
PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF WPNT09 AND SC22

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LAST UPDATED: 19 JUNE 2020

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 10th 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 9th 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 22nd 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 WPNT10.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPNT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations and requests of the 9th 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 WPNT09.



APPENDIX I

Progress made on the Recommendations and Requests of WPNT09 and SC22

| WPNT09 Rec. No. | Recommendation from WPNT06 | SC22 Rec. No. | Recommendation adopted by the SC22 | Progress/Comments |
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| WPNT09.01 (para 32) | The WPNT DISCUSSED the potential diagnostics for catch-only methods and RECOMMENDED that the retrospective or hindcasting analysis be incorporated into the modelling as diagnostics tools. These analyses are helpful in revealing whether the catch series is consistent with respect to the stock productivity and if the model results are driven by more recent data | | None | Status: Ongoing. The modellers will provide this information during the assessment process |
| WPNT09.02 (para 38) | The WPNT RECOMMENDED the SC to provide strong management advice for neritic species, NOTING that that catches of some species have reached their highest levels in the Indian Ocean in recent years, while catch statistics remain uncertain. | | (Para 38) The SC NOTED that longtail tuna and Spanish mackerel are the only species that are currently assessed to be in the red quadrant of the Kobe plot. The SC NOTED the 2017 assessment for longtail tuna and Spanish mackerel was conducted at the ocean-basin level combining all the catch data across all the CPCs (the same for other neritic tuna species). The SC NOTED the stock structure of Indian Ocean neritic tuna species remain unknown and it is possible that some coastal waters may support sub populations which experience different fishing pressure and population trends. The SC AGREED that a better knowledge of the stock structure will help determine the appropriate spatial units for assessing and managing these important coastal species. | Status: Ongoing The SC will revisit the results of the latest assessment conducted in 2020. |

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| WPNT09.03 (para 76) | The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the WPNT Program of Work (2020–2024), as provided in Appendix VI | | (Para 138) The SC NOTED the proposed Program of Work and priorities for the SC and each of the working parties and AGREED to a consolidated Program of Work as outlined in Appendix 35a-g . The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of each working party will ensure that the efforts of their respective 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 | Status: Completed |
| WPNT09.04 (para 79) | WPTmT09.04 (para 79) The WPNT NOTED that Kenya expressed interest in potentially hosting the 10 th Session of the WPNT and RECOMMENDED the SC consider as preferred dates for the first week of July 2020. The WPNT further NOTED that Sri Lanka and Malaysia have expressed an interest in potentially hosting the 11 th Session of the WPNT in 2021, with dates yet to be agreed | | NA | Status: Cancelled Due to the 2020 Covid pandemic, no physical meetings will be held |
| WPNT09.05 (para 81) | The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC and Commission note the following: 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 <i>On the establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for developing IOTC Members and Non-Contracting Cooperating Parties</i>), 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 (Table 8). | SC22.19 (Para 105) | The SC reiterated its RECOMMENDATION that the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), for the administration of the Meeting Participation Fund be modified so that applications are due not later than 60 days, and that the full Draft paper be submitted no later than 45 days before the start of the relevant meeting. The aim is to allow the Selection Panel to review the full paper rather than just the abstract, and provide guidance on areas for improvement, as well as the suitability of the application to receive funding using the IOTC MPF. The earlier submission dates would also assist with visa application procedures for candidates | Status: Completed |

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| | <p>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.</p> <p>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 an important resource for many of the coastal countries of the Indian Ocean.</p> | | | |
| WPNT09.6 (Para. 85) | <p>The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPNT09, 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 2019 (Error! Reference source not found.):</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 | SC22.03 Para. 119 | <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 2019 (Fig. 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – Appendix 17 ○ Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – Appendix 18 ○ Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – Appendix 19 ○ Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) – Appendix 20 ○ Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) – Appendix 21 ○ Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) – Appendix 22 | Status: Completed |

| WPNT09 Report | WPNT08 REQUESTS | Update/Progress |
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| Para. 15 | 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–2020–WPNT10–06” for WPNT10 to address the progress of the recommendations and requests from the previous WPNT meeting. |
| Para. 19 | The WPNT REQUESTED that, prior to future workshops, the IOTC Secretariat issues a data call to encourage CPC participants to bring examples of their own data to facilitate the practical application and enable hands-on experience | Update: Ongoing The IOTC secretariat will issue this call prior to the next workshop. |
| Para. 36 | The WPNT further NOTED that Pakistan’s revised catches may lead to sharp increase in catches that may affect future stock assessment results for neritic and tropical tunas, and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat provide an update at the next WPNT meeting. | Update Ongoing: The IOTC Secretariat will provide an update to status of the IOTC datasets to the WPNT during the presentation accompanying paper IOTC-2020-WPNT10-07. |
| Para. 39 | The WPNT NOTED that despite access to the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF), attendance at the WPNT meeting by developing coastal states important for catches of neritic species could be improved, and REQUESTED the attendance from the following CPCs – Indonesia, I.R. Iran, India and Pakistan – which account for around 75% of the catches of neritic species | Update: Ongoing: |
| Para. 41 | The WPNT NOTED that compliance with the mandatory 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 NOTED that these issues have been noted for several years with little progress made intersessionally | Update: Ongoing: At its 23rd session, the Commission EXPRESSED further concern about the overall lack of information on neritic tunas, and again strongly ENCOURAGED the coastal States to improve data collection and reporting and develop measures to underpin sustainable management of IOTC neritic species. In particular the IOTC Secretariat acknowledged the efforts made by I.R. Iran since 2018 to increase their level of reporting for geo-referenced data according to Resolution 15/02 |
| Para. 44 | The WPNT RECALLED that the distribution of catches of neritic species are concentrated particularly in Indonesia, I.R. Iran, India, Pakistan and Oman (which together account for over 80% of the total catches of neritic species in recent years), and REQUESTED that support for these CPCs is prioritised by the IOTC Secretariat to improve the reporting of mandatory datasets | Update: Ongoing: Following a data compliance and support mission to I.R. Iran in November 2017, a revised procedure for the reporting of geo-referenced catch-and-effort data has been implemented with support from the IOTC Secretariat. Data for the 2007-2017 has been successfully received and incorporated within the IOTC database and |

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| | | made available for the WPNT09 as part of the regular data sets |
| Para. 46 | <p>The WPNT further NOTED that the IOTC Secretariat is currently undertaking a project that aims to improve the capacity for IOTC and IOTC Member countries to collect, store and utilize data collected from artisanal fisheries to assist the management of tuna and tuna-like species, including vulnerable shark and rays. Specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. i.) Provide an evaluation of the current status of data collection for priority CPCs identified as important for catches of artisanal fisheries (i.e., IOTC neritic species and CITES species) – including the current situation in terms of port sampling systems in place (e.g., coverage, potential biases, gaps in the data collection). 2. ii.) Develop or update the general guidelines for data collection from artisanal fisheries at the landing place, through sampling by enumerators; including development of a set of indicators to be used to assess the quality of data collection and management systems for artisanal fisheries. 3. iii.) Propose recommendations on strategies for obtaining data and capacity building for monitoring and reporting artisanal fisheries, for the consideration of CPCs and the IOTC Scientific Committee. <p>The WPNT REQUESTED that the results of this project be presented at the next WPNT meeting</p> | <p>. Update: Ongoing: The project team has submitted a document to be presented during the WPNT10.</p> |
| Para. 48 | <p>The WPNT NOTED the sharp decrease in Comoros catches of neritic tunas from 2014/2015 onwards – that may be the result of improvements to the port sampling methodology, rather than an actual decrease in landings – and REQUESTED that Comoros examine this issue in more detail and advise the IOTC Secretariat as to whether catches for earlier years should be revised in line with the most recent catch trends.</p> | <p>Update: Ongoing. The IOTC Secretariat is engaging with the Comoros to determine the cause of this issue. The updated statistics are provided in document IOTC-2020-WPNT10-07.</p> |
| Para. 73 | <p>The WPNT NOTED the importance of neritic tuna resources in terms of its contribution to the health and nutrition, livelihoods, employment and wealth creation of fisheries communities and related local economies, and REQUESTED the program of work to include a component that address the socio-economic aspect of the fisheries.</p> | <p>Update: Ongoing The WPNT10 will update the workplan and this issue should be included</p> |

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| Para. 74 | The WPNT REQUESTED a one-day workshop focusing on length based or area based methods to be held back-to-back with the 11th session of the WPNT in 2021 | Update: Ongoing This will be addressed in 2021 |
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