
PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPTT16

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT¹, 7 OCTOBER 2015

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT), endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC), the requests of the 17th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC17), taking into consideration the recommendations from the SC and decisions of the Commission.

BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

At the 16th Session of the WPTT, participants agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the IOTC Secretariat on a range of issues. The subsequent table developed and agreed to by the WPTT was provided to the SC for its endorsement at its December 2014 meeting.

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.

Recalling that the SC, at its 16th Session adopted a set of reporting terminology SC16.07 (para. 23), which was subsequently endorsed by the Commission at its 18th Session in 2014 (S18, para 10), to further improve the clarity of information sharing from, and among the science bodies, the following two term levels should be noted when interpreting the Reports and [Appendix I](#) to this paper:

Level 1: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:

RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION: Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

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

Level 2: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a CPC, the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:

REQUESTED: This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a Committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalise the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

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).

In addition to the Recommendations endorsed by the SC at its 17th Session, the SC also made several requests which, although are not passed to the Commission for its endorsement, are considered actions which the Scientific Committee has the mandate to issue. The revised recommendations are contained in [Appendix I](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPTT17.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPTT:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2015–WPTT17–06 which detailed the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the WPTT16, and the requests of the 17th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC17), taking into consideration the recommendations from the SC and decisions of the Commission;
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary, the recommendations, and for these to be combined with any new recommendations arising from the WPTT17, noting that these will be provided to the SC for its endorsement.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Progress made on the Recommendations and Requests of WPTT16



APPENDIX A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPTT16

WPTT16 Rec. No.		SC17 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC17	Endorsed at S19	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPTT17
WPTT16.01 (para. 139)	Skipjack tuna indicators The WPTT ENCOURAGED the production of such fishery indicators and RECOMMENDED that other indicators, such as the number of FADs deployed and active should also be examined in addition to existing environmental indices for the Indian Ocean.	Para. 75	Skipjack tuna The SC ENCOURAGED the production of fishery indicators to assess population trends and that other indicators, such as the number of FADs deployed and active and/or environmental indices, should also be examined in addition to existing fishery indicators for the Indian Ocean.	N/A	Update: Nil
WPTT16.02 (para. 233)	Revision of the WPTT Program of Work (2015–2019) The WPTT AGREED on the importance of appropriately scheduling and resourcing stock assessments to ensure the best possible use of the available data in providing advice to the Commission. The WPTT RECOMMENDED that stock assessments be resourced to a level that is commensurate with their fundamental importance in the management of IOTC stocks.	SC17.48(para. 183)	Consultants NOTING the highly beneficial and relevant work done by IOTC stock assessment consultants in 2014 and in previous years, the SC RECOMMENDED that engagement by consultants be continued for each coming year based on the Program of Work (Appendix XXXVIII), to supplement the skill set available within the IOTC Secretariat and CPCs. An indicative budget is provided at Table 6 . TABLE 6. Estimated budget required to hire a consultant to carry out stock assessments on tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, sharks frequently caught by IOTC fisheries, and capacity building, in 2015 and 2016. [See SC17 Report]	Partially	Update: The Commission included in its budget, consultancies for a blue shark and yellowfin tuna stock assessments in 2015, and albacore and bigeye tuna stock assessments in 2016. These aligned with the SC 'High priority' rankings. Med and Low SC Priorities were not considered.
WPTT16.03 (para. 236)	The WPTT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the WPTT Program of Work (2015–2019), as provided at Appendix IX .	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.	N/A	Update: Nil
WPTT16.04 (para. 244)	Election of a Chairperson of the WPTT for the next biennium The WPTT RECOMMENDED that the SC note that Dr M.Shiham Adam (Maldives) and Dr Gorka Merino	SC17.41 (para. 136)	The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note and endorse the Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the SC and its subsidiary bodies for the coming years, as provided in Appendix XI .	YES	Update: Nil



WPTT16 Rec. No.		SC17 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC17	Endorsed at S19	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPTT17
	(EU,Spain) were elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the WPTT for the next biennium.				
WPTT16.05 (para. 249)	<p>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 16th Session of the WPTT</p> <p>The WPTT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPTT16, provided at Appendix X, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each of the three tropical tuna species under the IOTC mandate, and the combined Kobe plot for the three species assigned a stock status in 2014 (Fig. 15):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) – Appendix VI ○ Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) – Appendix VII ○ Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) – Appendix VIII 	Para. 67	The SC NOTED the report of the 16 th Session of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas (IOTC-2014-WPTT16-R), including the consolidated list of recommendations provided as an appendix to the report. The meeting was attended by 52 participants (46 in 2013; 47 in 2012; 49 in 2011), including 6 recipients of the MPF (10 in 2013; 8 in 2012; 13 in 2011).	N/A	Update: Nil

WPTT16 Report	WPTT16 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
Para. 16	<p>Progress on the Recommendations of WPTT15</p> <p>The WPTT REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat continue to prepare a paper on the progress of the recommendations arising from the previous WPTT, incorporating the final recommendations adopted by the Scientific Committee and endorsed by the Commission, as well as any updates and requests.</p>	Update: [Ongoing] as per this working paper.
Para. 22	<p>Japan tropical tuna fisheries</p> <p>NOTING the current low size sampling of Japanese longline caught fish, the WPTT REQUESTED the use of observers on Japanese vessels to increase the number of size measurements made onboard. After a substantial reduction, currently size sampling is done almost only by the observer program which covers 5% of operations- mainly on vessels targeting southern bluefin tuna in southern Indian Ocean.</p>	Update: [Pending] Japan to provide update at WPTT17.
Para. 27	<p>I.R. Iran fisheries</p> <p>The WPTT REQUESTED I.R. Iran to present the results of size-frequency data collected by port sampling at the next WPTT, to investigate in particular the presence of medium sized</p>	Update: [Pending] Iran to provide update at WPTT17.



	yellowfin tuna (e.g. around 80 cm) which are generally less abundant in catches reported by fisheries in more southerly waters.	
Para. 30, 31, 32	<p>European Union purse seine fisheries</p> <p>NOTING the decrease in catch rates of skipjack tuna from around FAD, concomitant with the increase in catch rates of yellowfin tuna around FADs, the WPTT REQUESTED that the authors investigated the reasons for the change and to report back to the WPTT in 2015.</p> <p>NOTING that species composition around FADs may be dependent on time, as has been observed in the Pacific, the WPTT REQUESTED that this aspect is further investigated in order to understand the relative change in species composition observed in FAD sets.</p> <p>NOTING that catches of skipjack tuna from free schools have almost disappeared in recent years, the WPTT REQUESTED that further research be undertaken to better understand the decline of catch rates of skipjack tuna on free swimming schools.</p>	Update: [Pending] EU to provide update at WPTT17.
Para. 44	<p>Non-entangling FADS: impacts on incidental catches</p> <p>The WPTT REQUESTED clarification about the work in relation to how FAD entanglement was observed (i.e. if the FAD was taken out of the sea) as this may affect the results. Some of the non-entangling FADs can become entangling FADs after some months in the waters if nets are rolled up in to “sausages”.</p>	Update: [Pending] EU to provide update at WPTT17.
Para. 78, 79, 82	<p>Review of the statistical data available for bigeye tuna</p> <p>The WPTT NOTED 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 V, and REQUESTED that the CPCs listed in the Appendix, make efforts to remedy the data issues identified and to report back to the WPTT at its next meeting.</p> <p>The WPTT NOTED the on-going issue regarding the accuracy of total catch estimates related to the capture and identification of juvenile bigeye tuna, and REQUESTED that CPCs catching large numbers of juvenile bigeye tuna improve the enumeration and classification of this species.</p> <p>NOTING that catches of bigeye tuna reported by India to the IOTC Secretariat have decreased from around 3,000 t in 2011 to less than 1 t in 2013 – while catches of yellowfin tuna have increased by more than 17,000 t over the same period – the WPTT REQUESTED that the issue be investigated by the IOTC Secretariat in collaboration with India, and an update to be provided at the next WPTT.</p>	Update: [Pending] India and IOTC Secretariat to provide update at WPTT17.
Para. 89	<p>Maldives: bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna size ratio and distribution</p> <p>The WPTT REQUESTED that the Maldives and the IOTC Secretariat work together to evaluate the new estimates of bigeye tuna catches and ensure consistency, as far as possible, between data published by the IOTC Secretariat and Maldives.</p>	Update: [Pending] Maldives and IOTC Secretariat to provide update at WPTT17.

Para. 91	The WPTT ACKNOWLEDGED the progress made to investigate the discrepancies identified in previous WPTT between Japan and Taiwan,China longline CPUE and REQUESTED the authors to continue working to solve the pending issues before the next round of bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna assessments.	Update: [Pending] Japan and Taiwan,China to provide update at WPTT17.
Para. 97	<i>Bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna: Comparison of longline CPUE series for Japan and Taiwan,China</i> The WPTT REQUESTED that the involved CPCs and Secretariat work to ensure that confidentiality concerns can be fully addressed and to seek the necessary funding to support the activity.	Update: [Pending] CPCs and IOTC Secretariat to provide update at WPTT17.
Para. 118	<i>Development of technical advice on the status of bigeye tuna</i> The WPTT ADOPTED the management advice developed for bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>), as provided in the draft resource stock status summary and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary for bigeye tuna with the latest 2013 catch data (if necessary), and for the summary to be provided to the SC as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) – Appendix VI 	Update: [Completed]
Para. 123	<i>Review of the statistical data available for skipjack tuna</i> NOTING the decline in skipjack catches report by the Maldives pole and line fleet since the mid-2000s, the WPTT REQUESTED that Maldives, in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat, assess the extent to which the changes in catches of skipjack tuna are related to the improvements in the data collection and introduction of logbooks, as compared to changes in the fishery (e.g., a shift from pole and line targeting skipjack tuna to handlines targeting yellowfin tuna).	Update: [Pending] Maldives to provide update at WPTT17.
Para. 125, 126	<i>Sri Lanka skipjack tuna landings</i> The WPTT NOTED that Sri Lanka received support in 2012 from the IOTC-OFCF Project and 2013 from the BOBLME and IOTC to strengthen its data collection and processing systems and expects to improve data collection, processing and reporting for its fisheries, and REQUESTED that an update on the extent to which the recent improvements in data collection revise the catch estimates for Sri Lanka, be presented at the next WPTT meeting. NOTING that Sri Lanka official statistics on catches of skipjack tuna presented in this paper and those available in the IOTC database are different, the WPTT REQUESTED that the authors work with the IOTC Secretariat to resolve the differences.	Update: [Pending] Sri Lanka to provide update at WPTT17.
Para. 128, 129	<i>Indonesian caught skipjack tuna size structure</i> NOTING that Indonesia has not reported size frequency data to the IOTC Secretariat for a number of years, the WPTT REQUESTED that the size data presented in the paper be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat (according to the reporting standards by fishery and area specified by IOTC Resolution 10/02) at the earliest opportunity. NOTING the large variation in size frequencies by landing site and questioned the likely impact of species misidentification particularly in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara, on size	Update: [Pending] Indonesia to provide update at WPTT17.



	frequencies or gear differences between locations, the WPTT REQUESTED that the analysis be updated to include the size frequency distributions by gear and vessel type, for presentation at the next WPTT meeting.	
Para. 175	<p>The WPTT REQUESTED that further analysis be conducted or to develop better indices of abundance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grid based approach accounted for uncertainty in natural mortality, h, CPUE and growth, but for the future assessments models that estimate M within the model structure, and uses a wider range of precision in the variability of growth than the current estimate does (CV=0.2). 	Update: Nil
Para. 177	<p>Development of technical advice on the status of skipjack tuna</p> <p>The WPTT ADOPTED the management advice developed for skipjack tuna as provided in the draft resource stock status summary and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary for skipjack tuna with the latest 2013 catch data (if necessary), and for the summary to be provided to the SC as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) – Appendix VII. 	Update: [Completed]
Para. 192	<p>Management strategy evaluation: skipjack tuna</p> <p>The WPTT AGREED that the work undertaken and progress it has made for the skipjack tuna MSE should be an important element discussed at the next IOTC science-management dialogue meeting in 2015, and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat ensure it is included in any proposed agenda.</p>	Update: [Completed]
Para. 217	<p>Parameters for future analyses: Yellowfin tuna CPUE standardisation and stock assessments</p> <p>NOTING that the areas used in the various CPUE standardisations were very different from one analysis to another, the WPTT AGREED that there is a need to define core area(s) for the CPUE standardisation of yellowfin tuna and REQUESTED 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 2015.</p>	Update: Nil
Para. 219	<p>Development of technical advice on the status of yellowfin tuna</p> <p>The WPTT ADOPTED the management advice developed for yellowfin tuna as provided in the draft resource stock status summary and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary for the yellowfin tuna with the latest 2013 catch data (if necessary), and for the summary to be provided to the SC as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) – Appendix VIII. 	Update: [Completed]
Para. 247	<p>Date and place of the 17th Session of the WPTT</p> <p>The WPTT AGREED on the importance of having IOTC working party meetings within key CPCs catching species of relevance to the working party, in this case on tropical tuna.</p>	Update: [Completed]

<p>Following a discussion on who would host the 17th and 18th Sessions of the WPTT in 2015 and 2016 respectively, the WPTT REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat liaise with EU, France to confirm that they would be able to host the 17th Session in 2015, and also with other CPCs for the 18th Session in 2016. The meeting locations will be communicated by the IOTC Secretariat to the SC for its consideration at its next session to be held in December 2014, as detailed in Table 13.</p>	
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--