
PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF WPNT07 AND SC21

**PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT
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PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 8th WPNT with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations developed by the previous Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT) which were endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC), and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants as appropriate given any progress.

BACKGROUND

At the 7th Session of the WPNT, participants also agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the IOTC Secretariat on a range of issues. This paper provides a summary of the progress made on this list of requests so that the working party can evaluate progress made and to agree on the next steps to be taken for each issue.

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.

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.

In addition to the Recommendations endorsed by the SC at its 19th 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 WPNT07.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPNT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations and requests of the 6th Session of the WPNT, and consider whether revised recommendations need to be sent to the SC for its consideration.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Progress made on the Recommendations and Requests of WPNT07.

APPENDIX I

Progress made on the Recommendations and Requests of WPNT07 and SC20

WPNT07 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPNT06	SC20 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC20	Progress/Comments
WPNT07.01	<p><i>Review of the statistical data available for neritic tunas: IOTC database</i></p> <p>(para. 24) The WPNT NOTED that compliance with data reporting obligations is particularly low for neritic tuna species, despite the importance of scientific data for stock assessment, and REQUESTED CPCs do their best to collect data and comply with data reporting requirements adopted by the IOTC. The WPNT further RECOMMENDED that mechanisms are developed by the Commission to improve current scientific advice by encouraging CPCs to comply with their data recording and reporting requirements.</p>	S20 Para. 32	<p>Data quality issues</p> <p>The SC noted that compliance with data reporting obligations is particularly low for neritic tuna species, despite the importance of scientific data for stock assessment, and REQUESTED CPCs do their best to collect data and comply with data reporting requirements adopted by the IOTC. The SC further RECOMMENDED that mechanisms are developed by the Commission to improve current scientific advice by encouraging CPCs to comply with their data recording and reporting requirements.</p>	<p>Update: [Ongoing]</p> <p>At its 22nd session, the Commission EXPRESSED further concern about the overall lack of information on neritic tunas, strongly ENCOURAGED the coastal States to improve data collection and reporting, and develop measures to underpin sustainable management of IOTC neritic species.</p>
WPNT07.02	<p>(para. 27) NOTING a number of long-standing data reporting or data quality issues that severely impact the assessment of neritic species, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that funds be made available to the IOTC Secretariat (either through the IOTC Regular Budget or from external sources) dedicated to capacity building activities, or data compliance and support missions, aimed at improving the availability of data for those countries identified as a priority for neritic species in terms of importance of catches. Specifically:</p> <p>v. that the IOTC Secretariat conducts a</p>	SC20 Para. 33	<p>NOTING a number of long-standing data reporting or data quality issues that severely impact the assessment of neritic species, the SC RECOMMENDED that funds be made available to the IOTC Secretariat (either through the IOTC Regular Budget or from external sources) dedicated to capacity building activities, or data compliance and support missions, aimed at improving the availability of data for those countries identified as a priority for neritic species in terms of importance of catches. Specifically:</p> <p>i. when sufficient data is recovered, or made</p>	<p>Update: [Ongoing]</p> <p>i.) I.R. Iran: A Data Compliance and Support mission was conducted by the IOTC Secretariat in September 2017 to assist SHILAT with the reporting of mandatory statistical data (i.e., particularly catch-and-effort and size frequency data), and also assess the availability of datasets for standardization of a CPUE series for gillnet fisheries.</p> <p>The mission resolved a number of</p>

	<p>Data Compliance and Support mission to I.R. Iran to assess the status of data collection and reporting of IOTC datasets, notably catch-and-effort, and the availability of data that could be used as a basis of a future standardized CPUE series gillnet fleets;</p> <p>vi. when sufficient data is recovered, or made available, that the IOTC Secretariat allocates funds to assist with the development of a standardized CPUE series for gillnets, in collaboration with IOTC members, including organization of a joint-workshop or hiring of an international consultant;</p> <p>vii. that the IOTC Secretariat formally communicates to India requesting the submission of mandatory datasets according to the requirements of IOTC Resolution 15/02 and, if necessary, conducts a Data Compliance and Support mission to facilitate the reporting of data to the IOTC;</p> <p>viii. that the IOTC Secretariat continues to support the work of WWF-Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan in the evaluation and reporting of the crew-based observer program, and facilitate the reporting of length data and catch-and-effort collected by the observer log-books</p>		<p>available, that the IOTC Secretariat allocates funds to assist with the development of a standardized CPUE series for gillnets, in collaboration with IOTC members, including organization of a joint-workshop or hiring of an international consultant;</p> <p>ii. that the IOTC Secretariat formally communicates to India requesting the submission of mandatory datasets according to the requirements of IOTC Resolution 15/02 and, if necessary, conducts a Data Compliance and Support mission to facilitate the reporting of data to the IOTC;</p> <p>iii. that the IOTC Secretariat continues to support the work of WWF-Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan in the evaluation and reporting of the crew-based observer program, and facilitate the reporting of length data and catch-and-effort collected by the observer log-books.</p>	<p>long-standing issues with deficiencies in Iran’s IOTC data submissions.</p> <p>Submission of catch-and-effort, size data, and nominal catches to IOTC by I.R. Iran, (and according to IOTC data reporting standards), is expected by end-July.</p> <p>Agreement was also reached in terms of collaboration between the IOTC Secretariat and SHILAT in exploring the potential for a standardized gillnet series for the main neritic tunas (e.g., kawakawa and longtail tuna).</p> <p>ii.) <u>India</u>: A formal letter was sent from the IOTC Executive to the IOTC representative of India requesting the timely, and complete, submission of the mandatory data required by IOTC Resolution 15/02; also that data for previous years’ also be submitted as a matter of priority.</p> <p>iii.) <u>Pakistan</u>: a Data Compliance and technical assistance mission is planned by the IOTC Secretariat for early-August to Pakistan to provide technical assistance on the validation of the revised historical catch series submitted by Pakistan, and also evaluation of the crew-based observer scheme. The IOTC Secretariat to provide a more comprehensive update during the</p>
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				WPNT08 meeting.
WPNT07.03	Revision of the WPNT Program of Work (2018–2022) (para. 139) The WPNT AGREED that a new item on data mining and collation should be added as a fundamental piece of work to be undertaken as a priority and RECOMMENDED that this work is supported by the IOTC Secretariat. The WPNT further AGREED that data collation has been identified as the main priority of the group and allocated this the highest priority ranking.	S20 Para. 34	The SC AGREED that a new item on data mining and collation of historical and current catch data for these species should be added as a fundamental piece of work to be undertaken as a priority and RECOMMENDED that this work is supported by the IOTC Secretariat.	Update: [ongoing] – As above
WPNT07.04	(para. 140) ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of indices of abundance for future stock assessments, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that the development of standardised CPUE series is explored, with priority given to fleets which account for the largest catches of neritic tuna and tuna-like species (e.g., I.R. Iran, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka)	S20 Para. 35	Acknowledging the importance of indices of abundance for future stock assessments, the SC RECOMMENDED that the development of standardised CPUE series is explored, based on the guidelines developed by the SC in 2015 (<i>Guidelines for the presentation of CPUE standardisations and stock assessment models¹</i>), with priority given to fleets which account for the largest catches of neritic tuna and tuna-like species (e.g., I.R. Iran, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka).	Update: [pending] – Following the Data Compliance and Support mission in September 2017, the IOTC Secretariat planned a follow-up mission for May 2018 dedicated to exploring options for developing a standardised gillnet CPUE series (for neritic tunas). Unfortunately the mission was deferred until a later date, due to issues beyond the control of the IOTC Secretariat and I.R. Iran.
WPNT07.05	(para. 143) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the WPNT Program of Work (2018–2022), as provided at Appendix VI .	SC20 Para. 204	Program of Work 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 XXXVIa-g . 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	Update: [ongoing]

¹ <http://iotc.org/documents/guidelines-presentation-cpue-standardisations-and-stock-assessment-models-1>

			Commission at its next Session.	
WPNT07.06	<p><i>Date and place of the 8th Working Party on Neritic Tunas</i> (para. 148) The WPNT NOTED that Kenya, Mozambique, and Pakistan have expressed interest in potentially hosting for the 8th Session of the WPNT and RECOMMENDED the SC consider the preferred dates of 4-7 April 2018.</p>		Dates for WPNT08 were agreed for June 2018 (Appendix XXXVIII IOTC-2017-SC20-R).	Update – [completed] The WPNT08 meeting was rescheduled for August 2018, to be hosted in the Seychelles, and which was ENDORSED by the Commission.
WPNT07.07	<p><i>Meeting participation fund (MPF)</i> (para. 149) The WPNT participants were unanimous in their thanks for the support for their participation in the meeting due to the MPF and RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee also consider the WPNT08 as a high priority meeting for MPF.</p>	SC20 Para. 42	<p><i>Meeting participation fund (MPF)</i> The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The participation of developing coastal state scientists to the WPNT has been consistently high following the adoption and implementation of the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund adopted by the Commission in 2010 (Resolution 10/05 On the establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for developing IOTC Members and Non-Contracting Cooperating Parties), now incorporated into the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), as well as though the hosting of the WPNT in developing coastal State Contracting Parties (Members) of the Commission. (2) The continued success of the WPNT, at least in the short term, appears heavily reliant on the provision of support via the MPF which was established primarily for the purposes of supporting scientists to attend and contribute to the work of the Scientific Committee and its Working Parties. 	Update: [ongoing]

			(3) The MPF should be utilised so as to ensure that all developing Contracting Parties of the Commission are able to attend the WPNT meeting, as neritic tunas are very important resources for many of the coastal countries of the Indian Ocean.	
WPNT07.8	<p><i>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 7th Working Party on Neritic Tunas</i></p> <p>(para. 151) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPNT07, provided at Appendix XIII, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each of the six neritic tuna (and mackerel) species under the IOTC mandate, and the combined Kobe plot for the species assigned a stock status in 2017 (Fig. 8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – Appendix VII • Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – Appendix VIII • Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – Appendix IX • Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) – Appendix X • Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) – Appendix XI • Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) – Appendix XII 	S20 Para. 178	<p><i>Tuna and seerfish – Neritic species</i></p> <p>The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the management advice developed for each neritic tuna (and mackerel) species under the IOTC mandate, as provided in the Executive Summary for each species, and the combined Kobe plot for the three species assigned a stock status in 2017 (Fig. 5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – Appendix XVII • Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – Appendix XVIII • Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – Appendix XIX • Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) – Appendix XX • Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) – Appendix XXI • Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) – Appendix XXII 	Update: [completed] The advice on stock status as provided by the SC and NOTED by the Commission.

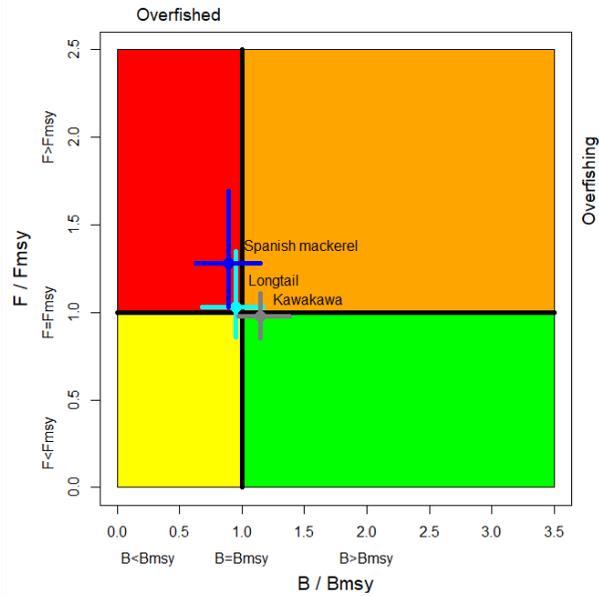


Fig. 8. Combined Kobe plot for longtail tuna, narrow-barred Spanish mackerel and kawakawa, showing the estimates of stock size (B) and current fishing mortality (F) in 2015 in relation to optimal spawning stock size and optimal fishing mortality. Cross bars illustrate the range of uncertainty from the model runs.

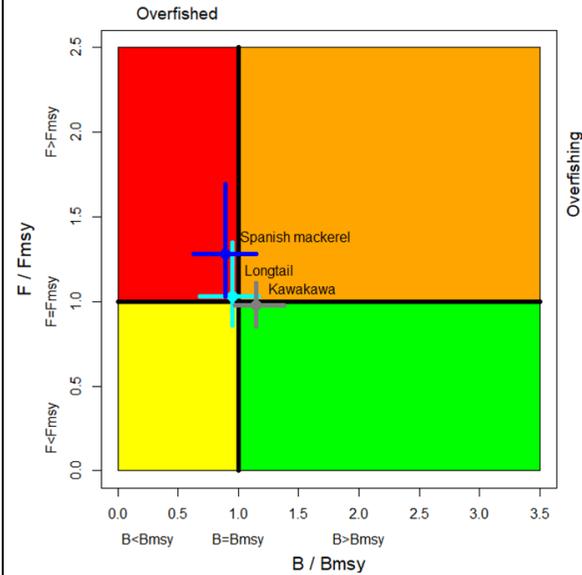


Fig. 5. Combined Kobe plot for longtail tuna (cyan: 2016), narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (dark blue: 2016), and kawakawa (white: 2015) showing the estimates of stock size (B) and current fishing mortality (F) in relation to MSY-based reference points. Numbers in brackets indicate the last year of data available at the time of the assessment. Cross bars illustrate the range of uncertainty from the model runs.

WPNT07 Report	WPNT07 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
Para. 13	The WPNT REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat continue to annually prepare a paper on the progress of the recommendations arising from the previous WPNT, incorporating the final recommendations adopted by the Scientific Committee and endorsed by the Commission.	Update: the IOTC Secretariat has prepared document “IOTC–2018–WPNT08–06” for WPNT08 to address the progress of the recommendations and requests from the previous WPNT meeting.
Para. 17	The WPNT REQUESTED that data on neritic tunas, including catch, effort, and size frequency data, are submitted to the IOTC Secretariat as per the requirements adopted by IOTC Members in Resolution 15/02. This would allow the WPNT to develop additional or more refined stock status indicators for use in undertaking stock assessments on the neritic tuna species under the IOTC mandate	Update: [Ongoing]: IOTC Secretariat/CPCs to provide an update during the meeting. Resolution 18/07 also includes further provisions to facilitate the reporting of zero catches of IOTC species, including neritic tunas.
Para. 19	The WPNT further NOTED that there may also be other issues with the data such as a lack of disaggregation by gear and by species, which require the IOTC Secretariat to apply estimation techniques or algorithms to disaggregate the catches, and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat provide documentation of the procedures for the estimation of nominal catches by species and gear to improve the transparency of catches disseminated for the IOTC Working Parties and stock assessment scientists.	Update: The IOTC Secretariat has tested improved disaggregation techniques for shark species (for which the % of aggregated catches by gear and species can also be assessed through alternative techniques) whose results and validity was assessed during the WPEB in 2017. The details of the disaggregation procedures for the estimation of nominal catches by species and gear are provided in the following documents: IOTC-2016-WPDCS12-25_Rev1 – “Improving the core IOTC data management processes” – Appendix A2. IOTC-2017-WPEB13-23 – “APPROACHES TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CATCHES OF INDIAN OCEAN BLUE SHARK (PRIONACE GLAUCA)” – 2 Methods – “Disaggregation of unidentified shark catches
Para. 20	The WPNT REQUESTED that the WPDCS consider using formal statistical techniques and modelling approaches to estimate data where there are gaps in the IOTC database, and to improve methods used to disaggregate catches by species and gear.	Update: Statistical approaches via a GAM model has been tentatively used to construct blue shark catch history in the Indian Ocean for the stock assessment (see IOTC-2017-WPEB13-23)
Para. 24	The WPNT NOTED that compliance with data reporting obligations is particularly low for neritic tuna species, despite the importance of scientific data for stock assessment, and REQUESTED CPCs do their best to collect data and comply with data reporting requirements adopted by the IOTC.	Update: [Ongoing]: The IOTC Secretariat/CPCs to provide an update during the meeting on on-going gaps in the availability of data for stock assessment, in particular in relation to neritic tuna species
Para. 25	The WPNT further NOTED the distribution of catches of neritic species are not equal across CPCs but that the largest fisheries are concentrated in	Update: [Ongoing]: The IOTC Secretariat has conducted, or is in the process of planning, Data Capacity and Support missions, or other technical capacity building projects with Indonesia, I.R. Iran and Pakistan to improve the future levels of data reporting.

	Indonesia, I.R. Iran, India, and Pakistan (which together account for over 75% of the total catches of neritic species in recent years), and REQUESTED that these countries are prioritised by the IOTC Secretariat to improve the reporting of mandatory datasets.	A description of the IOTC Secretariat’s activities in each CPC has been provided above (see WPNT07.02).
Para. 46	The WPNT also NOTED that around 300 vessels are ‘double registered’ to Pakistan and Iran, and have also been reported fishing in other EEZs. The WPNT REQUESTED Pakistan and I.R. Iran clarify this issue to avoid any double-counting of fisheries statistics by these vessels.	Update: Pakistan and I.R. Iran [update pending]
Para. 50	The WPNT NOTED that the paper provides an overview of the traditional fisheries in Sudan which have low levels of catches, however, the authors were unable to attend the meeting. The WPNT REQUESTED that the authors clarify the species composition, noting that some of the common names do not correspond to the scientific names.	Update: Sudan [update pending]
Para. 60	The WPNT NOTED the lack of papers on the species for assessment this year from CPCs and strongly REQUESTED all CPCs to consider the stock assessment schedule in the programme of work approved by the SC and to prepare relevant papers for the meeting.	Update: [Ongoing]: WPNT08 is to focus on developing CPUE indices for neritic tuna. All papers this year are required to be directly related to CPUE standardisation for neritic tuna species (this may include presentations on data collection systems, the structure of databases, nominal CPUE/s for neritic tunas, and method and results of a CPUE standardisation for neritic tuna species)
Para. 83	The WPNT NOTED the importance of exploring alternative models or sources of information that can evidence results from data-poor assessments, and REQUESTED that other methods utilising other types of data and alternative models continue to be explored.	Update: [Ongoing]: CPUE data/indices are expected to be developed and made available for the next iteration of assessment for neritic tuna in 2020
Para. 85	The WPNT RECALLED the recommendation that the SC request the WPM evaluate alternative methods of presenting management advice based on data poor stock assessments such as using reference points around target catches and REQUESTED that this is investigated further by WPM.	Update: [ongoing]: The IOTC Secretariat is developing/funding a project to review data poor methods for IOTC species which shall evaluating options of presenting management advice based on the data availability and assessment approach.
Para. 87	The WPNT ADOPTED the OCOM management advice developed for longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) as provided in the draft resource stock status summary – Appendix X, and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary for longtail tuna with the latest 2016 catch data, and for the summary to be provided to the SC as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration	Update: Completed. The IOTC Secretariat updated the draft Executive Summaries for the consideration of the SC. The SC19 ADOPTED a new Executive Summary for longtail tuna, available for download from the IOTC website: http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-well-other-species-impacted-iotc .
Para. 111	The WPNT ADOPTED the management advice developed for narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) as provided in the draft resource stock status summary – Appendix XII and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary for narrow-	Update: Completed. The IOTC Secretariat updated the draft Executive Summaries for the consideration of the SC. The SC19 ADOPTED a new Executive Summary for narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, available for download from the IOTC website: http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-

	barred Spanish mackerel with the latest 2016 catch data, and for the summary to be provided to the SC as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration	well-other-species-impacted-iotc.
Para. 114	The WPNT NOTED the sharp decline in reported catches of frigate tuna from around 2010 onwards (i.e., from around 3000 t in 2010 to 115 t in 2015) coinciding with the introduction of a new logbook system in place of the previous island office reporting system, and REQUESTED Maldives investigate the reason for the decline in catches, with the assistance of the IOTC Secretariat, and explore whether catches of frigate tuna in recent years need to be revised.	Update: Update to be provided by the IOTC Secretariat during the WPNT08 meeting.
Para. 119	The WPNT ACKNOWLEDGED the excellent progress Kenya has made implementing the Catch Assessment Survey, and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat continue to provide support, particularly in the quality assurance of the survey results and technical advice on development of the new in-house database and electronic data reporting in field.	Update: Follow- up missions were conducted by the IOTC Secretariat in late-2017 regarding the evaluation and dissemination of the results of Kenya's Catch Assessment Survey results, and development of Kenya's new corporate fisheries database.
Para. 115	The WPNT NOTED that while the information presented covers the period 2014-2015, Sri Lanka also has some very good historical datasets and REQUESTED Sri Lanka to work on these datasets.	Update: Sri Lanka [update pending]
Para. 136	The WPNT ADOPTED the management advice developed for kawakawa, bullet tuna, Indo-Pacific king mackerel and frigate tuna as provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each species and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary with the latest (2016) catch data, 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"> o Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – Appendix IX o Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – Appendix VII o Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – Appendix VIII o Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) 	Update: Completed. The IOTC Secretariat updated the draft Executive Summaries for the Consideration of the SC. The SC19 ADOPTED a new Executive Summary for these stocks, available for download from the IOTC website: http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-well-other-species-impacted-iotc .
Para. 141	The WPNT ACKNOWLEDGED that sufficient time series of data must be available for CPUE standardisation and that the success of any projects/workshops would be dependent on participants sourcing and making available the required information in advance. The WPNT further REQUESTED the IOTC Secretariat also formally request the data from key CPCs and seek their support in accessing, compiling and analysing these	Update: The WPNT08 meeting will focus on the availability of CPUE data and techniques for CPUE standardization in order to strengthen the technical expertise of developing coastal states in particular. In addition, the IOTC Secretariat has proposed a future collaboration with I.R. Iran (Shilat) to explore development of a standardized gillnet CPUE for neritic tuna species.

data. Key datasets held were identified during the meeting and are described in Table 7.	
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