

PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPNT03

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT AND CHAIR, 13 JUNE 2014

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 4th WPNT with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT) meeting which were endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC), and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants as appropriate given any progress.

BACKGROUND

At the 3rd Session of the WPNT, 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 WPNT was provided to the SC for its endorsement.

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

Noting the core tasks of the SC, and hence the WPNT, and the fact that the SC, Commission and CPCs in general have struggled to implement previous recommendations from the IOTC working parties, the Chair and Secretariat undertook a review and subsequent revision of recommendations from the WPNT03 meeting in an attempt to provide clearer direction and delegation of responsibility for each recommendation as appropriate.

The revised recommendations are contained in [Appendix A](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPNT04.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPNT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 3rd Session of the WPNT, and consider whether revised recommendations need to be sent to the SC for its consideration.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Progress made on the recommendations of WPNT03.](#)

APPENDIX A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPNT03

WPNT03 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPNT03	SC16 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC16	Comments and proposal for WPNT04 consideration
WPNT03.01	Meeting participation fund (para. 3) NOTING that the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund (MPF), adopted by the Commission in 2010 (Resolution 10/05 <i>On the establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for developing IOTC Members and non-Contracting Cooperating Parties</i>), was used to fund the participation of 11 national scientists, including the Chair and Vice-Chair, to the WPNT03 meeting (10 in 2012), the WPNT RECOMMENDED that this fund be maintained into the future, as neritic tunas are very important resources for many of the coastal countries of the Indian Ocean.	SC16.54	(para. 133) NOTING that the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund (MPF), adopted by the Commission in 2010 (Resolution 10/05 <i>On the establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for developing IOTC Members and non-Contracting Cooperating Parties</i>), was used to fund the participation of 58 national scientists to the Working Party meetings and SC in 2013 (42 in 2012), all of which were required to submit and present a working paper at the meeting, the SC strongly RECOMMENDED that this fund be maintained into the future. The MPF is currently funded through accumulated IOTC budgetary funds and voluntary contributions by CPCs. The Commission may need to develop and implement a procedure for supplying funds to the MPF in the future, as specified in Resolution 10/05.	Request an increase in the budgeted MPF for 2015 and all future years.
WPNT03.02	(para 4) NOTING that the MPF was established for the purposes of supporting scientists and representatives from IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) who are developing States to attend and/or contribute to the work of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and its Working Parties, and that the Commission had directed the Secretariat to ensure that the MPF would be utilized, as a first priority, to support the participation of scientists from developing CPCs in scientific meetings of the IOTC, including Working	SC16.55	(para. 134) NOTING that the Commission had directed the Secretariat (via Resolution 10/05) to ensure that the MPF be utilised, as a first priority, to support the participation of scientists from developing CPCs in scientific meetings of the IOTC, including Working Parties, rather than non-science meetings, the SC RECOMMENDED that the Secretariat strictly adhere to the directives of the Commission contained in Resolution 10/05, including paragraph 8 which states that <i>'The Fund will be allocated in such a way that no more than 25% of the expenditures of the Fund in one</i>	Support Commission decision.

	Parties, rather than non-science meetings, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider making a request to the Commission to provide additional direction to the Secretariat regarding the use of the funds. The direction should clarify what proportion of the MPF should be used for scientific versus non-scientific meetings each budget cycle.		<i>year is used to fund attendance to non-scientific meetings.’ Thus, 75% of the annual MPF shall be allocated to facilitating the attendance of developing CPC scientists to the Scientific Committee and its Working Parties.</i>	
WPNT03.03	<p><i>Review of Conservation and Management Measures relating to neritic tunas</i></p> <p>(para 16) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider proposing the following amendments to Resolution 10/02, for the Commission’s consideration in 2014:</p> <p>1) The Resolution would be easier to interpret if a set of ‘Definitions’ was added, including those for coastal fisheries, longline fisheries and purse seine fisheries.</p> <p>2) Change paragraph 3 a) from: “For coastal fisheries: available catch by species, fishing gear and fishing effort shall be submitted frequently and may be provided using an alternative geographical area if it better represents the fishery concerned.” to the following: “Coastal fisheries: Available catch by species, fishing gear and fishing effort, by month shall be submitted and may be provided using an alternative geographical area if it better represents the fishery concerned. The data shall be extrapolated to the total monthly catches, for each gear and for the geographical area of concern. A description of the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the sampling coverage) shall also be submitted.”</p> <p>3) Change paragraph 5, under a new heading</p>	SC16.44	<p>(para. 98) The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission amends IOTC Resolution 10/02 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding the following definitions in order to clarify the type of fisheries, area and species covered by Resolution 10/02: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Longline fisheries: Fisheries undertaken by vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels that use longline gear. ○ Surface fisheries: All fisheries undertaken by vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels other than longline fisheries; in particular purse seine, pole-and-line, and gillnet fisheries. ○ Coastal fisheries: Fisheries other than longline or surface, as defined above, also called artisanal fisheries. ○ IOTC Area of Competence: as described in Annex A of the IOTC Agreement. ○ Species: refers to all species under the IOTC mandate as described in Annex B of the IOTC Agreement, and the most commonly caught elasmobranch species, as defined by the Commission in IOTC Resolution 13/03 or any subsequent revisions of this Resolution. ○ Support vessels: Any types of vessels that operate in support of the fishing activities of purse seine vessels. • Specify the requirements for Nominal Catch data, including: 	Nil

	<p>“Fish aggregating devices (FADs) and support vessels data”, and then split the paragraph into two sections “Purse seine fisheries” and “Other fisheries”, so that coastal fisheries report the following:</p> <p>Other fisheries</p> <p>Given that Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (AFADs) are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the coastal fisheries using them, the following data shall be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Type of AFADs used in the country, including specification (i.e. dimensions, materials used). b) Total number of active AFADs by 1° grid area and month. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Changing the term Nominal by Total; ○ Change the time-period resolution of Total catch data from Year to Quarter, in order to be able to assess the seasonality of fisheries that do not report catch-and-effort data; ○ Request separate reports for retained catches (in live weight) and discards (in live weight or number), as per the above resolution. ● Specify the requirements for Catch and effort data, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surface fisheries: Extend the requirements to report catch and effort data by type of fishing mode to other fisheries that use FADs, drifting or anchored; and ensure that the effort units reported are consistent with those requested in Resolution 13/03 or any subsequent revisions to such Resolution; ○ Coastal fisheries: Specify the time-period to be used to report this information, preferably Month. ● Specify that Size Frequency data shall be reported according to the procedures described in the IOTC Guidelines for the Reporting of Fisheries Statistics (instead of those set out by the IOTC Scientific Committee). ● Specify the requirements for data on supply vessels, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change the term Supply to Support (Support Vessels); ○ Indicate that data on the activities of support vessels shall be reported by the flag country of the vessels that receive the assistance of the support vessel (and not by the flag country or other parties); ○ Request the name of the purse seiners that receive assistance from each support vessel; 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall Resolution 13/08 which contains provisions for CPCs to collect more detailed information on Fish Aggregating Devices. 	
WPNT03.04	<p><i>New Information on Fisheries and Associated Environmental Data Relating to Neritic Tunas IOTC database</i></p> <p>(para 20) The WPNT NOTED the main data issues that are considered to negatively affect the quality of the statistics for neritic tunas available at the IOTC Secretariat, by type of dataset and fishery, which are provided in Appendix V, and RECOMMENDED that the CPCs listed in the Appendix, make efforts to remedy the data issues identified and to report back to the WPNT at its next meeting.</p>	Nil	NOTED	Repeat.
WPNT03.05	<p><i>General discussion on data</i></p> <p>(para 24) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC request the Commission increase the IOTC Capacity Building budget line so that capacity building workshops/training can be carried out in 2014 and 2015 on the collection, reporting and analyses of catch and effort data for neritic tuna and tuna-like species. Where appropriate this training session shall include information that explains the entire IOTC process from data collection to analysis and how the information collected is used by the Commission to develop Conservation and Management Measures.</p>	SC16.10	(para. 32) The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission increase the IOTC Capacity Building budget line so that capacity building workshops/training can be carried out in 2014 and 2015 on the collection, reporting and analyses of catch and effort data for neritic tuna and tuna-like species. Where appropriate this training session shall include information that explains the entire IOTC process from data collection to analysis and how the information collected is used by the Commission to develop Conservation and Management Measures.	Recommend with specific activities and associated budgets.
WPNT03.06	<p>(para 26) NOTING that some CPCs, in particular from India, Indonesia and Thailand, have collected large data sets on neritic tuna species over long time periods, the WPNT reiterated its previous RECOMMENDATION that this data, as well as data from other CPCs, be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat as per the requirements adopted by IOTC Members in Resolution 10/02. This would allow the WPNT to develop stock status indicators or comprehensive stock assessments of neritic tuna</p>	SC16.11	(para. 33) NOTING that some CPCs, in particular from India, Indonesia and Thailand, have collected large data sets on neritic tuna species over long time periods, the SC reiterated its previous RECOMMENDATION that this data, as well as data from other CPCs, be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat as per the requirements adopted by IOTC Members in Resolution 10/02. This would allow the WPNT to develop stock status indicators or comprehensive stock assessments of neritic tuna species in the future.	Nil

	species in the future.			
WPNT03.07	(para 29) NOTING that monofilament gillnets are recognised to have highly detrimental impacts on fishery ecosystems, as they are non-selective, and that the use of monofilament gillnets have already been banned in a large number of IOTC CPCs, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that each CPC using monofilament gillnets to estimate total catch and bycatch, etc., taken by monofilament gillnets in comparison to other net material, and to report the findings at the next WPNT meeting.	SC16.12	(para. 34) NOTING that monofilament gillnets are recognised to have highly detrimental impacts on pelagic ecosystems, as they are non-selective, and that the use of monofilament gillnets have already been banned in a large number of IOTC CPCs, the SC RECOMMENDED that each CPC using monofilament gillnets to estimate total catch and bycatch, etc., taken by monofilament gillnets in comparison to other net material, and to report the findings at the next WPNT meeting.	Repeat
WPNT03.08	<i>Research Recommendations and Priorities</i> <i>Stock structure research</i> (para 170) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat act in a project coordination role, as well as to seek funding for stock structure projects in the Indian Ocean. Initially, this would require the establishment of an intersessional discussion group with participants from the WPNT, and experts in the field of stock structure differentiation. CPCs with current or planned stock structure studies are encouraged to circulate project proposals to the wider group for comment that may be considered for submitting to prospective funding partners with support from the IOTC Secretariat.	SC16.13	(para. 36) The SC RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat act in a project coordination role, as well as to seek funding for stock structure projects in the Indian Ocean. Initially, this would require the establishment of an intersessional discussion group with participants from the WPNT, and experts in the field of stock structure differentiation. CPCs with current or planned stock structure studies are encouraged to circulate project proposals to the wider group for comment that may be considered for submitting to prospective funding partners with support from the IOTC Secretariat.	Repeat as a request
WPNT03.09	<i>Revision of the WPNT work plan</i> (para 175) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the workplan for the WPNT for 2014, and tentatively for future years, as provided at Appendix XII .	Para. 193 Para. 196	The SC NOTED the proposed work plans and priorities of each of the Working Parties and AGREED to the revised work plans as outlined in Appendix XXXIV . The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each working party shall ensure that the efforts of their working party is focused on the core areas contained within the appendix, taking into account any new research priorities identified by the Commission at its next Session. The SC REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat develop a template for each working party to use in developing their works plans in 2014, with the aim of	Revise

			standardising the way in which each working party presents a prioritised plan each year for the SC's consideration.	
WPNT03.10	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Date and place of the Fourth WPNT</p> <p>(para 181) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC note that the participation of developing coastal state scientists has increased dramatically in recent years, through the implementation of the IOTC MPF, as well as through the hosting of the WPNT in developing coastal states (WPNT01: India, WPNT02: Malaysia and WPNT03: Indonesia). In 2011, 11 national scientists from India attended the first meeting, while in 2012, 13 attended from Malaysia and finally, in 2013, a total of 16 national scientists from Indonesia were able to attend the WPNT meeting.</p>	SC16.71	(para. 200) The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission endorse the schedule of Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2014, and tentatively for 2015, noting that the SC agreed that flexibility in the dates proposed should be retained (Appendix XXXVI).	TBD
WPNT03.11	<p>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the Third WPNT</p> <p>(para 184) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPNT03, provided at Appendix XIII, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each of the six neritic tuna (and mackerel) species under the IOTC mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – Appendix VI ○ frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – Appendix VII ○ kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – Appendix VIII ○ longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) – Appendix IX ○ Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) – Appendix X ○ narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) – Appendix XI 	SC16.03	(para. 165) The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the management advice developed for each neritic tuna species as provided in the Executive Summary for each species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – Appendix XVII ○ Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – Appendix XVIII ○ Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – Appendix XIX ○ Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) – Appendix XX ○ Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) – Appendix XXI ○ Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) – Appendix XXII 	TBD