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## PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF IOTC WORKING PARTY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2016 AND 2017

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 8 NOVEMBER 2015

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### PURPOSE

To provide the Scientific Committee (SC) with the proposed list of dates and locations for each Working Party and Scientific Committee meeting to be held in 2016 and 2017, for its consideration.

### BACKGROUND

The number of IOTC working party meetings has increased in recent years and the current length and timing of these meetings continues to stretch the limited resources of the IOTC Secretariat and CPCs alike. As such, in recent years, the IOTC Secretariat has made efforts to increase the level of efficiency (e.g. monetary and time) of the IOTC scientific process. In addition, it is necessary to plan two years in advance so as to give potential hosts enough time to incorporate meeting costs into their budgets.

### DISCUSSION

In recent years, there has been substantial discussion among participating IOTC scientists aimed at encouraging, wherever it is logical/feasible, the consolidation of IOTC meetings thereby reducing the financial and logistical burden upon the IOTC. Discussion has revolved around what would be the most sensible combination of working party meetings and the timing of those meetings, taking into account data reporting deadlines and other timing demands. It has been suggested that where feasible meetings should be held in localities most relevant to the participating CPCs. This would help increase the profile of the work that the IOTC is undertaking by exposing scientists from the region to fisheries matters most relevant to their own fleets.

The need for forward planning is highlighted by the fact that many of those invited to attend IOTC meetings as Invited Experts have indicated that their schedules are often planned more than 12 months in advance. As such, there is a clear need to secure meeting dates and locations well in advance.

In identifying potential venues and dates for IOTC meetings, other key international meetings in 2016 need to be considered:

#### 2016 IOTC Meetings:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Committee Meeting on Allocation Criteria (TCAC03): 21-23 February 2016, I.R. Iran
- 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Compliance Committee: 16-18 May 2016 (La Reunion, France)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance: 19-20 May 2016 (La Reunion, France)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission: 23-27 May 2016 (La Reunion, France)

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Scientific Committee:

- 1) **FINALISE** the draft schedule of IOTC Working Party meetings and the Scientific Committee meeting for 2016 and 2017 ([Appendix I](#)).
- 2) **RECOMMEND** that the Commission endorse the schedule of IOTC Working Party meetings and the Scientific Committee meeting to be held in 2016 and 2017.

### APPENDIX

[Appendix I](#): DRAFT: Schedule of IOTC Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2016 and 2017.

**APPENDIX I**  
**DRAFT: SCHEDULE OF IOTC WORKING PARTY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS (2016 AND 2017)**

**Table 1:** Two year calendar

TBD once meeting dates have been agreed to during the SC18

**Table 2: Dates and locations**

Meeting	2016			2017		
	No.	Date	Location	No.	Date	Location
Working Party on <b>Neritic Tunas</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	3–6 March (4d)	Maldives	7 <sup>th</sup>	TBD	Kenya?
Working Party on <b>Temperate Tunas</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	TBD in July (4d)	Rep. of Korea, Japan, China?	-	-	-
Working Party on <b>Billfish (WPB)</b>	14 <sup>th</sup>	1–5 September (5d)/ or late October	Sri Lanka	15 <sup>th</sup>	1–5 September (5d) or late October	Kenya or Indonesia
Working Party on <b>Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB)</b>	12 <sup>th</sup>	7–11 September (5d) or Late October	Sri Lanka	13 <sup>th</sup>	7–11 September (5d) or late October	Kenya or Indonesia
Working Party on <b>Data Collection and Statistics</b>	12 <sup>th</sup>	TBD	TBD	12 <sup>th</sup>	TBD	TBD
Working Party on <b>Methods</b>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Immediately prior to WPTT (3d)	TBD	13 <sup>th</sup>	Immediately prior to WPTT (3d)	TBD
Working Party on <b>Tropical Tunas</b>	18 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> week in October (5d)	TBD	19 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> week in October (5d)	TBD
<b>Scientific Committee</b>	-	-	-	19 <sup>th</sup>	February (5 d)	Victoria, Seychelles