
REVISION OF THE PROGRAM OF WORK (2016–20) FOR THE IOTC SCIENCE PROCESS

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 6 NOVEMBER 2015

PURPOSE

To provide the Scientific Committee (SC) with a proposed Program of Work for each of its Working Parties (WP), including preliminary prioritisation of the elements requested by each WP. The aim is to develop an overall Program of Work Plan for 2016–20 which will deliver the information the Commission has requested to meet the objectives of the IOTC.

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;

- **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.

DISCUSSION

The SC is requested to consider the priorities set by the Commission, via Conservation and Management Measures, and consider and revise as necessary, its Program of Work to match those priorities.

The draft schedule of stock assessments for IOTC species and species of interest from 2016–2020, and for other working party priorities is provided in [Appendix I](#). The high priority projects agreed to by each WP meeting in 2015 are referred to [Appendix II](#).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Scientific Committee:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2015–SC18–09, which encouraged the SC to further develop and refine its Program of Work for 2016–20, which is based on those of its Working Parties, to ensure it is aligned with the requests and directives from the Commission.
- 2) **ADOPT** a revised Program of Work for 2016–20.

APPENDIX

[Appendix I](#): Draft: Schedule of stock assessments for IOTC species and species of interest from 2016–2020, and for other WP priorities

[Appendix II](#): IOTC Working Parties – references to the Program of Work appendices.

APPENDIX I

DRAFT: SCHEDULE OF STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR IOTC SPECIES AND SPECIES OF INTEREST FROM 2016–2020, AND FOR OTHER WORKING PARTY PRIORITIES

<i>Working Party on Neritic Tunas</i>					
Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bullet tuna	Indicators	Indicators	Data-poor assessment	Indicators	Data-poor assessment
Frigate tuna	Indicators	Indicators	Data-poor assessment	Indicators	Data-poor assessment
Indo-Pacific king mackerel	Indicators	Indicators	Full assessment*	Indicators	Data-poor assessment
Kawakawa	Indicators	Data-poor assessment	Full assessment*	Data-poor assessment	Indicators
Longtail tuna	Full assessment*	Data-poor assessment	Indicators	Full assessment*	Indicators
Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	Data-poor assessment	Full assessment*	Indicators	Data-poor assessment	Full assessment*
<i>Working Party on Temperate Tunas</i>					
Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Albacore	Full assessment	–	Full assessment	–	Full assessment
<i>Working Party on Billfish</i>					
Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Black marlin	Full assessment*			Full assessment*	
Blue marlin	Full assessment*			Full assessment*	
Striped marlin		Indicators	Full assessment*		
Swordfish	Indicators	Full assessment			Full assessment
Indo-Pacific sailfish		Indicators	Full assessment*		
<i>Working Party on Tropical Tunas</i>					
Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bigeye tuna	Full assessment	Indicators	Indicators	Full assessment	Indicators
Skipjack tuna	Indicators	Full assessment	Indicators	Indicators	Full assessment
Yellowfin tuna	Indicators	Indicators	Full assessment	Indicators	Indicators
<i>Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch</i>					
Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Blue shark	Data prep.	Full assessment*	Indicators; Revisit ERA	Full assessment*	Indicators
Oceanic whitetip shark	Indicators; Review of mitigation measures in Res. 13/06	Indicators	Revisit ERA	Indicators	Full assessment*
Scalloped hammerhead shark	–	Indicators	Revisit ERA	Indicators	–
Shortfin mako shark	–	Indicators	Revisit ERA	–	–
Silky shark	–	Indicators	Indicators; Revisit ERA	Full assessment*	–
Bigeye thresher shark	–		Revisit ERA	–	–

Pelagic thresher shark	–	Indicators	Revisit ERA	–	–
Porbeagle shark	–	tRFMO assessment	–	–	–
Marine turtles	–	Review of mitigation measures in Res. 12/04	Revisit ERA	–	Review of mitigation measures in Res. 12/04
Seabirds	Review of mitigation measures in Res. 12/06	–	–	Review of mitigation measures in Res. 12/06	–
Marine Mammals	–	–	–	–	–
Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) approaches	tRFMO approaches: workshop				

*Including data poor stock assessment methods; Note: the assessment schedule may be changed dependant on the annual review of fishery indicators, or SC and Commission requests.

APPENDIX II
REFERENCES TO THE INDIVIDUAL IOTC WORKING PARTY PROGRAMS OF WORK

Report number	Report title	Appendix number
IOTC-2015-WPNT05-R	Report of the 5 th Session of the Working Party on Neritic Tunas	Appendix VI
IOTC-2015-WPB13-R	Report of the 13 th Session of the Working Party on Billfish	Appendix XII
IOTC-2015-WPEB11-R	Report of the 11 th Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch	Appendix XVIII
IOTC-2015-WPM06-R	Report of the 6 th Session of the Working Party on Methods	Appendix V
IOTC-2015-WPDCS11-R	Report of the 11 th Session of the Working Party on Data collection and Statistics	Appendix V
IOTC-2015-WPTT17-R	Report of the 17 th Session of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas	Appendix IX