

REVISION OF THE PROGRAM OF WORK (2017-21) FOR THE IOTC SCIENCE PROCESS

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 16 NOVEMBER 2016

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 2017-21 which will deliver the information the Commission has requested to meet the objectives of the IOTC.

BACKGROUND

Scientific Committee

At the 18th Session of the SC:

- (Para. 152) The SC **NOTED** paper IOTC-2015-SC18-09 which provided 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 of is to develop an overall Program of Work Plan for 2015-19 which will deliver the information the Commission has requested to meet the objectives of the IOTC.
- (Para. 153) The SC **NOTED** the proposed Program of Work and priorities for the Scientific Committee and each of the Working Parties and **AGREED** to a consolidated Program of Work as outlined in [Appendix XXXIV](#). The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of each working party shall ensure that the efforts of their working party are 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. 154) The SC **REQUESTED** that during all future 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.

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 2017-2021, and for other working party priorities is provided in [Appendix I](#). The high priority projects agreed to by each WP meeting in 2016 are referred to in [Appendix II](#).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Scientific Committee:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2016-SC19-09, which encouraged the SC to further develop and refine its Program of Work for 2017-21, 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 2017-21.

APPENDIX

Appendix I: Draft: Schedule of stock assessments for IOTC species and species of interest from 2017–2021, 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 2017–2021, AND FOR OTHER WORKING PARTY PRIORITIES

<i>Working Party on Neritic Tunas</i>					
Species	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
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	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Albacore	–	Data preparatory meeting	Stock assessment	–	Data preparatory meeting
<i>Working Party on Billfish</i>					
Species	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black marlin		Full assessment		Full assessment	
Blue marlin		Full assessment		Full assessment	
Striped marlin	Full assessment		Full assessment		Full assessment
Swordfish	Full assessment				Full assessment
Indo-Pacific sailfish			Full assessment*		
<i>Working Party on Tropical Tunas</i>					
Species	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bigeye tuna	Indicators	Indicators	Full assessment	Indicators	Indicators
Skipjack tuna	Full assessment	Indicators	Indicators	Full assessment	Indicators
Yellowfin tuna	Indicators	Full assessment	Indicators	Indicators	Full assessment
<i>Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch</i>					
Species	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Blue shark	Full assessment*	Indicators; Revisit ERA	Indicators	Indicators	Full assessment*
Oceanic whitetip shark	Indicators	Revisit ERA	Indicators	Full assessment*	Revisit ERA
Scalloped hammerhead shark	Indicators	Revisit ERA	Indicators	–	Revisit ERA
Shortfin mako shark	Indicators	Revisit ERA	–	–	Revisit ERA
Silky shark	Indicators	Indicators; Revisit ERA	Full assessment*	–	Indicators; Revisit ERA
Bigeye thresher shark		Revisit ERA	–	–	Revisit ERA

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

*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–2016–WPNT06–R	Report of the 6 th Session of the Working Party on Neritic Tunas	Appendix VI
IOTC–2016–WPB14–R	Report of the 14 th Session of the Working Party on Billfish	Appendix XII
IOTC–2016–WPEB12–R	Report of the 12 th Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch	Appendix XVIII
IOTC–2016–WPM07–R	Report of the 7 th Session of the Working Party on Methods	Appendix V
IOTC–2016–WPDCS12–R	Report of the 11 th Session of the Working Party on Data collection and Statistics	Appendix V
IOTC–2016–WPTT18–R	Report of the 18 th Session of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas	Appendix IX