

## PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF IOTC WORKING PARTY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2014 AND TENTATIVELY FOR 2015

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 16 NOVEMBER 2013

### PURPOSE

To provide the Scientific Committee (SC) with the proposed list of dates and locations for each Working Party and Scientific Committee meeting to be held in 2014 and tentatively for 2015, for its consideration.

### BACKGROUND

The number of IOTC working party meetings has increased in recent years and the current length and timing of these meetings continues to stretch the limited resources of the IOTC Secretariat and CPCs alike. As such, there is a clear need to increase the level of efficiency (e.g. monetary and time) of the IOTC scientific process. In addition, it has become necessary to plan two years in advance so as to give potential hosts enough time to incorporate meeting costs into their budgets.

### DISCUSSION

In recent years, there has been substantial discussion among participating IOTC scientists aimed at encouraging, wherever it is logical/feasible, the consolidation of IOTC meetings thereby reducing the financial and logistical burden upon the IOTC. Discussion has revolved around what would be the most sensible combination of working party meetings and the timing of those meetings, taking into account data reporting deadlines and other timing demands. It has been suggested that where feasible meetings should be held in localities most relevant to the participating CPCs. This would help increase the profile of the work that the IOTC is undertaking by exposing scientists from the region to fisheries matters most relevant to their own fleets.

The need for forward planning is highlighted by the fact that many of those invited to attend IOTC meetings as Invited Experts have indicated that their schedules are often planned more than 12 months in advance. As such, there is a clear need to secure meeting dates and locations well in advance.

In identifying potential venues and dates for IOTC meetings, other key international meetings in 2014 need to be considered:

#### **IOTC Meetings:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Committee Meeting on Allocation Criteria: in February, 2014, location TBA
- 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Compliance Committee: 26–28 May, 2014 (Sri Lanka)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance: 29–30 May, 2014
- 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission: 1–5 June, 2014 (Sri Lanka)

#### **Other tuna Meetings in 2014:**

##### *March*

- ICCAT Sharks WG, 10–14 March, 2014, location TBA

##### *April*

- CCSBT Compliance Committee Working Group, Canberra, in April, 2014, location TBA

##### *May*

- ICCAT billfish data preparation WG, 12–16 May, 2014, location TBA

##### *June*

- COFI 31<sup>st</sup> Session, 9–13 June, 2014, Rome, Italy

##### *July*

- ICCAT Swordfish WG, 21–25 July, 2014, location TBA

##### *August*

- WCPFC 10<sup>th</sup> SC meeting, in August, 2014, location TBA

##### *September*

- ICCAT Ecosystems WG, 1–5 September, 2014, location TBA
- CCSBT Scientific Committee, Auckland, New Zealand 1–6 September 2014
- ICCAT Species WGs, 22 September – 3 October 2014, location TBA

**October**

- CCSBT 9<sup>th</sup> Compliance Committee, Auckland, New Zealand, 9–11 October, 2014
- CCSBT Annual Meeting of the Commission, Auckland, New Zealand 13–16 October, 2014

**December**

- WCPFC 11<sup>th</sup> meeting approx. first week in Dec. (request to move SC one week earlier)

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Scientific Committee:

- 1) **FINALISE** the draft schedule of IOTC Working Party meetings and the Scientific Committee meeting for 2014 and tentatively for 2015 (Appendix A).
- 2) **RECOMMEND** that the Commission endorse the schedule of IOTC Working Party meetings and the Scientific Committee meeting to be held in 2014, and tentatively endorse the 2015 schedule.

**APPENDIX**

**Appendix A:** DRAFT: Schedule of IOTC Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2014 and 2015.

**APPENDIX A**

**DRAFT:** Schedule of IOTC Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2013 and tentatively for 2014.

Meeting	2014		2015 (tentative)	
	Date	Location	Date	Location
Working Party on Neritic Tunas	2–5 July (4d)	Phuket, Thailand	13–16 July (4d)	TBD
Working Party on Billfish	Early June (5d); 21–25 July (5d); OR 27–31 October (5d)	Mombasa, Kenya (or Tanzania), OR Shimizu, Japan	Early June (5d) or Late-October (5d)	Algarve, EU,Portugal
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch	After the WPB (5d) 3–7 November (5d)	Mombasa, Kenya (or Tanzania), OR Shimizu, Japan	Prior to the WPEB (5d)	Algarve, EU,Portugal
Working Party on Temperate Tunas	28–30 July (4d) 24–27 June (4d) Late-October (4d)	Tokyo, Japan	Nil	Nil
Working Party on Methods	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Working Party on Tropical Tunas	14–18 or 21–25 Oct (5d)	TBD	13–17 or 20–24 Oct (5d)	TBD
Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Scientific Committee	25–29 Nov (5d)	Victoria, Seychelles	24–28 Nov (5d)	Victoria, Seychelles
Working Party on Fishing Capacity	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil