

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

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 6 NOVEMBER 2015

### 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 81 recommendations to improve the functioning of the IOTC ([Anon 2009](#)).

### DISCUSSION

At the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission held in June 2014, 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 continue to 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.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Scientific Committee:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2015-SC18-09 which details the status of each of the recommendations from the performance review, as agreed to by the Commission at its 19<sup>th</sup> Session, with updates for 2015 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:** [2015: Update on progress regarding Resolution 09/01 – On the performance review follow-up.](#)

## APPENDIX A

**2015: 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
<b>Data collection and sharing</b>				
<i>The Panel identified a poor level of compliance by many IOTC Members. with their obligations, notably those related to the statistical requirements on artisanal fisheries and sharks, and recommends that:</i>				
[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.	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<b>Completed:</b> Currently CPCs are required to submit information on their flag vessels by 30 <sup>th</sup> June every year. The timeline for coastal CPCs who license foreign vessels has been brought forward to 15 <sup>th</sup> 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.	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<b>Completed:</b> 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.	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<b>Partially Completed &amp; Ongoing:</b> 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,	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<b>Ongoing:</b> 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	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	High

effort and size frequency. The Panel also recommends that:		these initiatives.		
[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.	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<b>Partially completed:</b> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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. The IOTC Secretariat will commence training workshops in 2015 in several key CPCs requesting assistance (i.e. I.R. Iran and Sri Lanka).  <a href="#">Workshop held in Muscat, Oman in October 2015</a>	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	High
[15] The Secretariat's capacity for data dissemination and quality assurance be enhanced, including through the employment of a fisheries statistician.	<i>Standing Committee on Administration and Finance via Scientific Commission</i>	<b>Partially Completed &amp; Ongoing:</b> The existing post of Data Analyst was converted to a Fisheries Statistician to join the Data Section of the Secretariat. The position was filled in September 2012.  Further efforts continue to be made to improve data dissemination, including through an online data atlas, planned for 2014/15 which will be launched in early-2015, in addition to general improvements in the dissemination and access to IOTC datasets via the new IOTC website.	Staffing needs to be assessed annually at IOTC meetings.	Medium
[16] A statistical working party be established to provide a more efficient way to identify and solve the technical statistical questions.	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<b>Completed:</b> The Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS) has been formed and <del>will hold</del> its 11 <sup>th</sup> Session in October 2015.	Annual meeting.	High
[21] Innovative or alternative means of data collection (e.g. port sampling) should be explored and, as appropriate, implemented.	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<b>Ongoing:</b> The Secretariat has been implementing sampling programmes since 1999. The IOTC, in collaboration with others (i.e. OFCF, COI, BOBLME) has supported sampling programmes and other means of data collection since 2002. The Secretariat continues to work with CPCs to improve their data collection programs.	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	Medium
<b>Quality and provision of scientific advice</b>				
[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.	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<b>In progress:</b> 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	To be considered at the WPM and others.  Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	High

		<p>and provides a recommendation on the current status, based on the weight-of-evidence is currently being implemented.</p> <p>In 2013, <u>2014</u> and 201<u>54</u>, data poor approaches to determining stock status was applied to a range of billfish and neritic tuna species. The SC will consider in 201<u>54</u>, 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>		
[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.	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<p><b>Ongoing:</b> 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	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<p><b>Partially Completed &amp; Ongoing:</b> Guidelines for the presentation of stock assessment papers were revised and agreed to by the Scientific Committee in 2010, <del>and 2012</del> <u>and 2014</u>. The SC will again <u>consider revising</u> the guidelines in 201<u>54</u>, as a result of the Commission adoption Recommendation 14/07 <i>To standardise the presentation of scientific information in the annual Scientific Committee report and in Working Party reports</i>.</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.	<i>Scientific Committee</i>	<p><b>Pending:</b> 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 14<sup>th</sup> Session in 2011.</p>	Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.	Medium

<p>[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.</p>	<p><i>Scientific Committee</i></p>	<p><b>Pending:</b> 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 14<sup>th</sup> Session in 2011.</p>	<p>Review annually at IOTC WP and SC meetings.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p><b>Adoption of conservation and management measures</b></p>				
<p>[35] IOTC should consider developing a framework to take action in the face of uncertainty in scientific advice.</p>	<p><i>Scientific Committee and Commission</i></p>	<p><b>In progress:</b> 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.</p> <p><u>Other ways of describing uncertainty were incorporated into the Guidelines for the presentation of CPUE standardisations and stock assessment models.</u></p>	<p>Progress at WPM annual meeting.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p><b>Capacity management</b></p>				
<p>[42] IOTC should establish a stronger policy on fishing capacity to prevent or eliminate excess fishing capacity.</p>	<p><i>Working Party on Fishing Capacity</i> <i>Scientific Committee</i> <i>Commission</i></p>	<p><b>Ongoing:</b> The Commission has since 2003 adopted a series of Resolutions (03/01, 06/05, 07/05, 09/02, 12/11) 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. <u>A second fishing capacity study was conducted in 2013.</u></p>	<p>See Recommendation 33, which has been agreed as the priority path in this regard.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>[43] Loopholes in the current systems of fishing capacity limitation, such as the establishment of fleet development plans and exemptions for vessels less than 24 meters, should be closed.</p>	<p><i>Working Party on Fishing Capacity</i> <i>Commission</i></p>	<p><b>Partially Completed &amp; Ongoing:</b> Resolution 09/02, superseded by Resolution 12/11, and the decisions made at IOTC 14, establishing a new deadline to file fleet developments plans, aim at establishing firm capacity targets.</p> <p>The IOTC Scientific Committee has indicated that IOTC fisheries should not be managed via fishing capacity limitations, as they are</p>	<p>See Recommendation 33, which has been agreed as the priority path in this regard.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

	inherently difficult to manage and highly uncertain due to variations in fishing power over time and among vessels.		
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