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## Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop on Connecting the IOTC Science and Management Processes (SMWS03)

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Bangkok, Thailand, 10–12 February 2015



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**DISTRIBUTION:**

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Members of the Commission  
Other interested Nations and International  
Organizations  
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FAO Regional Fishery Officers

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## ACRONYMS

IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
BOBLME	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CPCs	Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties
SMWS	Science to Management Workshop (Workshop on Connecting the IOTC Science and Management Processes)

## BACKGROUND

At its 17<sup>th</sup> Session in 2013, the Commission agreed to further support capacity building activities among its Members by implementing adequate capacity building and support programmes, financially supported by Members through the Commission's budget, as well as through voluntary contributions by CPCs and other interested parties.

The three-day workshop 10–12 February 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand was co-financed through a cooperation arrangement with the BOBLME and the IOTC. The meeting was hosted by the Department of Fisheries, and was held at the Amari Westgate Hotel. This is the third meeting on capacity building regarding IOTC science to management and the overall objective is to improve the communication between manager/policy makers and scientists. The workshop setting was to have both groups in the same room.

The aims of the three-day workshop were to:

1. Improve the level of comprehension among IOTC CPCs on how the scientific process informs the management process for managing of IOTC species and ecosystems;
2. Increase the awareness of IOTC Members to their obligations, as stipulated in the Commissions' Conservation and Management Measures which are based on rigorous scientific advice;
3. Improve the decision making process within the IOTC;
4. To provide direct assistance in the drafting of proposals for Conservation and Management Measures.

## 3. ACTIVITIES

The workshop covered the following core topics:

- Structure and functioning of the IOTC
- Current status of IOTC stocks
- Communicating IOTC science to managers
- How to interpret science advice as a manager
- Country level implications arising from stock assessment results and management options analyses
- How the Commission uses Science advice to develop Conservation and Management Measures
- Implications of current Conservation and Management Measures for CPCs
- Negotiations in the Commission
- Drafting of IOTC Resolutions

The **target audience** for the workshop were IOTC Commissioners and their chief scientists.

The participation of developing coastal state CPCs of the IOTC was supported through the Capacity Building budget line of the IOTC budget for 2015 and through support from the BOBLME project.

The workshop was delivered by Mr Rondolph Payet (Executive Secretary, IOTC) and Dr David Wilson (Deputy Executive Secretary & Science Manager, IOTC). A total of 27 participants attended the workshop, consisting of 13 Managers (48%), 4 Policy makers (15%), 6 scientists (25%) and 3 undefined (12%). A list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#).

## APPROACH AND WORKSHOP CONTENT

The workshop was run in the format of lectures/presentation followed by case studies, open discussion, practical exercise through group work and revolved around the following four key topics.

The basic documents/presentations for the workshop are available via the IOTC website: <http://iotc.org/meetings/3rd-workshop-connecting-iotc-science-and-management-processes>

The complete agenda is provided at [Appendix II](#):

- 1) The structure and functioning of the IOTC process
  - Obligations of IOTC Members in the implementation of IOTC CMMs

- Effects of poorly implemented management actions
  - Decision making processes and implementation within the IOTC
  - Negotiating in multilateral environments
  - The importance of science-policy briefings/communication within CPCs
  - Some guidelines on how to improve the negotiation process of conservation and management measures (case studies were received from the European Union and Seychelles).
- 2) The science process and interpretation of scientific advice
- The Kobe plot; Kobe 2 Management Strategy Matrix (K2MSM); Interpreting the Kobe plot and K2MSM
  - Precautionary approach: target and limit reference points (MSY and other commonly used reference points): why is this important for management (science advice, management objectives)
  - Management Strategy Evaluation (Why harvest control rules and why do we need the MSE process? (Benefits)
  - Discussion and practical session.
- 3) Development and effective communication of scientifically-based management advice
- Case study: How IOTC Working Parties develop management advice (IOTC Species executive summaries); How to interpret IOTC Species Executive Summaries
  - Case study: Pitfalls of waiting too long or being too quick to provide scientifically-based management advice
  - Practical session: Participants to develop and communicate scientifically-based management advice from the Scientific Committee to the Commission for use in the development of a management measure.
- 4) IOTC Conservation and Management Measures
- Defining and interpreting an IOTC Conservation and Management Measure (key elements); template review; IOTC Compendium of Active Conservation and Management Measures
  - Case study: How the Commission has used and not used scientifically-based management advice in the development of its Conservation and Management Measures
  - Case study: Pitfalls of waiting too long or being too quick to develop a proposal for a CMM
  - Case study: How to develop a proposal for a Conservation and Management Measure
  - Practical session: Participants to develop and present a proposal for a CMM based on scientifically-based management advice.

Participants made a few proposals on how the science to management process can improve within the IOTC process.

1. Translation of IOTC CMMS into national legislation;
2. The lack of timely opportunities for managers to interact with scientist on the advice provided in the Scientific Committee Report;
3. Capturing NGO support in improving the Science to management communication process – capacity building;
4. IOTC Secretariat to be involved in the pre-Commission coastal States meetings to enhance their capacity;
5. Drafting of proposals for Conservation and Management Measures that translate science advice to management actions.

## WORKSHOP EFFECTIVENESS

A survey was designed for feedback at the end of the workshop ([Appendix III](#)) and the results are summarised in [Appendix IV](#). The overall ratings for the SMWS03, as per question 7 in the feedback survey were as follows (23 returned forms from 27 participants):

Rating	Number of responses	% score
Not relevant	0	0
Satisfactory	0	0
Good	13	56.52
Excellent	8	34.78
Outstanding	2	8.70
Total	23	100

**FUTURE WORKSHOPS**

The IOTC Secretariat is in the process mobilising additional extra-budgetary funds for the next series of workshops of Science to Management, most likely in late 2015 or early 2016.

## APPENDIX I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**APPENDIX II**

**AGENDA – 3RD WORKSHOP ON CONNECTING THE IOTC SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCESSES (SMWS03)**

**Date:** 10–12 February 2015

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand; **Venue:** Amari Watergate Hotel; **Time:** 09:00 – 17:00 daily

**Facilitators:** Mr Rondolph Payet & Dr David Wilson

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WORKSHOP** (Mr Rondolph Payet & Dr Chris O'Brien)
2. **OVERVIEW: CORE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP AND HOW THEY WILL BE ACHIEVED** (Dr David Wilson)
3. **THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE IOTC PROCESS** (Mr Rondolph Payet)
  - 3.1 Obligations of IOTC Members in the implementation of IOTC CMMs
  - 3.2 Effects of poorly implemented management actions
  - 3.3 Decision making processes and implementation within the IOTC
  - 3.4 Negotiating in multilateral environments
  - 3.5 The importance of science-policy briefings/communication within CPCs (examples from participants)
4. **THE SCIENCE PROCESS AND INTERPRETATION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE** (Dr David Wilson)
  - 4.1 The Kobe plot; Kobe 2 Management Strategy Matrix (K2MSM); Interpreting the Kobe plot and K2MSM
  - 4.2 Precautionary approach: target and limit reference points (MSY and other commonly used reference points): why is this important for management (science advice, management objectives)
  - 4.3 Management Strategy Evaluation (Why harvest control rules and why do we need the MSE process? (Benefits)
  - 4.4 Discussion and practical session
5. **DEVELOPMENT AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OF SCIENTIFICALLY-BASED MANAGEMENT ADVICE** (Dr David Wilson & Mr Rondolph Payet)
  - 5.1 Case study: How IOTC Working Parties develop management advice (IOTC Species executive summaries); How to interpret IOTC Species Executive Summaries
  - 5.2 Case study: Pitfalls of waiting too long or being too quick to provide scientifically-based management advice
  - 5.3 Practical session: Participants to develop and communicate scientifically-based management advice from the Scientific Committee to the Commission for use in the development of a management measure
6. **IOTC CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES** (Dr David Wilson & Mr Rondolph Payet)
  - 6.1 Defining and interpreting an IOTC Conservation and Management Measure (key elements); template review; IOTC Compendium of Active Conservation and Management Measures
  - 6.2 Case study: How the Commission has used and not used scientifically-based management advice in the development of its Conservation and Management Measures
  - 6.3 Case study: Pitfalls of waiting too long or being too quick to develop a proposal for a CMM
  - 6.4 Case study: How to develop a proposal for a Conservation and Management Measure
  - 6.5 Practical session: Participants to develop and present a proposal for a CMM based on scientifically-based management advice
  - 6.6 Practical session: Discussion of potential proposals for CMMs at S19
7. **OTHER BUSINESS**
  - 7.1 Workshop evaluation



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**APPENDIX III**  
**SMWS03: COURSE SURVEY**

**3<sup>RD</sup> WORKSHOP ON CONNECTING THE IOTC SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT  
PROCESSES (SMWS03)**  
**BANGKOK, THAILAND 10-12 FEBRUARY 2015**

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**Workshop survey**

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**Please answer the questions as to relevance (Circle your answer)**

1. What is your role within your organisation?

1. Manager    2. Policy advisor/maker    3. Research Scientist/Advisors    4. Other .....

2. Did you find this course useful?

1. Not relevant    2. Somewhat relevant    3. Relevant    4. Highly Relevant

3. Would you want to attend another course, which would be in more depth, as a follow up?

1. No    2. Unsure    3. Maybe.    4. Yes    5. Undoubtedly Yes

4. Would more exercises/practicals make the material easier to understand?

1. No, good balance    2. Maybe, more    4. Yes, more    5. Undoubtedly, many more

5. Is there a need for more workshops of this type to be carried out?

1. No    2. Maybe    3. Yes

6. Please rate each of the sections of the use in terms of how useful you found it to be:

**Agenda Item 3: The structure and functioning of the IOTC process & Implementation of management actions**

1. Not relevant    2. Satisfactory    3. Good.    4. Excellent    5. Outstanding

**Agenda Item 4: The Science process and Interpretation of Scientific Advice (Kobe plots, K2MSM etc.)**

1. Not relevant    2. Satisfactory    3. Good.    4. Excellent    5. Outstanding

**Agenda Item 5: Development and effective communication of scientifically-based management advice**



1. Not relevant    2. Satisfactory    3. Good.    4. Excellent    5. Outstanding

**Agenda Item 6: IOTC Conservation and Management Measures**

1. Not relevant    2. Satisfactory    3. Good.    4. Excellent    5. Outstanding

**7. Your overall rating for the workshop**

1. Not relevant    2. Satisfactory    3. Good    4. Excellent    5. Outstanding

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Other comments (please make suggests on how to improve the workshop content further):

**APPENDIX IV**  
**SMWS03: SURVEY RESULTS**

Survey question			Response		
1) What is your role within your organization?	Manager = 13	Policy advisor/maker = 4	Research scientist/ advisor = 6	Other = 0	
2) Did you find this course useful?	Not relevant = 0	Somewhat relevant = 1	Relevant = 5	Highly relevant = 17	No response = 0
3) Would you want another course, which would be in more depth, as a follow up?	No = 0	Unsure = 1	Maybe = 4	Yes = 8	Undoubtedly Yes = 10
4) Would more exercises/practicals make the material easier to understand?	No, good balance = 4	Maybe, more = 5	Yes, more = 10	Undoubtedly, many more = 4	
5) Is there a need for more workshops of this type to be carried out?	No = 0	Maybe = 0	Yes = 23		
<b>6) Please rate each of the sections in terms of how useful you found it to be:</b>					
Agenda Item 3: The structure and functioning of the IOTC process & Implementation of management actions	Not relevant = 0	Satisfactory = 2	Good = 10	Excellent = 10	Outstanding = 1
Agenda Item 4: The Science process and Interpretation of Scientific Advice (Kobe plots, K2MSM etc.)	Not relevant = 0	Satisfactory = 2	Good = 8	Excellent = 11	Outstanding = 2
Agenda Item 5: Development and effective communication of scientifically-based management advice	Not relevant = 0	Satisfactory = 4	Good = 8	Excellent = 9	Outstanding = 2
Agenda Item 6: IOTC Conservation and Management Measures	Not relevant = 0	Satisfactory = 3	Good = 12	Excellent = 7	Outstanding = 1
<b>7) Your overall rating for the workshop</b>	<b>Not relevant = 0</b>	<b>Satisfactory = 0</b>	<b>Good = 13</b>	<b>Excellent = 8</b>	<b>Outstanding = 2</b>

**Other comments (from participants on survey):**

Excellent! Keep up the good job!
I think that each country should establish [its own] workshop on connecting the IOTC science and management processes. Therefore, the Secretariat should make guidelines for connecting scientists and managers to be implemented in each country. Need more time to interpret of scientific advice.
More practical's and case studies pertaining to priority areas of concern.
This is very good and we should [have] more [of] this workshop and exercises.
Try to give more practical/examples IOTC CMM relating to other RFMO's (for instance CCSBT, WCPFC, IATTC, ICCAT). More examples for developing states (CPCs)
More exercise like this workshop.
More case studies. More examples of challenges faced in Commission meeting as we are new to Commission meetings.
More examples form other RFMOs could be included such as MSE work. Little more time allocated to MSE (more depth).
Material for study and for preparation for the workshop may be provided much in advance. Workshop may be organized for 4-5 days to include more exercises/practical session for better understanding of process. Many thanks for organizing such an informative and useful workshop!