
DRAFT: AGENDA FOR THE 18TH WORKING PARTY ON BILLFISH

Updated: 05 July 2020

Date: 2–4 September 2020

Location: Online

Time: 12:00 – 16:00 daily (Seychelles time)

Chair: Dr Denham Parker (South Africa); **Vice-Chair:** Dr Jie Cao (China)

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 22nd Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.2. Progress on the recommendations of WPB17 (IOTC Secretariat)
4. **NEW INFORMATION ON FISHERIES AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FOR BILLFISH**
 - 4.1. Review of the statistical data available for billfish with a focus on swordfish (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. **SWORDFISH**
 - 5.1. Review of new information on swordfish biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 5.2. Review of new information on the status of swordfish (all)
 - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
 - Stock assessments
 - Selection of Stock Status indicators for swordfish
 - Development of management advice for swordfish and update of Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee, including discussion on current catch limits as per standing IOTC Resolutions (all)
6. **PROGRESS ON THE SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION**
7. **WPB PROGRAM OF WORK**
 - 7.1. Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2021–2025) (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
 - 7.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPB meeting (Chairperson)
8. **OTHER BUSINESS**
 - 8.1. Date and place of the 19th and 20th Sessions of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
 - 8.2. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 18th Session of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson)