

UPDATE ON PROGRESS REGARDING RESOLUTION 09/01 – ON THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOLLOW-UP

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 23 NOVEMBER 2014

PURPOSE

To provide the Scientific Committee (SC) with an opportunity to update the current status of implementation for each of the recommendations arising from the Report of the IOTC Performance Review Panel.

BACKGROUND

In response to calls from the international community for a review of the performance of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) agreed in 2007 to implement a process of Performance Review. The IOTC formed a Review Panel, consisting of an independent legal expert, an independent scientific expert, six IOTC Members and a non-governmental organisations observer, which concluded its report to the Commission in January 2009. The Panel's review was based on the criteria developed as a result of a joint meeting of tuna RFMOs, Kobe, Japan, 2007 and concentrated on the following issues:

- Adequacy of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC Agreement) relative to current principles of fisheries management,
- Consistency between scientific advice and conservation and management measures adopted,
- Effectiveness of control measures established by the IOTC; and
- Efficiency and transparency of financial and administrative management.

In 2009, the IOTC performance review panel published a report outlining 75 recommendations to improve the functioning of the IOTC ([Anon 2009](#)).

DISCUSSION

At the 17th Session of the Commission held in May 2013, Members noted the status of implementation for each of the recommendations arising from the report of the performance review panel. The Commission agreed that each of the Committee's should carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the status and priority of each of the recommendations from the Performance Review, and for a revised document to be provided to the Commission at its next Session. The Recommendations relevant to the Scientific Committee are provided at [Appendix A](#) for consideration.

In addition, the Commission agreed that a second Performance Review of the IOTC be undertaken in 2014, with terms of reference to be developed by interested CPCs and circulated for wider agreement via an IOTC Circular.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Scientific Committee:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2014-SC17-09 which details the status of each of the recommendations from the performance review, as agreed to by the Commission at its 18th Session, with updates for 2014 shown in tracked-changes in [Appendix A](#).
- 2) **REVIEW** and further **UPDATE** the status table, including the work plan with proposed timelines and priorities for each recommendation relevant to the work of the SC, for the Commission's consideration.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [2014: Update on progress regarding Resolution 09/01 – On the performance review follow-up.](#)

APPENDIX A

2014: UPDATE ON PROGRESS REGARDING RESOLUTION 09/01 – ON THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOLLOW-UP
(NOTE: NUMBERING AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS PER APPENDIX I OF RESOLUTION 09/01)

ON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE/STATUS	WORKPLAN/TIMELINE	PRIORITY
Data collection and sharing				
3. The timing of data reporting be modified to ensure that the most recent data are available to the working parties and the Scientific Committee.	Scientific Committee	Completed: Currently CPCs are required to submit information on their flag vessels by 30 th June every year. The timeline for coastal CPCs who license foreign vessels has been brought forward to 15 th February every year. The timing of the Working Parties will be reviewed annually to ensure that assessments can be completed and results reported to the Scientific Committee each year.	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	Medium
5. The scheduling of meetings of the working parties and Scientific Committee be investigated based on the experience of other RFMOs. This should bear in mind the optimal delivery of scientific advice to the Commission.	Scientific Committee	Completed: Given the large number of meetings of other RFMOs, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a schedule of meetings that would be better than the one currently in practice. However, the Working Parties and the Scientific Committee will annually review the timing of the Working Parties.	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	Low
6. The Commission task the Scientific Committee with exploring alternative means of communicating data to improve timeliness of data provision.	Scientific Committee	Partially Completed & Ongoing: The Secretariat encourages members to utilise electronic means to expedite reporting. A study was commissioned for 2011 to determine the feasibility of reporting near real-time for various fleets. Outcome: Real time reporting not currently possible for most CPCs.	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	Medium
10. There is a need to improve the quality and quantity of the data collected and reported by the Members, including the information necessary for implementing the ecosystem approach. The most immediate emphasis should be placed on catch, effort and size frequency. The Panel also recommends that:	Scientific Committee	Ongoing: See below recommendation 11. Other sources and cooperative arrangements will continue (e.g. IOTC-OFCF Project) or might be available in the future (e.g. SWIOFC, COI, etc.). The Secretariat continues to collaborate with these initiatives.	<u>Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.</u>	High

12. A regional scientific observer programme to enhance data collection (also for non–target species) and ensure a unified approach be established, building on the experience of other RFMOs, Regional standards on data collection, data exchanged and training should be developed.	Scientific Committee	Partially completed: Resolution 11/04 (superseding Res.09/04 and Res. 10/04) provides CPCs with the necessary framework for putting in place national scientific observer programmes. The Regional Observers Scheme commenced July 1 st 2010, and is based on national implementation. The Secretariat coordinated the preparation of standards for data requirements, training and forms. Implementation by CPCs has been limited to date. <u>The Secretariat will commence training workshops in 2015 in several key CPCs requesting assistance (i.e. IR Iran and Sri Lanka).</u>	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	High
16. A statistical working party be established to provide a more efficient way to identify and solve the technical statistical questions.	Scientific Committee	Completed: The Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics resumed its annual meeting in 2009, 2010 and 2011. However, no meeting is being scheduled for 2012 as the SC felt that this WP meeting should only be held when there are specific tasks to be considered.	Annual meeting.	High
21. Innovative or alternative means of data collection (e.g. port sampling) should be explored and, as appropriate, implemented.	Scientific Committee	Ongoing: The Secretariat has been implementing sampling programmes since 1999. The IOTC, <u>in collaboration with others (i.e. OFCF, COI, BOBLME) Programme</u> has supported sampling programmes and other means of data collection since 2002. In 2011, the SC recommended the continuation of the IOTC OFCF project. The Secretariat continues to work with CPCs to improve their data collection programs.	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	Medium

Quality and provision of scientific advice				
23. For species with little data available, the Scientific Committee should be tasked with making use of more qualitative scientific methods that are less data intensive.	Scientific Committee	<p>In progress: The species Working Parties have been using informal analyses of stock status indicators when data are considered insufficient to conduct full assessments for some time. However, a formal system that reviews those qualitative indicators and provides a recommendation on the current status, based on the weight-of-evidence is currently being developedimplemented.</p> <p>In 2013 and 2014, data poor approaches to determining stock status was applied to a range of marlin-billfish and neritic tunas species. This resulted in a stock status being applied to striped marlin, blue marlin and longtail tuna for the first time. The SC will consider in 2014, options to rank stock status determination using a ‘tier’ approach, which will assist in the interpretation of the level of uncertainty present in assessment methods applied.</p>	To be considered at the WPM and others. Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	High
25. Confidentiality provisions and issues of accessibility to data by the scientists concerned needs to be clearly delineated, and/or amended, so that analysis can be replicated.	Scientific Committee	<p>Ongoing: Input, output and executable files for the assessment of major stocks are archived with the Secretariat to allow replication of analyses. Access to operational data under cooperative arrangements, and those subject to confidentiality rules is still limited. In some cases the Secretariat is bound by the domestic data confidentiality rules of Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. The SC recommended to include observer data under the confidentiality policy of IOTC, which was Adopted by the Commission in 2012 as Resolution 12/02.</p>	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	Medium
27. To enhance the quality of scientific advice and the technical soundness of the papers being considered by the Scientific Committee and its working parties, and to encourage publication of IOTC scientific papers in relevant journals, future consideration should be given to the establishment of a scientific editorial board within the Scientific Committee	Scientific Committee	<p>Partially Completed & Ongoing: Guidelines for the presentation of stock assessment papers were revised and agreed to by the Scientific Committee in 2010 and- 2012. The SC will again revise the guidelines in 2014, as a result of the Commission adoption Recommendation 14/07 To standardise the presentation of scientific information in the annual Scientific Committee report and in Working Party reports.</p> <p>The SC actively encourages national scientists to publish in peer reviewed journals, as is the case following the Tuna tagging Symposium held in 2012.</p>	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	Medium

29. Ongoing peer review by external experts should be incorporated as standard business practice of working parties and the Scientific Committee.	Scientific Committee	<p>Pending: External experts (Invited Experts) are regularly invited to provide additional expertise at Working Party meetings, although this does not constitute a formal process of peer review. The Scientific Committee in 2010 and 2011, agreed that once stock assessment models were considered robust, that peer review would be advantageous and funds will be requested to undertake peer reviews of stock assessments.</p> <p>The Scientific Committee reviewed the processes for Invited Experts, Consultants and Peer review at its 14th Session in 2011.</p>	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	Medium
30. New guidelines for the presentation of more user friendly scientific reports in terms of stock assessments should be developed. In this respect, Kobe plots are considered to be the most desirable method of graphical presentation, especially to non-technical audience.	Scientific Committee	<p>Partially completed & Ongoing: All recent stock assessment results have been presented using the Kobe plot, and the species Working Parties are progressing in presenting the Kobe matrix. The 2010, 2011 and 2012 Scientific Committee reports included Kobe Matrices for stock assessments where available. The format of the Working Party reports and the resultant Executive Summaries continues to be refined to improve readability and content.</p> <p><u>The Commission adoption Recommendation 14/07 To standardise the presentation of scientific information in the annual Scientific Committee report and in Working Party reports, and this has been applied to all WP meeting reports in 2014.</u></p>	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	Medium
35. IOTC should consider developing a framework to take action in the face of uncertainty in scientific advice.	Scientific Committee and Commission	<p>In progress: The Scientific Committee has agreed that the development of a Management Strategy Evaluation process be initiated to provide better advice that would incorporate explicit consideration of uncertainty. The 2014² meeting of the Working Party on Methods <u>will again</u> focused on this process. A smaller group of experts met twice in 2013 to advance this work, once in April and again in October.</p>	<p>Intersessional start of the MSE process by correspondence, as of Jan. 2012</p> <p>Progress at WPM annual meeting.</p>	High

Capacity management				
42. IOTC should establish a stronger policy on fishing capacity to prevent or eliminate excess fishing capacity.	<i>Working Party on Fishing Capacity</i> <i>Scientific Committee</i> <i>Commission</i>	Ongoing: The Commission has since 2003 adopted a series of Resolutions (03/01, 06/05, 07/05 and 09/02) with the objective of addressing the issue of fishing capacity. However, to date these resolutions have not resulted in a strong control on fishing capacity, and the concern remains that overcapacity might result from this lack of control. The Secretariat is actively involved in developing the global vessels record for vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species that would contribute to the assessment of existing fishing capacity. A second fishing capacity study was conducted in 2013.	See Recommendation 33, which has been agreed as the priority path in this regard.	Medium