
DRAFT: AGENDA FOR THE 17TH WORKING PARTY ON BILLFISH

Updated: 02 July 2019

Date: 9–12 September 2019

Location: La Reunion, EU,France

Venue: TAMARUN Seminar venue

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 daily

Chair: Dr Rui Coelho (EU,Portugal); **Vice-Chair:** Dr Evgeny Romanov (EU,France)

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chairperson)
 2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
 3. **THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS**
 - 3.1. Outcomes of the 21th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.2. Outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.3. Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPB16 (IOTC Secretariat)
 4. **NEW INFORMATION ON FISHERIES AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FOR BILLFISH**
 - 4.1. Review of the statistical data available for billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 4.2. Review new information on fisheries and associated environmental data (general CPC papers)
 - 4.3. New information on sport fisheries (all)
 5. **MARLINS (Priority species for 2019: Blue marlin)**
 - 5.1. Review new information on marlin biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 5.2. Review of any biological data in support of retention and transshipment bans for specimen below a minimum size, as per recent IOTC Resolutions (all)
 - 5.3. Review of new information on the status of marlins (all)
 - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
 - Stock assessments
 - Selection of Stock Status indicators for marlins
 - 5.4. Development of management advice for marlins and update of marlin species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee, including discussion on current catch limits as per standing IOTC Resolutions (all)
 6. **INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH (Priority species for 2019)**
 - 6.1. Review new information on marlin biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 6.2. Review of any biological data in support of retention and transshipment bans for specimen below a minimum size, as per recent IOTC Resolutions (all)
 - 6.3. Review of new information on the status of I.P. Sailfish (all)
 - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
 - Stock assessments
 - Selection of Stock Status indicators for I.P. Sailfish
 - 6.4. Development of management advice for I.P. Sailfish and update of species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee, including discussion on current catch limits as per standing IOTC Resolutions (all)
 7. **SWORDFISH (new information for informing the 2020 scheduled assessment)**
 - 7.1. Review of new information on swordfish biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
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- 7.2. Review of new information and indicators on the status of swordfish (all)
- Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
 - Other indicators

8. DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES (INCLUDING CLOSURES) FOR BILLFISH IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

9. PROGRESS ON THE SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

10. WPB PROGRAM OF WORK

- 10.1. Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2020–2024) (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 10.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPB meeting (Chairperson)

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1. Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the WPB for the next biennium (IOTC Secretariat)
- 11.2. Date and place of the 18th and 19th Sessions of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 11.3. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 17th Session of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson)