <i>Progress: Discards of billfish have been estimated for industrial purse seiners of the EU.</i>	Secretariat WPDCS	2003	Y	The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the WPDCS urges Members with observer programmes to analyse the data collected to estimate discards of billfish species and the precision of these estimates.	WPDCS
15	The WPB to address a request to the next meeting of the WPDCS to establish the levels of precision that are adequate for catches and size data of billfish, by species, fishery and time-area strata <i>Progress: Complete. The WPDCS agreed to set minimum levels of coverage for artisanal fisheries at 5% of the fishing activity (e.g. 5% of the vessels operating or trips to be sampled for catch data). In addition, the WPDCS set minimum coverage rates for length data to one fish per ton caught for both industrial and artisanal fisheries.</i>	All CPC's	2008	N	–	–

16	Conversion relationships: The Secretariat to request CPC's having important fisheries for billfish to collect and provide the basic data that would be used to establish length-age keys and non-standard measurements to standard measurements keys for billfish species, by sex and area <i>Progress: No new data received since the last WPB meeting.</i>	Secretariat EU Taiwan,China, Japan, Indonesia Sri Lanka	2001	Y	The WPB <b>recommends</b> that as a matter of priority, the Secretariat formally request, and provide assistance where necessary, CPC's that have important fisheries for billfish (EU, Taiwan,China, Japan, Indonesia and Sri Lanka) to collect and provide the basic data that would be used to establish length-age keys and non-standard measurements to standard measurements keys for billfish species, and sex ratio data, by sex and area.	WPB10
17	Obtaining sex ratio information by size and area <i>Progress: Nil.</i>	All CPC's	2001	Y	Combined with Recommendation above.	–
18	Japan and Taiwan to analyse the size samples collected from their longline fisheries for swordfish and marlins in order to verify if the length frequencies derived from such samples are representative of their fisheries. <i>Progress: Taiwan,China and Japan have not conducted such studies to date.</i>	Japan Taiwan,China Secretariat	2008	Y	The WPB <b>recommends</b> that Japan and Taiwan,China analyse the size samples collected from their longline fisheries for swordfish and marlins in order to verify if the length frequencies derived from such samples are representative of their fisheries. In particular Japan to compare length frequency distributions derived from samples collected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by fishermen on commercial vessels</li> <li>• by observers on commercial vessels</li> <li>• by scientists on research and training vessels</li> </ul> The WPB <b>recommends</b> that the Secretariat follow-up on the results of the study with Japan and Taiwan,China and to report to the next WPB meeting.	WPB10  WPB10