

PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPTT15

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PURPOSE

To provide an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT14), 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) **WPTT** – At the Fourteenth Session of the WPTT, 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 2012. At the SC15 meeting, the recommendations of the WPTT14 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 WPTT, 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 WPTT 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 WPTT meeting has been provided.



RECOMMENDATION

That the WPTT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the WPTT14 and consider the proposed draft revisions to those recommendations yet to be completed.

That the WPTT **AGREE** to the revised recommendations, and for these to be combined with any new recommendations arising from the WPTT15, noting that these will be provided to the SC for their endorsement.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Progress made on the recommendations of WPTT14 and SC15.](#)

APPENDIX A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPTT14 and SC15

| WPTT14 Rec. No. | SC15 Rec. No. | Recommendation adopted by the SC15 | Endorsed at S17 | Comments and proposal for consideration at WPTT15 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------|---|
| WPTT14.01 (para.26) | SC15.77 (para.140) | Maldives tuna fisheries and anchored FADs NOTING that the Maldivian skipjack tuna catch is not separated by association type, i.e. aFAD or free schools, and therefore the proportion of skipjack tuna caught under aFADs around the Maldives is unknown, the SC RECOMMENDED that the Maldivian data collection system is further improved in order to account for the association of the reported catch, as this could improve the standardisation of the pole-and-line CPUE. | YES | Updated and re-revised logbooks. Effective from 01 January 2013. The logbook has two sets of information to be reported for each fishing day that allow the Maldives to separate catch by school type. 1. School Types: aFAD-schools & Other Schools 2. Position at noon time 3. Duration of fishing for each day. |
| WPTT14.02 (para.68) | SC15.78 (para.141) | Other information (Japan and Taiwan,China) NOTING that there were discrepancies in catch, effort and notably size data (low sampling rate, uneven distribution of sampling in regard to the spatial extent of the fishery) in the Japanese and Taiwan,China tropical tuna data sets, the SC RECOMMENDED they review the data to assess reasons for discrepancies identified by the IOTC Secretariat and to report results at the next meeting of the WPTT, including a comparison of length frequency data samples collected from commercial, research and training vessels. | YES | To be updated at WPTT15 See paper IOTC-2013-WPTT15-41 |
| WPTT14.03 (para.73) | SC15.76 (para.139) | Review of the statistical data available for bigeye tuna NOTING that the main tropical tuna data issues that are considered to negatively affect the quality of the statistics available at the IOTC Secretariat, by type of dataset and fishery, which are provided in Appendix VI of the WPTT report (IOTC-2012-WPTT14-R), the SC RECOMMENDED that the CPCs listed in the appendix, | YES | To be updated at WPTT15: See paper IOTC-2013-WPTT15-07 |

| WPTT14 Rec. No. | SC15 Rec. No. | Recommendation adopted by the SC15 | Endorsed at S17 | Comments and proposal for consideration at WPTT15 |
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| | | make efforts to remedy the data issues identified and to report back to the WPTT at its next meeting. | | |
| WPTT14.04 (para.95) | AGREED SC15, para 84. | <p>Parameters for future analyses: Bigeye tuna CPUE standardisation and stock assessments</p> <p>NOTING that the current time frames for data exchange do not allow enough time to conduct thorough stock assessment analyses, and this could have a detrimental effect on the quality of advice provided by the WPB, the SC AGREED that exchanges of data (CPUE indices and coefficient of variation) should be made as early as possible, but no later than 30 days prior to a working party meeting, so that stock assessment analysis can be provided to the IOTC Secretariat no later than 15 days before a working party meeting, as per the recommendations of the SC, which states: “The SC also ENCOURAGED data to be used in stock assessments, including CPUE standardisations, be made available not less than three months before each meeting by CPCs and where possible, data summaries no later than two months prior to each meeting, from the IOTC Secretariat; and RECOMMENDED that data to be used in stock assessments, including CPUE standardisations be made available not less than 30 days before each meeting by CPCs.” (IOTC-2011-SC14-R; p68)</p> | YES | To be updated at WPTT15 |
| WPTT14.05 (para.97) | SC15.01 (para. 207) | <p>Development of technical advice on the status of bigeye tuna</p> <p>The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the management advice developed for each tropical and temperate tuna species as provided in the Executive Summary for each species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) – Appendix IX ○ Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) – Appendix X | NOTED | The WPTT ADOPTED the management advice developed for bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>), as provided in the draft resource stock status summary (Appendix X). |

| WPTT14 Rec. No. | SC15 Rec. No. | Recommendation adopted by the SC15 | Endorsed at S17 | Comments and proposal for consideration at WPTT15 |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) – Appendix XI ○ Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) – Appendix XII | | |
| WPTT14.06 (para.112) | None | – | – | <p>From the WPTT14:</p> <p>Skipjack tuna CPUE discussion summary</p> <p>The WPTT RECOMMENDED further investigation of the existing data irregularities, and expansion of the logbook programme to improve CPUE analyses for skipjack tuna in the Indian Ocean, and for information on these matters to be presented to the next meeting of the WPTT.</p> |
| WPTT14.07 (para.116) | SC15.80 (para.147) | The SC RECOMMENDED further investigation of the existing data to produce an improved standardised CPUE series for the FAD-associated school skipjack tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean, and for information on these matters to be presented to the next meeting of the WPTT. | YES | To be updated at WPTT15 |
| WPTT14.08 (para.136) | SC15.81 (para.148) | <p>Parameters for future analyses: Skipjack tuna CPUE standardisation and stock assessments</p> <p>NOTING that the areas used in the various CPUE standardisations undertaken in 2012 varied, the SC AGREED that there is a need to define core area(s) for each gear (pole-and-line and purse seine) for the CPUE standardisation of skipjack tuna and RECOMMENDED that scientists from CPCs with pole-and-line, and purse seine fisheries for skipjack tuna, work together to explore their data in a manner to advance CPUE standardisation work for the next meeting of the WPTT in 2013, and defined such core areas for each gear, well in advance of the next WPTT meeting in 2013.</p> | YES | To be discussed at the CPUE workshop, prior to the WPTT15 and reported to the WPTT15. |
| WPTT14.09 (para.142) | SC15.01 (para. 207) | <p>Development of technical advice on the status of skipjack tuna</p> <p>The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the</p> | NOTED | The WPTT ADOPTED the management advice developed for skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>), as provided in the draft resource stock status summary (Appendix X). |



| WPTT14 Rec. No. | SC15 Rec. No. | Recommendation adopted by the SC15 | Endorsed at S17 | Comments and proposal for consideration at WPTT15 |
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| | | <p>management advice developed for each tropical and temperate tuna species as provided in the Executive Summary for each species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) – Appendix IX ○ Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) – Appendix X ○ Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) – Appendix XI ○ Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) – Appendix XII | | |
| WPTT14.10 (para.176) | NOTED | <p>Yellowfin tuna</p> <p>Japanese – Catch-per-unit-of-effort (CPUE)</p> <p>The WPTT NOTED that the change in gear appears to have had the effect of increasing the ratio of yellowfin tuna in the Japanese longline catch when compared to bigeye tuna. The WPTT also NOTED that other factors associated with targeting shifts could be explored in more detail (e.g. NHFCL might not always be the best indicator of hook depth or targeting). Understanding the interactions among NHFCL, fine-scale oceanographic condition, and gear shape under the water might bring further improvement of the CPUE standardization and, thus, the WPTT RECOMMENDED further examination of those issues in the future.</p> | YES | To be updated at the WPTT15 |
| WPTT14.11 (para.182) | SC15.84 (para.160) | <p>Taiwan,China – Catch-per-unit-of-effort (CPUE)</p> <p>The SC NOTED that data from Taiwanese vessels flagged to India was not used in the analysis, the SC RECOMMENDED that national scientists from Taiwan,China work with the IOTC Secretariat to gain a better estimate of catch in the Bay of Bengal.</p> | YES | <p>To be updated at WPTT15</p> <p>NOTING that India is only reporting catch and effort by vessels fishing within its EEZ and that it does not report catch and effort by foreign vessels flagged to India fishing on the high seas, the WPTT</p> |
| WPTT14.12 (para.212) | SC15.35 (para.161) | <p>MULTIFAN-CL (MFCL)</p> <p>The SC NOTED the excellent work done by Mr. Adam Langley (consultant) and his contributions and expertise on</p> | YES | Completed. |

| WPTT14 Rec. No. | SC15 Rec. No. | Recommendation adopted by the SC15 | Endorsed at S17 | Comments and proposal for consideration at WPTT15 |
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| | | integrated stock assessment models, and RECOMMENDED that his engagement be renewed for the coming year. | | |
| WPTT14.13 (para.231) | SC15.85 (para.162) | <p>Parameters for future analyses: Yellowfin tuna CPUE standardisation and stock assessments</p> <p>NOTING that the areas used in the various CPUE standardisations undertaken in 2012 were very different from one analysis to another, the SC AGREED that there is a need to define core area(s) for the CPUE standardisation of yellowfin tuna and RECOMMENDED that scientists from CPCs with longline and purse seine fisheries for yellowfin tuna, work together to explore their data and define such core areas, well in advance of the next WPTT meeting in 2013.</p> | YES | To be discussed at the CPUE workshop, prior to the WPTT15 and reported to the WPTT15. |
| WPTT14.14 (para.233) | SC15.01 (para. 207) | <p>Development of technical advice on the status of yellowfin tuna</p> <p>The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the management advice developed for each tropical and temperate tuna species as provided in the Executive Summary for each species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) – Appendix IX ○ Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) – Appendix X ○ Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) – Appendix XI ○ Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) – Appendix XII | NOTED | The WPTT ADOPTED the management advice developed for yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>), as provided in the draft resource stock status summary (Appendix X). |
| WPTT14.15 (para.246) | SC15.53 (para.225) & SC15.54 (para.226) & SC15.55 | <p>Analysis of the Time-Area Closures (including Resolution 12/13)</p> <p>The SC reiterated its previous RECOMMENDATION that the Commission note that the current closure is likely to be ineffective, as fishing effort will be redirected to other fishing grounds in the Indian Ocean. The positive impacts of the moratorium within the closed area would likely be offset by effort reallocation. For example, the WPTmT noted that</p> | YES | Consider updates based on analysis/information presented at the WPTT15. |

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| | (para.227) | <p>longline fishing effort has been redistributed to traditional albacore fishing grounds in recent years, thereby further increasing fishing pressure on this stock.</p> <p>NOTING that the objective of Resolution 12/13 is to decrease the overall pressure on the main targeted stocks in the Indian Ocean, in particular yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna, and also to evaluate the impact of the current time/area closure and any alternative scenarios on tropical tuna populations, the SC reiterated its previous RECOMMENDATION that the Commission specify the level of reduction or the long term management objectives to be achieved with the current or alternative time area closures and/or alternative measures, as these are not contained within the Resolution 12/13. This will, in turn, guide and facilitate the analysis of the SC, via the WPTT in 2013 and future years.</p> <p>NOTING the lack of research examining time-area closures in the Indian Ocean by the WPTT in 2011 and 2012, as well as the slow progress made in addressing the Commission request, the SC reiterated its RECOMMENDATION that the SC Chair begins a consultative process with the Commission in order to obtain clear guidance from the Commission about the management objectives intended with the current or any alternative closure. This will allow the SC to address the Commission request more thoroughly.</p> | | |
| WPTT14.16 (para.251) | SC15.50 (para.204) | <p><i>Effect of Piracy on Tropical Tuna Catches</i></p> <p>The SC RECOMMENDED that given the lack of quantitative analysis of the effects of piracy on fleet operations and subsequent catch and effort trends, and the potential impacts of piracy on fisheries in other areas of the Indian Ocean through the relocation of longliners to other fishing grounds, specific analysis should be carried out and presented</p> | YES | To be updated at the WPTT15 |



| WPTT14 Rec. No. | SC15 Rec. No. | Recommendation adopted by the SC15 | Endorsed at S17 | Comments and proposal for consideration at WPTT15 |
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| | | at the next WPTT meeting by the CPCs most affected by these activities, including Japan, Republic of Korea and Taiwan,China. The Chair of the WPTT shall facilitate the analysis and report back to the SC in 2013. | | |
| WPTT14.17 (para.256) | Research Rec. Appendix XXXV | Research Recommendations and Priorities CPUE standardisation NOTING that nominal juvenile purse seine CPUE, once standardised, can be used as an indicator of the recruitment index in the stock assessment models, the SC RECOMMENDED that the standardised CPUE index for juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna caught by the EU purse seiner fleets, be estimated and submitted to the WPTT before the next round of stock assessments of tropical tunas. | YES | To be updated at WPTT15 |
| WPTT14.18 (para.257) | Research Rec. Appendix XXXV | The SC RECOMMENDED that standardisation of purse seine CPUE be made where possible using the operational data on the fishery. | YES | To be updated at WPTT15 |
| WPTT14.19 (para.259) | AGREED SC15. Para 238 | Stock assessment The SC ADOPTED a revised assessment schedule for the tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as the current list of key shark species of interest, as outlined in Appendix XXXVI . Following the uncertainty remaining in the bigeye tuna assessment carried out for the previous WPTT meetings in 2010 and 2011, the WPTT AGREED that bigeye tuna would be the priority species for stock assessments in 2013. Only stock status indicators (i.e standardised CPUE series) should be updated for skipjack tuna and yellowfin tuna. | YES | To be updated at WPTT15 |
| WPTT14.20 (para.263) | ADOPTED SC15. Para. | Other Business Review of the 'Guidelines for the Presentation of Stock | YES | - |

| WPTT14 Rec. No. | SC15 Rec. No. | Recommendation adopted by the SC15 | Endorsed at S17 | Comments and proposal for consideration at WPTT15 |
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| | 245 | <p>Assessment Models' The SC ADOPTED revised “<i>Guidelines for the Presentation of Stock Assessment Models</i>” provided at Appendix XXXVII, and requested that the guidelines be communicated to working party participants well in advance of each meeting to ensure that national scientists/authors of all future CPUE and stock assessment papers presented at IOTC working party meeting comply with the guidelines.</p> | | |
| WPTT14.21 (para.265) | SC15.86 (para.163) | <p>Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPTT meeting The SC RECOMMENDED the following core areas of expertise and priority areas for contribution that need to be enhanced for the next meeting of the WPTT in 2013, by an Invited Expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPUE analysis and standardisation • Tuna tagging data analysis • Tuna stock assessment models <p>Where possible the Invited Expert should attend both the proposed CPUE workshop and the Working Party in 2013, noting that Invited Experts are unpaid.</p> | YES | Invited Expert selected and will attend the WPTT15. Update TORs for the next WPTT meeting as necessary. |
| WPTT14.22 (para.271) | SC15.01 (para. 207) | <p>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the Fourteenth Session of the WPTT The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the management advice developed for each tropical and temperate tuna species as provided in the Executive Summary for each species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) – Appendix IX ○ Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) – Appendix X ○ Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) – Appendix XI ○ Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) – Appendix XII | YES and NOTED | <p>The WPTT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPTT15, provided at Appendix XXX, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each of the tropical tuna species under the IOTC mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) – Appendix X ○ Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) – Appendix XX ○ Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) – Appendix XXX |