
DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE NINTH WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH

Updated: 7 September 2013

Date: 12–16 September 2013

Location: Espace TAMARUN

Reunion Island, France

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 daily

Chair: Dr. Charles Anderson; **Vice-Chair:** Dr. Evgeny Romanov

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chair)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chair)
3. **OUTCOMES OF THE FIFTENTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE** (Secretariat)
4. **OUTCOMES OF SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION**
 - 4.1. Outcomes of the Seventeenth Session of the Commission (Secretariat);
 - 4.2. Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to Ecosystems and Bycatch (Secretariat).
5. **PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPEB08** (Chair)
6. **REVIEW OF DATA AVAILABLE ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH**
 - 6.1. Review of the statistical data available for ecosystems and bycatch species (Secretariat);
 - 6.2. Progress on reporting and outcomes from Compliance Committee (enforcement measures taken) (Secretariat);
 - 6.3. Regional Observer Scheme – Update (Secretariat).
7. **NEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH SPECIES**
 - 7.1. Review new information on environment and ecosystem interactions, including climate change issues affecting pelagic ecosystems in the IOTC area of responsibility;
 - 7.2. Data from other sources (papers from CPCs).
8. **REVIEW OF NATIONAL BYCATCH ISSUES IN IOTC MANAGED FISHERIES AND NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION** (in particular for sharks and seabirds)
9. **GILLNET FISHERIES: PROBLEMS AND NEEDS** (recommendations from the SC / decisions of the Commission)
 - 9.1. Regional review of the data available for gillnet fleets operating in the Indian Ocean in view of decision of SC14.91: *“The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission considers allocating funds to support a regional review of the data available for gillnet fleets operating in the Indian Ocean. The scientists from all CPCs having gillnet fleets in the Indian Ocean should provide at the next session of the WPEB, a report summarising the known information on bycatch in their gillnet fisheries, including sharks, marine turtles and marine mammals, with estimates of their likely order of magnitude where more detailed data are not available.”*
 - 9.2. Training for CPCs having gillnet fleets on species identification, bycatch mitigation and data collection methods and also to identify other potential sources of assistance – Development of plans of action.
10. **SHARKS AND RAYS**
 - 10.1. Review new information on the biology, stock structure, bycatch mitigation measures, fisheries and associated environmental data (all):
 - Shark bycatch mitigation in longline gear: effect of terminal gear on shark bycatch: leaders (wire vs. monofilament), hooks / hooks sizes (circle vs. tuna vs. J-hooks). Review of regional research results and/or open discussion / results from other oceans. Best practices of shark handling / live release: circle hooks, wire leaders, live release. Shark post-release mortality in the longline fisheries.
 - Shark bycatch mitigation in purse seine gear: sharks in nets (whale shark, other species); sharks and FADs. Review of regional research results and/or open discussion / results from other oceans. Best practices of shark handling / live release. Shark post-release mortality in the purse seine fisheries.
 - 10.2. Stock status indicators for sharks and rays (all)
 - Historical data series for sharks and rays (in particular for blue shark and oceanic whitetip shark);
 - Stock indicators for sharks and rays (in particular for blue shark and oceanic whitetip shark);
 - Ecological Risk Analysis: review of efforts taken in 2012, potential management implications and direction for further progress;
 - Other indicators.

- 10.3. Review of data needs and way forward for the evaluation of shark stocks (all);
- 10.4. Development of technical advice on the status of the shark stocks (all);
- 10.5. Update of shark species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee (all).

11. MARINE TURTLES

- 11.1. Review of data available at the Secretariat for marine turtles (Secretariat);
- 11.2. Review new information on marine turtle biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- 11.3. Review of new information on the status of marine turtles (all)
 - Ecological Risk Analysis: Analysis: review of efforts taken in 2012, potential management implications and direction for further progress;
 - Other indicators.
- 11.4. Review of Resolution 12/04 *On the conservation of marine turtles* (all);
- 11.5. Development of technical advice for marine turtles (all);
- 11.6. Update of marine turtle species Executive Summary for the consideration of the Scientific Committee (all).

12. SEABIRDS

- 12.1. Review of data available at the Secretariat for seabirds (Secretariat);
- 12.2. Review new information on seabird biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- 12.3. Review of new information on the status of seabirds (all);
- 12.4. Review of Resolution 12/06 *On Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries* (all);
- 12.5. Development of technical advice for seabirds (all);
- 12.6. Update of seabird Executive Summary for the consideration of the Scientific Committee (all).

13. MARINE MAMMALS

- 13.1. Review new information on marine mammal biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
 - Purse seine (bycatch/non-bycatch interactions);
 - Gillnet (bycatch);
 - Longline (bycatch and depredation):
 - Review of available data and new information on depredation;
 - Requirement for improvement of the data on depredation;
 - Possible consequences of depredation on stock assessment;
- 13.2. Review of Resolution 00/02 *On a survey of predation of longline caught fish*;
- 13.3. Development of technical advice for marine mammals (all).

14. OTHER BYCATCH AND BYPRODUCT SPECIES INTERACTIONS

- 14.1. Review new information on other bycatch and byproduct biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- 14.2. Development of technical advice for other bycatch and byproduct species (all).

15. RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITIES

- 15.1. Revision of the WPEB work plan (Chair);
- 15.2. Format of future WPEB Sessions.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

- 16.1. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert/s at the next Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch meeting (Chair);
- 16.2. Date and place of the Tenth Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chair and Secretariat);
- 16.3. Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the next biennium;
- 16.4. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the Ninth Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chair).