
REVISION OF THE WPM PROGRAM OF WORK (2016–2020)

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT¹, 5 OCTOBER 2015

PURPOSE

To ensure that participants at the 6th Working Party on Methods (WPM06) revise the Program of Work for the WPM by taking into consideration the specific requests of the Commission and Scientific Committee.

BACKGROUND

Scientific Committee

At the 17th Session of the SC:

- (Para. 175) The SC **NOTED** paper IOTC–2014–SC17–10 which outlined the proposed research priorities for each of the Working Parties, with the aim of developing an IOTC Science Program of Work for 2015 to 2019.
- (Para. 176) The SC **REMINDED** the IOTC Secretariat that any projects recommended by the SC in 2013, and which were subsequently endorsed by the Commission and funded for implementation in 2014 and/or 2015 budget, should occur in 2015, if not already completed.
- (Para. 177) The SC **NOTED** the proposed Program of Work and priorities for each of the Working Parties and **AGREED** to a consolidated Program of Work as outlined in [Appendix XXXVIII](#). 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.
- (Para. 178) The SC **REQUESTED** that during the 2015 Working Party meetings, each group not only develop a Draft Program of Work for the next five years containing low, medium and high priority projects, but that all High Priority projects are ranked. The intention is that the SC would then be able to review the rankings and develop a consolidated list of the highest priority projects to meet the needs of the Commission. Where possible, budget estimates should be determined, as well as the identification of potential funding sources.
- (Para. 179) The SC **AGREED** that identifying research priorities among its Working Parties ([Appendix XXXVIII](#)) will assist individual CPCs and the IOTC Secretariat to identify funding sources for the implementation of priority research projects. Accordingly, and in the interest of transparency, the SC **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat to follow the following consultative process involving the SC and Working Party Chairs and Vice-Chairs and the IOTC Secretariat:
- **Step 1:** Working Parties to identify research needs (based on the needs of the Commission), rank them by order of priority, provide cost estimates and list potential funding sources;
 - **Step 2:** The SC and Working Party Chair and Vice-Chair, in liaison with the IOTC Secretariat should develop a consolidated document taking into account the different Working Party research needs and priorities, with the objective of ranking the research needs among all Working Parties;
 - **Step 3:** The Chair of the SC shall present these to the SC, to be discussed and endorsed as the consolidated research priorities for the IOTC Science process;
 - **Step 4:** The IOTC Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the SC and Chair and Vice-Chair or relevant Working Parties, shall identify funding possibilities to undertake the consolidated research priorities;
 - **Step 5:** Once the funding sources have been committed to a particular research priority, the panel mentioned above in Step 2 shall develop terms of reference of the 'Expression of Interest' (including tasks, timelines and deliverables) and the selection procedure/criteria;

¹ secretariat@iotc.org; Dr. David Wilson: david.wilson@iotc.org

- **Step 6:** IOTC Secretariat to advertise a call for ‘Expression of Interest’ among the IOTC Commissioner’s and Science contact lists, and via the IOTC website;
- **Step 7:** The Chair of the SC, Chair(s) and Vice-Chair(s) of the WP(s) concerned, in liaison with the IOTC Secretariat shall determine the most appropriate project proposal, based on the criteria defined in Step 5 and in line with the financial rules of the Commission and FAO. Potential contracted candidate will be contacted by the IOTC Secretariat to confirm availability.

Commission

At Sessions of the Commission, Conservation and Management Measures adopted contained elements that call on the Scientific Committee, via the WPM, to undertake specific tasks. These requests will need to be incorporated into a revised Program of Work for the WPM:

- **Resolution 15/10** *On target and limit reference points and a decision framework*

DISCUSSION

Participants at the WPM06 are requested to consider the priorities set by the Commission and the Scientific Committee, via Conservation and Management Measures, and revise its Program of Work (previously outlined in paper IOTC–2015–WPM06–03) to match those priorities.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPM:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2015–WPM06–07, which encouraged the WPM to further develop and refine its Program of Work for 2016–2020 to align with the requests and directives from the Commission and Scientific Committee.
- 2) **RECOMMEND** a revised Program of Work for 2016–2020 to the Scientific Committee for its consideration and potential endorsement.

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): DRAFT: Working Party on Methods Program of Work (2016–2020)

APPENDIX A

DRAFT: WORKING PARTY ON METHODS PROGRAM OF WORK (2016–2020)

The Program of Work consists of the following, noting that a timeline for implementation would be developed by the SC once it has agreed to the priority projects across all of its Working Parties:

- **Table 1:** High priority topics for obtaining the information necessary to develop stock status indicators for billfish in the Indian Ocean; and
- **Table 2:** MSE schedule.

Table 1. Priority topics for obtaining the information necessary to deliver the necessary advice to the Commission.

Topic	Sub-topic and project	Priority ranking	Lead	Est. budget (potential source)	Timing				
					2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Management Strategy Evaluation	1.1 Albacore	1							
	1.1.1 Refinement of Operating Model structure and parameterisation			72,000 (???)					
	1.1.2 Refinement of Operating Model conditioning			?? (TBD)					
	1.1.3 Definition and implementation of alternative Management Procedures			?? (TBD)					
	1.1.4 Complete set of simulation runs and results			?? (TBD)					
	1.1.5 Internal peer review of Operating Models and Management Procedures			8,000 (TBD)					
	1.1.6 External peer review			4,000 (ABNJ-GEF)	Jan				
1.2 Skipjack tuna	2		?? (TBD)						
1.2.1 Refinement of Operating Models structure and			96,000						

parameterisation		(TBD)				
1.2.2 Refinement of Operating Models conditioning		??				
		(TBD)				
1.2.3 Further development of Management Procedures		??				
		(TBD)				
1.2.4 Run evaluations and produce summaries of results		??				
		(TBD)				
1.2.5 Internal peer review of Operating Models and Management Procedures		8,000				
		(TBD)				
1.2.6 External peer review		4,000	Jan			
		(GEF-ABNJ)				
1.3 Bigeye tuna	3	??				
		(TBD)				
1.3.1 Initial OM		??				
		(TBD)				
1.3.2 Conditioning and OM set up		??				
		(TBD)				
1.3.3 Generic MP tests		??	May			
		(TBD)				
1.3.4 Final Model with MP's		??	Dec			
		(TBD)				
1.4 Yellowfin tuna	4	??				
		(TBD)				
1.4.1 Initial OM		??				
		(TBD)				
1.4.2 Conditioning and OM set up		??				
		(TBD)				
1.4.3 Generic MP tests		??	May			
		(TBD)				

1.4.4	Final Model with MP's		?? (TBD)	Dec				
1.5	Effective communication of Management Strategy Evaluation	1 (equal)	?? (TBD)					
1.5.1	Exploration of tools for effective presentation of MSE results		?? (TBD)					
1.5.2	Implementation and adaptation of those tools for IOTC needs		8,000 (COI)					
2.	Tier approach for providing stock status advice	2.1 Develop a 'Tier' approach for providing stock status advice, based on the type of indicators used to determine stock status (e.g. CPUE series, stock assessment model)	Nil					
	2.1.1	????????????????????	CPCs directly	May				

Note that Resolution 14/03 has certain hard deadlines and to achieve them this work needs to be completed. These are noted below.

From Resolution 14/03:

Para. 2 (Point 2): "These Science and Management Dialogue Workshops shall be held in 2015, 2016 and 2017, as needed, prior to the respective Commission Annual Sessions"

Para. 4: The effectiveness of the Science and Management Dialogue Workshops shall be reviewed no later than at the Annual Session of the Commission in 2018.



Table 2. Management Strategy Evaluation schedule for the IOTC Working Party on Methods (WPM)

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Working Party on Methods</i>					
Albacore					
Skipjack tuna					
Bigeye tuna	Complete MSE process				
Yellowfin tuna	Complete MSE process				
Swordfish		Commence MSE process			

Note: the assessment schedule may be changed dependant on the annual review of fishery indicators, or SC and Commission requests. ALB: albacore; BET: bigeye tuna; YFT: yellowfin tuna; SKJ: skipjack tuna.