
PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPDCS08

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 14 NOVEMBER 2013

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS08), which were endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC), and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants.

BACKGROUND

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.

Process:

- 1) **WPDCS** – At the Eighth Session of the WPDCS held in 2011, participants agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the Secretariat on a range of issues;
- 2) **SC** – The recommendations were considered by the SC in December 2011. At the SC14 meeting, the recommendations of the WPDCS08 were either rejected or revised and then adopted as those of the SC;
- 3) **Commission** – The refined recommendations were then passed to the Commission for its consideration and possible endorsement.

DISCUSSION

Noting the core tasks of the SC, and hence the WPDCS, participants are reminded that any recommendations developed during a Session, must be carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e. a specific CPC of the IOTC, the Secretariat, another subsidiary body of the Commission or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time from for delivery of the action (i.e. by the next working party meeting, or other date).

The Secretariat has undertaken a review of the recommendations arising from the previous WPDCS meeting and compared them against those endorsed by the SC [Appendix A](#). Any subsequent actions taken by the Commission at the most recent meeting have also been added to the Appendix. In cases where a



recommendation is yet to be fulfilled, a proposal for consideration at the WPDCS meeting has been provided.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPDCS **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the WPDCS08 and consider the proposed draft revisions to those recommendations yet to be completed.

That the WPDCS **AGREE** to the revised recommendations, and for these to be combined with any new recommendations arising from the WPDCS09, noting that these will be provided to the SC for their endorsement.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Progress made on the recommendations of WPDCS08 and SC

APPENDIX A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPDCS08 and SC

WPDCS08 Rec. No.	SC14 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC14 (2011)	Endorsed at S16 (2012)	Comments and proposal for consideration at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.01 (para. 12):	SC14.35 (para. 99)	<p><i>IOTC Observer Trip Report Template</i></p> <p>Noting that in 2010, the SC requested that the WPDCS discuss collection and reporting by observers of the data items below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the type and numbers of branch lines and wire leaders used (longline) • Information on the number and type of electronic equipment used on board • Area resolution (1 degree square at present) • Information on the state of the sea and weather conditions • Information on depredation • Information on lost fishing gear • Information on the number of hooks used by type and size. <p>and noting the difficulties that some observers may have in collecting and reporting of the data items that are requested in the observer trip report template (seven items listed above), and further noting that collecting this information may compromise access to other basic data on board longline vessels, the SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission allow for some flexibility in the collection and reporting of these data, until such a time where the CPCs concerned are in a position to collect and provide this information.</p>	Yes	To be reconsidered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.02 (para. 18):	SC14.36 (para. 100)	<p>Noting that the use of monofilament leaders may allow sharks to escape by biting through the line (removing the hook), in contrast to wire leaders which are not prone to 'bite-off', the SC RECOMMENDED that, where possible for fleets that have not already prohibited the use of wire leaders, the number of 'bite-off' per leader type is added to the longline hauling information recorded by the observer (currently in the IOTC observer form FORM 4-LL – Fishing Event Longline).</p>	No	To be considered at WPDCS09

WPDCS08 Rec. No.	SC14 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC14 (2011)	Endorsed at S16 (2012)	Comments and proposal for consideration at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.03 (para. 19):	SC14.37 (para. 101)	Noting that the current observer trip reporting template includes summaries of catch and bycatch by 1° square as required in Resolution 11/04, and that there is no summary of the effort exerted during the trip at the same scale, the SC RECOMMENDED that a new table is added to the observer trip reporting template that would ensure effort during the trip is recorded, as follows: [see SC14 report]	Yes	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.04 (para. 21):	SC14.38 (para. 102)	The SC RECOMMENDED that the observer trip report is submitted in an electronic format, where possible, noting that the forms/tables in the observer trip report template are for illustrative purposes and that the complete information required could be reported in a different format.	Yes	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.05 (para. 23):	SC14.39 (para. 103)	Noting that at present, the observer reporting template includes obligatory reporting of information concerning waste management on board the fishing vessel (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships – MARPOL), the SC RECOMMENDED that the reporting of this information be made optional, as most fishing vessels are already bound by this international regulation.	Yes	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.06 (para. 24):	SC14.40 (para. 104)	Noting that the reporting of transshipment events have to be reported through the IOTC Transshipment Programme, and that the IOTC Transshipment Programme applies only where transshipments involve a fishing vessel with LOA 24 m or greater and carrier vessels, pointing out that transshipments between fishing vessels, in particular, fresh-tuna longliners, are very common, the SC AGREED that in order to avoid duplication, observers under the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme can refrain from reporting Transshipments when those events are recorded by observers under the IOTC Transshipment Programme, RECOMMENDING that this is incorporated into the observer report.	Yes	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.07 (para. 25):	NO	The WPDCS AGREED in principle, that from a technical point of view the existing standards for the collection and reporting of data by observers are appropriate, and RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee considers endorsing the data requirements of	-	To be reconsidered at WPDCS09

WPDCS08 Rec. No.	SC14 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC14 (2011)	Endorsed at S16 (2012)	Comments and proposal for consideration at WPDCS09
		the observer trip report template with the amendments recommended in paragraphs 17 to 24.		
WPDCS08.08 (para. 26):	Informally adopted (SC Appendix IX)	The SC RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat makes an evaluation of the costs associated with data management of the observer data (e.g. development and maintenance of a database, data entry etc.).	–	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.09 (para. 31):	Informally adopted (SC Appendix VIII)	<i>Discrepancy in the size frequency data available from Japan and Taiwan,China for major IOTC species (yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, albacore, swordfish)</i> Noting the information presented by the IOTC Secretariat on the conflicting estimates of average weight derived from operational catch and size frequency datasets for the longline fisheries of Japan and Taiwan,China over their time series, and the concerning effect that the problems identified may have on the assessments of tuna and billfish species, the SC RECOMMENDED that Japan and Taiwan,China work with the IOTC Secretariat in order to clarify these issues, and report on their findings at the next meeting of the WPDCS and any other relevant working party meetings (e.g. WPB, WPTmT and the WPTT).	–	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.10 (para. 37):	Informally adopted (SC Appendix VIII)	<i>Update on national Statistics Systems</i> Noting that while the data collection systems in the Maldives are considered to be appropriately designed, the system continues to rely on summary reports from Island/Atoll Offices until such time the logbook reporting is fully established. Given that quality of the reports from Island/Atoll Offices are deteriorating, the SC RECOMMENDED that the Maldives considers implementing a sampling program in order to validate these reports, including the recent logbook data.	–	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.11 (para. 38):	Informally adopted (SC Appendix VIII)	The SC RECOMMENDED that the Maldives estimate the quantity of bigeye tuna being caught by its fisheries, in particular those operating around anchored FADs.	–	To be considered at WPDCS09

WPDCS08 Rec. No.	SC14 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC14 (2011)	Endorsed at S16 (2012)	Comments and proposal for consideration at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.12 (para. 43):	SC14.53 (para. 170)	The SC RECOMMENDED that IOTC Recommendation 11/06 be modified to include the elements as provided in Appendix XXXV , noting that the lists of species to be recorded, as detailed in section 2.3 of Annex II, and makes collection of these data mandatory.	Yes	Completed. See Resolution 13/03.
WPDCS08.13 (para. 44):	–	Noting that agreement could not be reached on whether to include the recording of leader material (wire, monofilament etc.) into a revised proposal to the Commission, the WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider this issue at its 14 th Session, taking into account relevant information tabled for discussion at the meeting.	–	To be reconsidered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.14 (para. 46):	SC14.52 (para. 169)	The SC RECOMMENDED that the minimum recording requirements for handline and trolling provided in Appendix XXXV be incorporated into the revised proposal for minimum recording requirements as detailed in para. 170 .	Yes	Completed. See Resolution 13/03.
WPDCS08.15 (para. 47):	Informally adopted (SC Appendix VIII)	Recommendations to Improve the Quality of the Statistics at the IOTC The SC recalled its RECOMMENDATION that as resources become available, the IOTC Secretariat commence the process to develop a scoring system to assess the quality of data being reported to the Secretariat, noting that the allocation of scores to all data items in the IOTC databases will require a substantial investment of resources by Secretariat. The process shall be implemented gradually, with yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and swordfish data as priorities.	–	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.16 (para. 48):	Informally adopted (SC Appendix VIII)	The SC RECOMMENDED that countries having sampling schemes or planning to implement such schemes, assess the precision of estimates of catches from those schemes considering different levels of coverage and report the results to the WPDCS.	–	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.17 (para. 49):	Informally adopted (SC Appendix VIII)	Noting that paragraph 9 of Resolution 10/04 contains provisions for the reporting of numbers of fishing vessels monitored and the coverage achieved by gear type, by year to both, the Executive Secretary and the Scientific Committee, the SC RECOMMENDED that this information is also provided along with the statistics	–	To be considered at WPDCS09

WPDCS08 Rec. No.	SC14 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC14 (2011)	Endorsed at S16 (2012)	Comments and proposal for consideration at WPDCS09
		reported to the IOTC (IOTC Resolution 10/02).		
WPDCS08.18 (para. 50):	Informally adopted (SC Appendix VIII)	The SC recalled its RECOMMENDATION for scientists from the EU and Thailand to explore the use of size data collected on EU vessels for the same areas and periods to adjust the species composition from logbooks reported by Thai purse seiners, and to report progress to the next WPDCS meeting.	–	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.19 (para. 52):	Informally adopted (SC Appendix VIII)	The SC recalled its RECOMMENDATION that Indonesia reported size frequency data for its longline fleet for 2009 and 2010.	–	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.20 (para. 56):	SC14.41 (para. 107)	Activities under the IOTC-OFCF Project Acknowledging the value of projects such as the IOTC-OFCF in the region, the SC NOTED with thanks the support offered by the IOTC-OFCF project since 2002, and strongly RECOMMENDED that the activities carried out under the IOTC-OFCF project, including the IOTC-OFCF project itself, continue after the project ends in March 2013.	Yes	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.21 (para. 59):	Informally adopted (SC Appendix IX)	IOTC Data Summary and Field Manual Noting that the IOTC Secretariat has not resumed the publication of the IOTC Data Summary due to a lack of resources, the SC RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat design a new Data Summary and present an example at the next meeting of the WPDCS and for publication on the new IOTC website once completed.	–	To be considered at WPDCS09
WPDCS08.22 (para. 63):	Noted	Election of a Vice-Chair of the WPDCS for the next biennium The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee note the new Vice-Chair, Dr. Pierre Chavance (European Union), of the WPDCS for the next <i>biennium</i>	Noted	–
WPDCS08.23 (para. 64):	–	Review of the draft, and adoption of the report of the Eighth session of the WPDCS The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from	–	–

WPDCS08 Rec. No.	SC14 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC14 (2011)	Endorsed at S16 (2012)	Comments and proposal for consideration at WPDCS09
		WPDCS08, provided at Appendix IV .		