REPORT OF THE IOTC SECRETARIAT ON THE YEAR 2019

Prepared by: IOTC Secretariat

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

To inform the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) about the activities undertaken by the IOTC Secretariat in 2019. A list of acronyms is provided in Appendix 3.

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1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE IOTC IN 2019

1. **31 Contracting Parties**: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (OT), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep. of), Japan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, , Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania (United Rep. of), Thailand, United Kingdom ("BIOT") and Yemen.

2. 2 **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCP)**: Liberia and Senegal.

2. MISSION AND STAFFING OF THE IOTC SECRETARIAT

The mission of the IOTC Secretariat is:

> "*To facilitate the processes required to implement the policies and activities of the Commission, whose goal is to achieve the objectives stated in the IOTC Agreement.*"

3. In essence, these processes include the acquisition, processing and dissemination of information that constitutes the basis for informing the Commission's decisions, as well as supporting the actions taken by Contracting Parties (Members) and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) (collectively termed CPCs) to effectively implement those decisions.

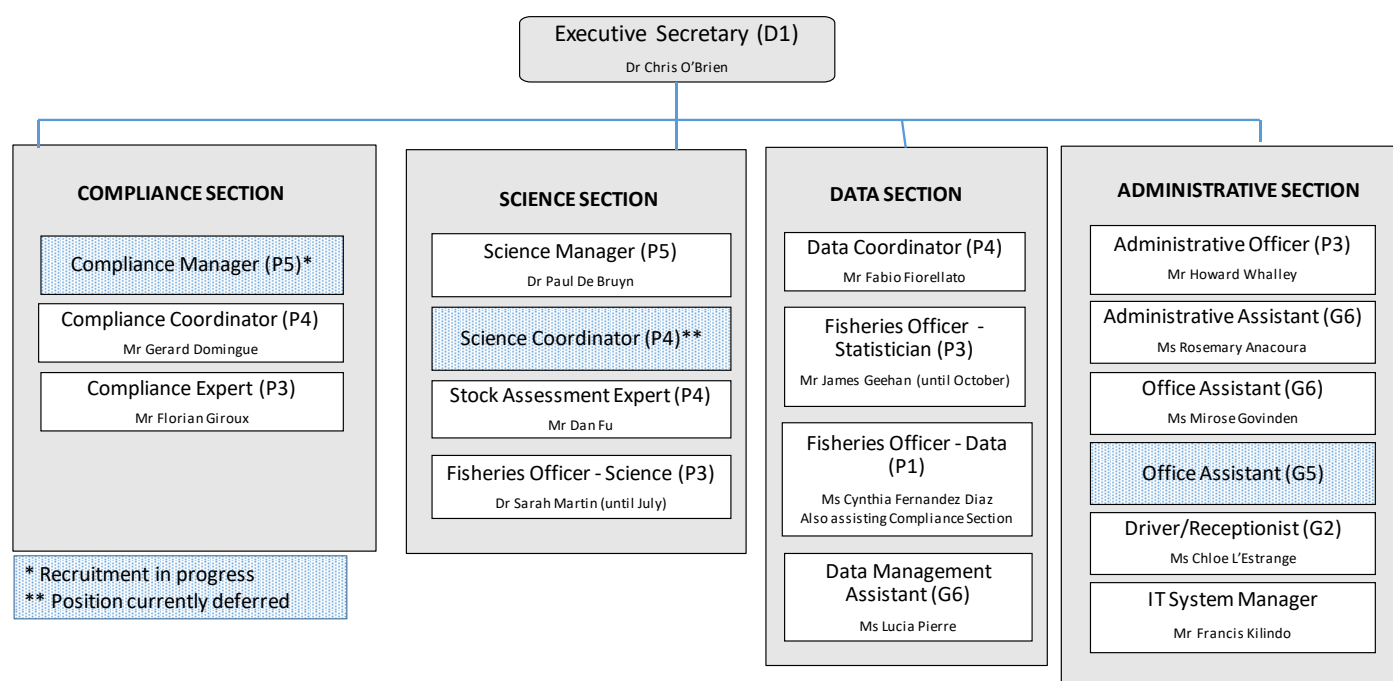4. The structure of the IOTC Secretariat in 2019 is provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1: IOTC staff structure 2019

Professional Staff – Recruitment activities

5. At the start of 2019, only the P5 Compliance Manager position was vacant. The P4 Science Coordinator position was suspended by the Commission for 2019 and 2020.

6. The recruitment process for the P5 Compliance Manager was re-initiated in late 2019. As instructed by the SCAF16, the Secretariat approached FAO HR regarding the outcome of the 2018 recruitment process for this position, with the aim of validating the previously submitted Selection Report. FAO HR informed that the recruitment process must be carried out again with the aim of ensuring a wider geographic coverage and better gender balance amongst the candidates. At the time of this report the position has been filled.

7. The recruitment of the P1 Data Expert) was completed at the end of 2018 and Ms Cynthia Fernandez Diaz started with the Secretariat in early January 2019.

8. Dr Sarah Martin (Fisheries expert) and Mr James Geehan (Statistician) left the Secretariat in 2019. The recruitment processes for these positions were started in 2019 and completed in the first half of 2020

General Service Staff – Recruitment activities

9. The selection process for the G6 Office Associate was completed in 2018 and the post was filled in April 2019 with the promotion of (internal staff member) Ms Mirose Govinden. The selection process for the vacated G5 Office Assistance position was completed in October 2019 and the post was filled in January 2020.

10. There was a UN salary increase of approximately 3.8% for 2017 and 4.2% for 2018 applied to GS salaries in Seychelles in 2019 and retroactively paid to local staff. Attracting and retaining General Service staff remains a challenge but UN local salaries are becoming more attractive as a result of the salary increases in the past 3 years.

3. FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF WORK

11. To facilitate accountability, the activities of the IOTC Secretariat in 2018 have been grouped into six major functional areas which reflect the '*Program of work and budget*' approved by the Commission at its 23rd Session in 2019, as follows:

1. **Support to scientific activities**: The acquisition and processing of scientific data, as required by the Scientific Committee to conduct stock status analyses. Supply of stock assessment services as required by the working groups.
2. **Support to compliance activities**: Maintenance of lists of vessels and compliance databases, reporting on compliance by Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs). Providing support to CPCs in the implementation of IOTC Resolutions.
3. **Communications and public information**: Considered essential in allowing CPCs to follow the progress of the Commission's work in a transparent way, and to increase the visibility of the Commission's activities to the general public.
4. **Support to meetings**: Logistic support in the facilitation of meetings, preparation of reports and maintenance of the meetings calendar
5. **Information Technology**: Provide basic computer infrastructure, including maintenance of the network and servers, as well as Internet support.
6. **Administration**: Financial administration in conjunction with FAO, administration of extra-budgetary funds, travel arrangements, general logistical support to the activities of the technical sections.

FUNCTIONAL AREA 3.1 SUPPORT TO SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IN 2019

12. The IOTC Secretariat's scientific support services area was staffed as follows:
   - Science Manager (P5)
   - Stock Assessment Expert (P4)
   - Data Coordinator (P4)
   - Data Management Assistant (G6)
   - Fisheries Officer – Data (P1), working across Science and Compliance
   - Fishery Officer-Statistician (P3) – vacant from October to December 2019
   - Fishery Officer-Science (P3) – vacant from July to December 2019

The role of the IOTC Secretariat in scientific matters

13. The IOTC Secretariat currently provides the following services to the scientific processes of the Commission:

   - Advice and training in data collection;
   - Advice and training on stock assessment methods;
   - Advice, management and coordination of a range of scientific activities, including research projects;
   - Preparation and provision of summary mandatory fisheries statistics for use by CPCs for research and the production of stock assessments (e.g. catch at size and catch at age);
   - Preparation and reporting on the status of the IOTC databases to Working Parties;
   - Drafting of species Executives Summaries;
   - Drafting and production of the Working Party and Scientific Committee reports;
   - Organisation of the Working Parties and Scientific Committee;
   - Preparation of background documents for the Working Parties and the Scientific Committee;
   - Stock assessments on species as determined by the Scientific Committee.
   - IOTC scientific meetings – Working Parties & Scientific Committee.

14. In 2019, eight Working Parties, one TCMP and one Scientific Committee meetings were organised and facilitated by the IOTC Secretariat (Table 1). A total of three external experts were supported to contribute to three of the meetings. The current Chairs and Vice-Chairs for each Committee and Working Party are listed in Appendix 1.

15. Appendix 2 lists the documents produced by the IOTC Secretariat in support of the scientific meetings held in 2019. In addition, the IOTC Secretariat produced revised Executive Summaries for all of the IOTC stocks, as well as for sharks, seabirds and marine turtles in association with various experts, totalling 25 Executive Summaries.

Science activities

16. Neritic tuna data poor assessment methods workshop: Due to the limited availability of data, the management advice for neritic tunas has been based on catch-only methods In July 2019 a training workshop was held during the WPNT09 to support scientists in the use of data poor assessment techniques. The full workshop report is available in IOTC-2019-WPNT09-R.

17. IOTC Species ID guides: Work is ongoing to translate, typeset, format and print the IOTC Species ID guides into the priority languages identified by the SC. The current set of identification guides available is provided [here].

18. Cetacean ID guide: A consultant (Dr Gill Braulik) worked closely with the WPEB to develop an identification guide for cetaceans in the Indian Ocean. These have been made available on the IOTC and FAO websites [here] and are currently being printed in English and French. The guides have been translated into languages used by the main fleets thought to be interacting with cetaceans in the Indian Ocean: Japanese, Chinese (Mandarin and Guoyu), French and Spanish for species names and French, Spanish, Persian, Urdu, Sinhalese and Tamil, Hindi, Bahasa Indonesian, Arabic and Swahili for the entire booklet. These are currently under review by CPC scientists.

19. Bigeye thresher shark tagging: A consortium has been established to work jointly on a tagging project to evaluate the post-release mortality of bigeye thresher sharks and the effectiveness of the no retention measure in Resolution 12/09. Scientists are working with observers to deploy tags on sharks release according to routine practices from the fleets of Japan, China, Taiwan, China, EU, Portugal, EU, France and South Africa. 54 pop-up archival satellite tags have been purchased and are in the process of being deployed. An update is provided in IOTC-2019-WPEB15-16.

20. Collaborative longline CPUE: A stock assessment consultant (Dr. Simon Hoyle), funded by the EU Science grant, provided the results on joint CPUE analysis through a workshop participated by national scientists from Japan, Taiwan, China, and Korea, and developed abundance indices to be included in the stock assessment of the major tropical species and albacore tuna. The consultant worked closely with scientists from the three fleets to understand and resolve the inconsistencies between the fleets; several papers on the results of developments in the collaborative CPUE were presented at WPTT21 and WPM10.

21. Bigeye and yellowfin tuna stock assessment: The IOTC stock assessment scientist carried out a stock assessment of bigeye tuna (1950-2018 data) using stock synthesis III. Given the substantial uncertainties associated with the input parameters, a reference grid of 18 models was used. The results indicated that the stock is currently not overfished but is subject to overfishing. The IOTC Stock assessment scientists also provided input into the updated yellowfin tuna assessment carried out using SS3 although he was not the principle modeller in this case. The updated yellowfin assessment was not considered for management advice in 2019.

22. Indo-Pacific sailfish stock assessment: The IOTC stock assessment scientist carried out a stock assessment of Indo-Pacific sailfish tuna (1950-2018) using data poor assessment techniques including a revised Catch-MSY method and stochastic stock reduction analysis.

23. Yellowfin and bigeye tuna MSE: A Stock Assessment consultant (Dr Dale Kolody) funded by CSIRO and the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project conducted MSE for yellowfin and bigeye tuna. A voluntary contribution by Australia has provided ongoing funding for this work through to 2021.

24. Swordfish MSE: A PhD student partially funded by an EU grant administered by the IOTC secretariat continued the work on swordfish MSE.

25. MSE workshop: The 8th IOTC MSE workshop was held in Ispra, Italy in March 2019 to discuss and review the progress for IO yellowfin, bigeye and albacore tuna MSE work. The workshop focused on the technical aspect of the OM development and MP evaluations. The workshop also set out the workplan for the 3rd TCMP meeting.

26. Socio-economic scoping study: A consultancy was awarded to conduct work on a scoping study to assess the state of socio-economic information available for the development of indicators based on the ToRs outlined in Resolution 18/09. This project report was presented to the Commission in June 2019.

27. Population Structure of IOTC species in the Indian Ocean: Phase I of the data collection was completed in early 2019 and Phase II was initiated. Data analysis has also been conducted for many of the samples. The work has been conducted by a consortium led by CSIRO and managed by the IOTC Secretariat.

28. Other Scientific work funded by EU Grants: In addition to several of the components described above, the IOTC secretariat managed several additional scientific initiatives funded by EU grants. These included:

- Direct estimations of abundance for tropical tunas using acoustic buoys – Report presented at the WPTT in 2019

- Spatially Explicit Operating Models and Biological Parameters (using tagging data) – Ongoing

- Data poor modelling techniques – Report presented to the WPNT in 2019

- Albacore growth studies – Report provided to the WPTmT Data Preparatory meeting in 2019.

- Review of data collection and processing systems for size data from longline fleets in the Indian Ocean – Ongoing

- Implementation for the ROS as well as E-Monitoring (See document IOTC-2019-SC22-07).

- A contract was signed with AZTI Tecnalia to continue and expand the work of the FAD Watch project, as well as undertake a scoping study for the application of CKMR for a shark species in the Indian Ocean.

- The IOTC Secretariat has initiated a project with two key objectives, namely to: (i) identify where and by which gears mobulid rays are most likely to be caught in IOTC fisheries, and (ii) develop awareness materials on best practices for the safe handling and release of mobulid rays. This is being conducted through an external consultancy.

- MSE for skipjack tuna – the IOTC secretariat is in an advanced stage of signing an external consultant to develop a fully specified MP for skipjack.

Joint tRFMO activities

29. 2019 Joint Tuna RFMO FAD working group meeting: In May 2019 the IOTC Secretariat attended the 2nd session of the Joint Tuna RFMO FAD working group meeting. The second meeting covered progress in the RFMOs since the last meeting, reviews of current management measures related to FADs and FAD fishing, definitions of terms related to FAD fishing, minimum standards for the collection of FAD data, harmonisation of data collection systems across oceans, marking and tracking of FADs, FAD fishery indicators, research on FADs, the impacts of FADs on marine ecosystems, current and future initiatives to ensure FAD fishing sustainability as well as areas for future cross RFMO collaboration on FAD matters.

30. Joint tuna RFMO Bycatch Working Group meeting: In December 2019 the IOTC Secretariat attended and chaired the 2019 meeting of this working group. The aim of the workshop was to provide advice and support for issues of common interested related to elasmobranch research and management.

Stock assessment consultants

31. Dr. Shijie Zhou: Data poor methods and analysis of neritic tuna datasets.

32. Dr Dale Kolody: yellowfin and bigeye tuna management strategy evaluation (MSE) — co-funded by the FAO ABNJ Tuna Project.

33. Dr. Simon Hoyle: funded by the IOTC regular budget, provided the results of the previously held workshop on joint CPUE analysis, to address contrary signals of abundance noted for the major tropical species between Taiwan, China, Japan, and Rep. of Korea. The consultant worked closely with scientists from the three fleets to understand and resolve the inconsistencies between the fleets; five papers on the results of developments in the collaborative CPUE were presented at WPTT21 and WPM10.

34. Dr Rishi Sharma – external review of the yellowfin tuna stock assessment.

Table 2. Scientific Meetings held in 2019 and previous years. Numbers in brackets represent numbers for the previous working party meeting

Meeting	Date and place	External Expert (invited)	No. of participants									No. of documents (and for the previous meeting)
			2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Temperate Tunas	14-17 January 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 23-26 July 2019, Japan		16	26	–	27	_	29	_		19 23	Total : 43 (29) Working papers : 38 (29) Information papers : 5 (0)
Technical Committee on Management Procedures	14-15 June 2019, Hyderabad, India	Dr. Graham Pilling (SPC, New Caledonia)							70	76	65	Total: 12 (10) Working papers: 12 (10) Information papers: 0 (0)
Neritic Tunas	1-5 July 2019, Seychelles	Dr Shijie Zhou (CSIRO Australia)	28	35	42	37	31	20	26	18	18	Total: 19 (19) Working papers: 19 (17) Information papers: 1 (2)
Ecosystems and Bycatch	3-7 September 2019, La Reunion	Dr Clay Porch (NOAA USA)	49	48	32	37	38	34	39	39	41	Total: 68 (53) Working papers: 51 (46) Information papers: 17 (7)
Billfish	9-12 September 2019, La Reunion		27	23	24	21	23	18	25	18	25	Total: 29 (28) Working papers: 28 (27) Information papers: 1 (1)
Methods	17-19 October 2019, Pasaia, Spain		–	22	–	34	26	29	28	20	37	Total: 28 (21) Working papers: 25 (15) Information papers: 3 (6)
Tropical Tunas	21-26 October 2019, Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain	Dr Rishi Sharma, FAO	49	47	46	53	44	44	49	51	68	Total: 60 (57) Working papers: 55 (51) Information papers: 5 (6)
Data Collection & Statistics	27-30 November 2019, Karachi, Pakistan		21	–	23	30	20	32	45	46	41	Total: 38 (44) Working papers: 29 (37) Information papers: 9 (7)
Scientific Committee	2-6 December 2019, Karachi, Pakistan		50	54	75	62	71	65	63	74	43	Working papers: 15 (20) Executive Summaries: 26 (26) Information papers: 5 (5)

Data-related activities

Data-related activities: Capacity building and other initiatives

35. The IOTC Secretariat continues to facilitate or provide direct support to developing coastal states using funds from the IOTC capacity building budget or other collaborating agencies. In particular, the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF) has provided resources and advice for the strengthening of data collection systems in more than 20 countries in the region since its inception in 2002, and for the implementation of satellite accounts for the collection and analysis of socio-economic data in recent years. The IOTC Secretariat has also cooperated with COI-SmartFish, the ABNJ Project, the ISSF, and other initiatives in the coordination and execution of capacity building activities in developing coastal states of the Indian Ocean. In addition, the IOTC Secretariat is also working collaboratively with NOAA, CMS, IOSEA, CITES, WWF-Pakistan and WWF-USA on capacity building activities and to support the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme in developing coastal states.

36. Table 3 provides a summary of the main capacity building activities undertaken since the end of SC20, which can be broadly categorised into the following activities:

    a) **Data compliance and support missions**: aimed at facilitating improvements in the validation and reporting of core IOTC datasets to the IOTC Secretariat (i.e., nominal catches, catch-and-effort, and size data); also to assess current shortcomings concerning the collection and management of fisheries data, and to agree a plan of action with the CPC required to deliver improvements on the levels of reporting. In 2019 support has been provided to Tanzania and Indonesia in the context of the CITES-funded project to review the status of data and data collection systems currently in place for monitoring artisanal fisheries, and Pakistan in terms of validation of the reconstructed nominal catch time-series for several IOTC species.

    b) **Technical assistance missions**: capacity building in data collection, support for the development of national fisheries databases and statistical systems, or other issues related to fisheries data management. Examples in 2019 included support to Oman through a dedicated workshop on IOTC data collection and reporting requirements and the assessment of the national statistic systems, as well as continued support to WWF Pakistan for the evaluation of the results of their crew-based data collection programme.

    c) The IOTC-OFCF collaborative project has continued with the implementation of the project to identify appropriate socio-economic indicators to support the integrated management of the IOTC resources and fisheries and its long-term sustainability, including the social and economic aspects. The project focuses on i) reviewing the existing information and ii) evaluating the feasibility and utility of Fishery Satellite Accounts in Seychelles and Indonesia.

    d) **Support for implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme and implementation of the ROS Pilot Project**: capacity building activities cover a number of components of the ROS PP, including continued development and expansion of the IOTC ROS e-tools and feasibility study implementing electronic monitoring systems (EMS) and alternative data collection protocols on small-scale fisheries. In 2019, a training workshop for the adoption of the ROS e-tools was delivered to Mauritius while on the EMS side, the installation of the first batch of EMS equipment for 4 gillnet/longline vessels in Sri Lanka has been finalized and a dedicated workshop to present the aims, milestones, and deliverables of the Sri Lanka EMS pilot project was also delivered.

Other data initiatives

37. Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV): the IOTC Secretariat is responsible for the coordination of activities concerning the global CLAV, a regularly updated list including the authorized vessels of the five t-RFMOs. Collaboration between the IOTC Secretariat and FAO-FIPS continued in 2018. Since 2015, the CLAV has been further enhanced using funds from the FAO Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project. The main objective of the CLAV component of the Project is ensuring that updates of the CLAV occur in as close-to real time as possible in the future.

38. Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Information System (E-Maris): supports automatic integration of data and information from CPCs into the IOTC Secretariat's databases, and automatic cross-referencing and reports for various obligations relating to compliance and the provision of scientific data. Two IT experts were recruited by COI and commenced their work with the collection of user requirements and preliminary analysis of the final product deployment scenario. The actual development phase started in May 2019 and is currently ongoing.

39. Regional Observer Scheme (ROS): A full update on progress with the implementation of the ROS Pilot Project is provided in paper IOTC-2019-SC22-07. Key areas of progress this year include:

- Continuation with the incorporation of new and historical data in the Regional Observer Database;

- Further training in the electronic data collection and management interface has been carried out in Mauritius;

- Aggregated information (as per Resolution 12/02) and the results of its analysis have been presented during the WPEB15 and made publicly available through the WP web page;

- EMS equipment has been procured and installed onboard four out of six gillnet/longliner vessels in Sri Lanka;

- The delivery of the training programme in support of national observer schemes has commenced, with the service providers undertaking the first round of site visits in three of the six identified CPCs.

FUNCTIONAL AREA 3.2 SUPPORT TO COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES IN 2019

Compliance Section Staffing

40. The IOTC Secretariat's compliance support services area was staffed by two positions during 2019. These are as follows:
- Compliance Coordinator (P4)
- Compliance Officer (P3)
- Fisheries Officer - Data (P1), working across both the Compliance and Data Sections

Role of the IOTC Secretariat in technical matters

41. The IOTC Secretariat currently provides the following services in the compliance processes of the Commission:

- Maintain all vessels' lists (Active, Authorised and IUU);
- Maintain Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme (validation information and tables of import/re-export of statistics);
- Maintain the e-PSM application
- Advice and training in the implementation of CMMs (Compliance Support Mission);
- Advice and training in the implementation of PSM (Port State Measures training)
- Training on the use of a specialised application for implementing port State Measures (e-PSM application);
- Preparation and reporting on the status of compliance by CPCs;
- Drafting and production of the Workshops, Working Party and Compliance Committee reports;
- Coordinate the work of *ad-hoc* Working Groups (Catch Documentation Scheme and Vessel Monitoring System);
- Preparation of meeting documents for the Working Party and the Compliance Committee;
- Assist in the preparation of meeting documents for the Commission (compliance related activities),
- Supervise the implementation of Regional Observer Programme to monitor transhipments at sea, including dissemination of deployment reports to the fleets participating in the Programme

42. In addition to the above listed core duties, staff of the Compliance Section supervised several projects undertaken by consultants through extra-budgetary funding, in response to work tasked to the IOTC Secretariat by the Commission.

Meetings supported by the Compliance team: the WPICMM and CoC

43. In 2017 the Commission established a permanent Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) to act as an advisory body to the Commission via the Compliance Committee. The objectives of the WPICMM are: Alleviate the technical discussions, workload and time pressures on the Compliance Committee, and permit it to focus on higher level compliance implementation strategies in its work for the Commission; to enhance the technical capacity of CPCs to understand and implement IOTC Conservation and Management Measures; and prioritise implementation issues and develop operational standards for use by CPCs.

44. The 2nd Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission's (IOTC) Working Party on Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) was held in Mozambique, from 9 to 15 February 2019. A total of 51 participants (22 Members and two observers) attended the Session.

45. The 16th Session of the Compliance Committee (CoC) of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was held in Hyderabad, India, from 9–11 and 13 June 2019. A total of 81 delegates attended the Session; 23 Contracting Parties (Members), 2 Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, 4 Observers and 5 Invited Experts.

46. The WPICMM and CoC meetings were facilitated by the Secretariat's Compliance team. Appendix 2 lists the documents produced by the IOTC Secretariat in support of the WPICMM and CoC meetings.

Other meetings

47. Staff members of the Compliance Section also participated in the following meetings:

- Sixth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop organised by the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network, with the objective of bringing together fisheries MCS practitioners to learn of developments taking place in the field of MCS; application of new and emerging technologies and techniques to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities.

- Third Tuna Compliance Network (TCN) meeting, which regroups the five Compliance Officers of the five tuna RFMOs with the objective of providing a platform for these officers to exchange ideas and best practices on the compliance processes in the five RFMOs.

- Fourth meeting of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group of IUU Fishing and related matters, which was jointly organised by the Secretariats of FAO, ILO and IMO, and hosted by the Government of Spain.

- High-level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economy: Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Regional Meeting, which is a unique initiative of serving heads of government committed to catalyzing bold, pragmatic solutions for Ocean health and wealth that support the Sustainable Development Goals and build a better future for people and the planet

Table 3. Missions undertaken by staff from the IOTC Secretariat during 2019 in relation with capacity building activities.

Country	Date	Staff	Description
Science and data			
Mauritius	April 2019	Data Coordinator Data Management Assistant	ROS Pilot Project activities (ROS e- tools): first workshop in support of the adoption of the IOTC e-tools for ROS data collection, reporting and management.
Italy	May 2019	Data Coordinator	1) 11th FIRMS steering committee and 2) 26th Session of the CWP: provision of updates on the status of IOTC as a FIRMS partner, discussion of several FIRMS-related initiatives (Tuna atlas, Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries); follow-ups to CWP initiatives such as the task group on reference harmonization for capture fisheries, draft implementation guidelines for reference harmonization and finalization of GIS data and geospatial section of the CWP handbook.
Japan / China	July 2019	Fisheries Statistician IOTC consultant	1) Review of LL size data: facilitate access to operational level size frequency data, and discuss a number of long-standing issues with the quality and coverage of size frequency data reported to the IOTC Secretariat; 2) Scoping study for Albacore biological sampling: meeting with representatives from the main longline fleets to discuss proposals for establishing a coordinated sampling program to increase the quality of all available scientific information.
Tanzania	August 2019	Data Management Assistant MRAG consultant	CITES artisanal fisheries project: provision of technical support and advice to MRAG staff conducting a review of the current status of data available and the data collection systems currently in place for monitoring artisanal fisheries across the Indian Ocean and in the two visited countries in particular.
Indonesia	August 2019	Fisheries Officer (Statistician) MRAG consultant	
Sri Lanka	September 2019	Fisheries Officer (Statistician)	EMS workshop: delivery of a workshop on Electronic Monitoring Systems and overseeing the installation of EMS equipment onboard selected longline vessels.
Oman	September 2019	Data Coordinator Data Management Assistant	1) Delivery of a workshop on IOTC Data Reporting Requirements and best practices, including an assessment of current statistical processes and systems and how these could be improved to better fulfill IOTC reporting requirements, and 2) Assessment of the extent and relevance of previously unsubmitted information available to MSFC (size-frequency data, standardized CPUEs etc.) and how this could be made available to the IOTC Secretariat in the future.
Compliance			
Malaysia	9-15 Mar	Compliance Officer	Follow-up Compliance Support Mission and Implementation of PSM/e-PSM
Thailand	16-23 Mar	Compliance Officer	Follow-up Compliance Support Mission and Implementation of PSM/e-PSM
Bangladesh	2-4 Apr	Compliance Coordinator	Compliance Support Mission
Maldives	15-17 July	Compliance Officer	Implementation of PSM/e-PSM

Compliance related activities

48. <u>The IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels</u> often requires additional attention from the IOTC Secretariat to ensure its accuracy. The processing and quality assurance of IOTC data sets continues to require substantial resources from the IOTC Secretariat, and often involves repeat requests for clarification of data issues between IOTC Secretariat staff and data liaison officers in national fisheries organisations. Just over 17,305 records were processed during 2019; this includes the addition, deletion and updating the history of vessels in the record. The number of records processed during 2018 represents a decrease of approximately 10% over the number of records processed in the previous year. New, mandatory reporting requirements has resulted in increased efforts being directed to the processing of additional information.

49. <u>The maintenance of the IOTC Record of Active Vessels</u> also requires the active follow-up by staff of the IOTC Secretariat to ensure timely data submissions by CPCs. Discrepancies and inconsistencies in the datasets are the main issues that require staff to resolve, through contacts with the various parties involved.

50. <u>The Regional Observer Programme (ROP)</u> to monitor transhipments at sea for large-scale tuna longline vessels is now in its twelfth year of operation, and support by staff of the IOTC Secretariat to ensure its seamless functioning is now embedded in the daily activities of the IOTC Secretariat. The level of activities under this Programme during 2019 was slightly below that of 2018.

Capacity building activities: Compliance Support Missions

51. **Compliance Support Missions (CSM)** are intended to bring the work of the Commission and the Compliance Committee closer to the CPCs. The follow-up CSM are a combination of capacity building and planning exercise to engage in activities that would support the issues that were identified during the review of country-based Compliance Report at the last session of the Compliance Committee. The CSMs are carried by the IOTC Secretariat staff over a period of three days, to an audience composed of national officers in offices involved in the implementation of IOTC Resolutions. The outcome is a Compliance Action Plan and an agreed timeline with the CPC on addressing outstanding compliance issues. During 2019, one CSM and two follow-up CSMs were conducted in the following countries, respectively: Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand. Further follow-up missions are planned in 2019 and 2020.

Capacity building activities: Training in Port State Measures

52. This other component is specific to the implementation of Resolution 16/11 *on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing*. This training is primarily intended for field personnel and their supervisors, as it focuses more in the operational aspects of the Resolution on Port State Measures. It implements at national level, a training course for government officials on IOTC Port State Measures for CPCs in the region. To support this activity, one training package has been developed relating to the implementation of Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. During 2019, three CPCs benefitted from follow-up PSM/e-PSM training: Malaysia, Thailand and Maldives. For the first two CPCs the PSM/e-PSM training were combined with CSMs, whereas the training in Maldives was only for PSM/e-PSM.

Funding of Compliance related activities

53. Funding for these activities are being provided through cooperation with several initiatives, following presentation of the capacity building initiatives to potential financing agencies. Table 3 summarises all the missions relating to compliance.

54. The IOTC Secretariat:

a) signed in 2017 a Grant Agreement with the European Union for the provision of €150.000 to finance the Compliance Support Missions, to recruit consultants to undertake activities aimed at assisting Members in the discharge of their responsibilities to the Commission.

b) received financing from the following agencies/projects:

- World Wide Fund (WWF) provided support to recruit consultants to develop new features for the electronic Port State Measures (e-PSM) application and for the improvement of the Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV),

- World Bank Project (SWIOFISH) through the Indian Ocean Commission with financing support to undertake, in qualifying countries, Compliance Support Missions, PSM trainings, develop a monitoring

and reporting information system (e-MARIS) and other activities related to flag State obligations in 2019.

FUNCTIONAL AREA 3.3 COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

55. The IOTC Secretariat continues with the publication of all reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies on the IOTC website. All reports are published in electronic format only following the decision by the Commission at its 17th Session to go paperless.

FUNCTIONAL AREA 3.4 SUPPORT TO MEETINGS

Logistic support in the facilitation of meetings

56. The IOTC Secretariat supported 15 meetings in 2019 (Appendix 1).

Preparation of reports

57. The IOTC Secretariat staff provided the necessary support to all IOTC meetings in 2019 related to the development and dissemination of meeting reports. All IOTC meeting reports were developed, finalised and disseminated efficiently and in a short timeframe to ensure CPCs had access to the most recent meeting findings and recommendations soon after the completion of a meeting (usually within one week). Improvements were made in the process of translating documents to ensure that versions in French were readily available soon after meetings.

58. The IOTC Secretariat continues to work with several translators for the provision of translation services and in 2019 worked with a pool of three translators. Documents are prepared in both languages of the Commission for the Sessions of the Commission, and all Committees. In order to reduce staff costs, the translation of documents to the official languages of the Commission (English and French) has been outsourced as necessary. Unless there is a substantial increase in the workload relating to translation, the current approach is an effective way of proceeding.

59. Appendix 2 lists the documents produced by the IOTC Secretariat in support of all the 2019 meetings of IOTC bodies.

Meeting Participation Fund usage

60. The Secretariat administers the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). The MPF currently serves nine scientific bodies (seven working parties, the Technical Committee on Management Procedures and the Scientific Committee); and six non-scientific bodies (the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria, the Technical Committee on Performance Review, the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures, the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance, the Compliance Committee and the Commission)

61. The meeting participation fund supported the participation of 117 individuals from developing Contracting Parties of the IOTC to the 15 meetings held in 2019. Details are provided in IOTC-2020-SCAF-06.

FUNCTIONAL AREA 3.5 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

62. The provision of computer infrastructure, including maintenance of the network and servers, as well as Internet support was provided by a consultant paid under the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement with the Republic of Seychelles. However, it must be noted that this payment is still pending. These services were also extended to general meeting support and IOTC website maintenance.

63. During 2019 many improvements were made to the IT office infrastructure. Works included the installation of a new server, a full maintenance of existing servers and some re-wiring of the office network. Equipment purchases included a new server, two new desktop computers, and four new laptops. Procedural improvements included the introduction of a detailed inventory control mechanism after the issue was identified by the auditors.

64. The IT consultant also assisted in the upgrading of the IOTC security equipment. In 2019 a new access control system and four CCTV cameras were installed.

FUNCTIONAL AREA 3.6 ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Staff

65. The IOTC Secretariat's Administrative Unit was staffed as follows:
    - Administrative Officer (P3)
    - Administrative Assistant (G6)
    - Office Associate (G6)
    - Administrative Assistant (G5)
    - Driver/Receptionist (G2)
    - IT System Manager (consultant)
    - A part-time cleaner is also part of the administration team.

66. The Administrative Unit became fully staffed at the end of 2019 after the recruitment of the G5 Office Assistant.

Activities of the IOTC Administrative Unit

67. The human resources and administration functions of the IOTC are managed through various FAO electronic systems. The Global Resource Management System (GRMS) covers the administration of all funds, travel arrangements, HR support and procurement. Projects are managed through the Field Programme Management Information System and the integrated Management Information System is used to generate up-to date reports on all areas of administration. Using these systems and in liaison with FAO HQ, the unit provided administrative support to all activities of the Secretariat, in particular:
    - Procurement of goods and services including tenders and contract processing
    - Recruitment and management of staff and consultant contracts
    - Financial management and reporting including budget monitoring, contribution tracking, asset control and banking
    - Project management support and liaison with donors
    - Travel of staff, consultants and meeting participants, and the management of the Meeting Participation Fund
    - Meeting planning and logistics
    - Correspondence and communication management
    - IT support
    - Data preparation for reports to the SCAF which advises the Commission on administrative and financial matters such as the financial status and the provisional budget for the ensuing year
    - Facilities Management
    - Guidance and advice to staff about IOTC and FAO rules and procedures

New Systems and Procedures in 2019

68. In 2019 FAO continued with the rollout of the recruitment system, 'TALEO' and the new electronic tendering system for procurement 'IN-TEND'. Both systems became fully operational in 2019. The recruitment processes for both staff and consultants is fully handled by TALEO which in turn is integrated with FAO's financial systems.

69. The FAO procedural changes for the recruitment of staff and consultants were incorporated into the Secretariat office in 2018, and in 2019 the Secretariat concentrated on populating a roster of pre-approved consultants which can now be used by IOTC and the FAO fisheries department. After a significant start-up period, the roster should facilitate a more rapid recruitment process for consultants for both ad-hoc activities and longer-term technical consultancies.

70. New FAO travel rules were fully rolled out that require the early planning of travel in an effort to reduce costs though avoiding more expensive last-minute fares. All FAO travel tickets are now required to be issued no less than 15 days before travel. This has implications for travellers using the IOTC meeting participation fund that are slow to provide travel details, because, unless there are exceptional circumstances, their travel will be denied.

71. The FAO procedures for managing project cycles were reviewed and a new system is currently being studied to facilitate the setting up and closure of projects.

Audit of the IOTC Secretariat

72. The FAO Office of the Inspector General (OIG) carried out an audit of the Commission between February and March 2019. The main objective of the audit was to assess whether the IOTC Secretariat is managing its administrative and financial operations in an economic, efficient and effective way.

73. The major finding of the report was that "the Secretariat is now operating in a strong control environment and with general adherence to FAO's policies and procedures. Opportunities for further improvement are identified in the report; in particular, in the areas of procurement, assets management, project management, etc. Overall, OIG has concluded that the IOTC Secretariat's financial and administrative management needs some improvement". A more comprehensive overview is provided in IOTC-2019-SCAF16-10.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Collaborations with other organisations

74. The IOTC Secretariat routinely maintains contacts with other organisations in the region with the purpose of coordinating scientific activities to the extent possible. This is essential to avoid duplication of efforts with similar organisations (e.g. other tuna RFMOs – CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT and WCPFC).

75. As mentioned above, the IOTC Secretariat attended joint tuna RFMO meetings on bycatch and FADs in 2019.

76. Members of the compliance and data teams participated in the 3rd Tuna Compliance Network meeting.

77. Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs): The IOTC Secretariat maintains close links with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) primarily through the discussions of possible future coordination and cooperation in fisheries projects involving tuna fisheries. The IOTC Secretariat is currently involved in a number of joint activities with the IOC Project Integrated Regional Fisheries Strategy (IRFS) also known as SmartFish, and the SWIOFISH 2 Project.

78. In 2019, the Secretariat worked with the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) on improving statistical systems for tuna resources, and the FAO ANBJ Tuna Project on the yellowfin and bigeye MSEs.

Suggested action by the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance

79. That the SCAF NOTE paper IOTC–2020–SCAF17–03 which provides the SCAF with an update on the activities of the IOTC Secretariat in 2019.

APPENDIX 1
2019: LIST OF IOTC MEETINGS AND CHAIRS

Meeting	Date / Location			CPC/Affiliation	Starting	Ending	Term
WPTmT	14-17 January, Malaysia ; 23-26 July, Japan	Chair	Dr Jiangfeng Zhu	China	26Jul2019	2021	2
		Vice-Chair	Dr Toshihide Kitakado	Japan	26Jul2019	2021	2
TCAC	11-13 March, Seychelles	Chair	Mr Don MacKay	Independent	21Feb2016	2019	-
TCPR	14-15 March, Seychelles	Chair	Ms Jung Re Kim	Rep. of Korea	8Feb2018	2020	1
		Vice-Chair	Mr Sammy Malvas	Philippines	9Feb2018	2020	1
WPICMM	13-15 February, Mozambique	Chair	Mr Roy Clarisse	Seychelles	15Feb2019	2021	2
		Vice-Chair	Mr Benedict Kiilu	Kenya	15Feb2019	2021	2
CoC	9-11 June, India	Chair	Ms Anne-France Mattlet	EU, France	13June2019	2021	1
		Vice-Chair	Dr. Indra Jaya	Indonesia	13June2019	2021	1
SCAF	12 June, India	Chair	Mr Hussain Sinan	Maldives	25May2018	2020	1
		Vice-Chair	Mr Muhammad Farhan Khan	Pakistan	25May2018	2020	1
TCMP	14-15 June, India	Co-Chairs	Commission and SC Chairs	-	-	-	-
Commission	17-21 June, India	Chair	Ms Susan Imende	Kenya	26May2018	2020	1
		Vice-Chair	Ms Jung Re Kim	Rep. of Korea	21Jun2019	2021	2
		Vice-Chair	Mr Adam Ziyad	Maldives	26May18	2020	1
WPNT	1-5 July, Seychelles	Chair	Ms Ririk Sulistyaningsih	******	5July2019	2021	1
		Vice-Chair	Dr Farhad Kaymaram	I.R. Iran	5July2019	2021	1
WPB	9-12 September, La Réunion, EU, France	Chair	Dr Denham Parker	S. Africa	12Sep2019	2021	1
		Vice-Chair	Dr Jie Cao	****	12Sep2019	2021	1
WPEB	3-7 September, La Réunion, EU, France	Chair	Dr Sylvain Bonhommeau	EU,France	7Sep2019	2021	2
		Vice-Chair	Dr. Mohamed Koya	India	7Sep2019	2021	1
		Vice-Chair	Dr. Mariana Tolotti	EU,France	7Sep2019	2021	1
WPM	25-27 October, Seychelles	Chair	Dr Hilario Murua	ISSF	19Oct2019	2021	1
		Vice-Chair	Ms Daniela Rosa	EU	19Oct2019	2021	1
WPTT	29 October-3 November, Seychelles	Chair	Dr Gorka Merino	EU,Spain	3Nov2018	2020	1

		Vice-Chair	Dr Shiham Adam	Maldives	3Nov2018	2020	1
WPDCS	29 November-1 December, Seychelles	Chair	Mr Stephen Ndegwa	Kenya	30Nov2019	2021	2
		Vice-Chair	Dr Julien Barde	EU,France	30Nov2019	2021	2
SC	3-7 December, Seychelles	Chair	Dr Toshihide Kitakado	S. Africa	24Dec2019	2021	1
		Vice-Chair	Dr Denham Parker	Japan	24Dec2019	2021	1

APPENDIX 2
2019: LIST OF PAPERS PRODUCED BY IOTC SECRETARIAT STAFF

2nd Session of the Working party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures

IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–01a	Provisional agenda of the 2nd WPICMM
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–01b	Annotated agenda of the 2nd WPICMM
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–02	List of documents of the 2nd WPICMM
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–03	Progress report on the implementation of the WPICMM work plan and on the recommendations of the WPICMM01
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–04	Use of CPCs compliance assessment results to determine common challenges and difficulties with compliance
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–05a	Improve Monitoring Control and Surveillance scheme – Vessel Monitoring System study
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–05b	Improve Monitoring Control and Surveillance scheme – Monitoring Control and Surveillance study
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–05c	Improve Monitoring Control and Surveillance scheme – Catch Documentation Scheme study
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–06	Review reporting requirements in all conservation and management measures (CMMs) in order to harmonize and streamline
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–07	Develop a methodology for the assessment of implementation by Members and Non-Contracting Cooperating Parties (CPCs), for producing the Country Compliance Reports provided annually to the Compliance Committee and flag States
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–08	Development of minimum regional standards for implementation of CMMs
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–09	Establish a baseline for IUU fishing activities based on International recommendations
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–10	Provide recommendations to the Compliance Committee to assist CPCs in the design and implementation of national MCS systems
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–10a	Template of the Report on national Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) programme
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–11	Review of the glossary of definitions and key terms used in IOTC Resolutions
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–11a	Glossary of terms and definitions
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–12	Legal scrub of IOTC resolutions
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–13	Review compliance requirements to identify reporting and implementation obligations that should be included in the Compliance Assessment Process
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–14	Review of the assessment criteria for the 2019 CPCs' compliance report
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–14a	Assessment criteria for Compliance Report [E] - Country Template for COC16
IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–15	An assessment of shark finning in Indian Ocean Tuna Commission fisheries

16th Session of the Compliance Committee

IOTC-2019-CoC16–01a	Provisional Agenda for the Sixteenth Session of the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2019-CoC16–01b	Provisional Annotated Agenda for the Sixteenth Session of the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2019-CoC16–02	List of documents for the Sixteenth Session of the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2019-CoC16–03	Summary report on the level of compliance
IOTC-2019-CoC16–04a	Report on Transhipment Resolution 18/06 – Secretariat's Report
IOTC-2019-CoC16–05a	Report of the VMS Steering Group
IOTC-2019-CoC16–05b	Proposed terms of reference for a vessel monitoring system (VMS) Working Group
IOTC-2019-CoC16–06	Implementation of reporting obligations of nominal catch data (IOTC Resolution 18/07)
IOTC-2019-CoC16–07	Update on Progress Regarding Resolution 16/03 – On the Second Performance Review Follow–up
IOTC-2019-CoC16–08a	Complementary elements for discussion under item 7 of the agenda for the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2019-CoC16–08b_Rev1	Summary report on possible infractions observed under the Regional Observer Programme
IOTC-2019-CoC16–08b Add1	Identification of repeated infringements under the Regional Observer Programme
IOTC-2019-CoC16–09 Rev1	The IOTC Draft IUU Vessels List
IOTC-2019-CoC16–10 Rev1	Summary of Compliance with the drifting FADs Management Plans
IOTC-2019-CoC16–10 Add1 Rev1	Collection of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices Management Plans
IOTC-2019-CoC16–11	Summary report on Compliance Support Activities
IOTC-2019-CoC16–12	Implementation of Recommendations relevant to the Compliance Committee
IOTC-2019-CoC16-13	Clarifications on the IUU Vessels cross-listing procedures
IOTC-2019-WPICMM02-R	Report of the Second Session of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR01	Australia
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR02_Rev1	Bangladesh

IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR03	China
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR04	Comoros
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR05	Eritrea
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR06	European Union
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR07	France (territories)
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR08	India
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR09_Rev1	Indonesia
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR10	Iran, Islamic Republic of
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR11_Rev1	Japan
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR12	Kenya
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR13	Korea, Republic of
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR14	Madagascar
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR15	Malaysia
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR16	Maldives
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR17	Mauritius
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR18	Mozambique
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR19	Oman
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR20_Rev1	Pakistan
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR21	Philippines
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR22	Seychelles
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR23	Sierra Leone
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR24_Rev1	Somalia
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR25	South Africa
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR26	Sri Lanka
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR27	Sudan
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR28	Tanzania, United Republic of
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR29	Thailand
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR30	United Kingdom (territories)
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR31	Yemen
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR32	Liberia
IOTC-2019-CoC16–CR33	Senegal

16th Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance

IOTC–2019–SCAF16–01b	Annotated draft agenda for SCAF16 (13 May).
IOTC–2019–SCAF16–02	List of documents.
IOTC–2019–SCAF16–03	Report of the IOTC Secretariat on the year 2018.
IOTC–2019–SCAF16–04_Rev1	Financial Statement for 2018.
IOTC–2019–SCAF16–05_Rev1	Contributions Outstanding.
IOTC–2019–SCAF16–06	IOTC Meeting Participation Fund: 2020 expected and 2021 proposal.
IOTC–2019–SCAF16–07	Provisional Program of work and budget for 2020 (and Indicative Budget for 2021).
IOTC–2019–SCAF16–08	Update on progress implementing the recommendations of the second performance review.
IOTC–2019–SCAF16–09	Proposed amendments to the IOTC Financial Regulations.
IOTC–2019–SCAF16–10	Report on the audit of the IOTC Secretariat by FAO.

23rd Session of the Commission

IOTC–2019–S23–01d	Draft agenda for S23 (v16June).
IOTC–2019–S23–02	List of documents.
IOTC–2019–S23–03	Progress on requests for action made by the Commission in 2018.
IOTC–2019–S23–05	Eligibility of chairpersons of IOTC working parties.
IOTC–2019–S23–06_Rev1	Progress on the implementation of performance review recommendations.
IOTC–2019–S23–07	Draft IOTC Agreement texts.
IOTC–2019–S23–08	Conservation and Management Measures requiring action by the Commission in 2019.
IOTC–2019–S23–09	Review of objections received under Article IX.5 of the IOTC Agreement.
IOTC–2019–S23–10_Rev1	IOTC Regional Observer Scheme standards.
IOTC–2019–S23–11	IOTC Strategic Science Plan 2020-2024
IOTC–2019–S23–12	Draft Letter of Agreement between IOTC and CCSBT

7th Working Party on Temperate Tuna (WPTmT): Data preparatory meeting

IOTC–2019–WPTmT07(DP)–03	Outcomes of the 21st Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTmT07(DP)–04	Outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTmT07(DP)–05	Review of current Conservation and Management Measures relating to temperate tuna species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTmT07(DP)–06	Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPTmT06 (IOTC Secretariat)

IOTC–2019–WPTmT07(DP)–07	Review of the statistical data available for the neritic albacore (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTmT07(DP)–08	Revision of the WPTmT Program of Work (2020–2024) (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019– WPTmT07(DP)–19	Collaborative study of albacore tuna CPUE from multiple Indian Ocean longline fleets in 2019 (Hoyle S, Chassot E, Fu D, Kim D N, Lee S I, Matsumoto T, Satoh K, Wang S-P, Yeh Y-M, and Kitakado T.)

9th Session of the IOTC Working Party on Neritic Tunas

IOTC–2019–WPNT09–03	Outcomes of the 21st Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPNT09–04	Outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPNT09–05	Review of current Conservation and Management Measures relating to neritic tuna species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPNT09–06	Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPNT08 and SC21 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPNT09-07	Review of the statistical data available for the neritic tuna species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPNT09–08	Revision of the WPNT Program of Work (2020–2024) (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPNT09–15	Improving data limited methods for assessing Indian Ocean neritic tuna species (Zhou S, Fu D, De Bruyn P and Martin S)
IOTC–2019–WPNT09–17	CPUE Standardisations for Neritic Tuna Speices Using Iranian Gillnet Data 2008–2017 (Fu D, Nergi S K, Rejaei F)

7th Working Party on Temperate Tuna (WPTmT): Assessment meeting

IOTC–2019–WPTmT07(AS)–03	Revision of the WPTmT Program of Work (2020–2024) (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTmT07(AS)–10	Collaborative study of albacore tuna CPUE from multiple Indian Ocean longline fleets in 2019. (Hoyle S D, Fu D, Kim D-N, Lee S-I, Matsumoto T, Satoh K, Wang S-P, and Kitakado T)
IOTC–2019–WPTmT07(AS)–INF02	Allometric curve for the Indian Ocean albacore. (Kitakado T. Fiorellato F. and de Bruyn P)

15th Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch

IOTC–2019–WPEB15–03	Outcomes of the 21st Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPEB15–04	Outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPEB15–05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to ecosystems and bycatch (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPEB15–06	Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPEB14 and SC21 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPEB15–07	Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for ecosystems and bycatch species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPEB15–08	Update on the implementation of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPEB15–09	Status of development and implementation of National Plans of Action for seabirds and sharks, and implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPEB15–10	Revision of the WPEB Program of Work (2020–2024) (IOTC Secretariat & Chairperson)
IOTC-2019–WPEB15–16	The second progress report on the implementation of the IOTC bigeye thresher shark post-release mortality study project (IOTC BTH PRM Project)
IOTC-2019-WPEB15–INF02	Draft ecoregions for the IOTC convention area, proposed in preparation for the 2019 IOTC Ecoregions Workshop: "Identification of regions in the IOTC convention area to inform the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management" (Nieblas, A-E, Juan Jorda M-J, Murua H, Fiorellato F and de Bruyn P.)

17th Session of the IOTC Working Party on Billfish

IOTC–2019–WPB17–03	Outcomes of the 21st Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPB17–04	Outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPB17–05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPB17–06	Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPB16 and SC21 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPB17–07	Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for billfish species (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPB17–08	Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2020–2024) (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPB17–24	Assessment of Indian Ocean Indo-Pacific Sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*) using catch-only methods. (Fu D)

10th Working Party on Methods

IOTC–2019–WPM10–03	Outcomes of the 21st Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPM10–04	Outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPM10–05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relating to methods (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPM10–06	Progress on the recommendations of WPM09 and SC21 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPM10–07	Revision of the WPM Program of Work (2020–2024) (IOTC Secretariat & Chairpersons)
IOTC–2019–WPM10–12	Updates on the Indian Ocean swordfish management strategy evaluation: initial testing of candidate management procedures (Rosa D, Mosqueira I, Fu D and Coelho R)
IOTC–2019–WPM10–16	Collaborative study of bigeye and yellowfin tuna CPUE from multiple Indian Ocean longline fleets in 2019, with consideration of discarding (Hoyle S et al.)
IOTC–2019–WPM10–17	Application of a multivariate lognormal approach to estimate uncertainty about the stock status and future projections for Indian Ocean Yellowfin tuna (Winker H, Walter J, Cardinale M and Fu D)

21st Session of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas

IOTC–2019–WPTT21–03	Outcomes of the 21st Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTT21–04	Outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTT21–05	Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to tropical tunas (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTT21–06	Progress made on the recommendations of WPTT20 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTT21–07	Outcomes of the 3rd Session of the Technical Committee on management Procedures (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTT21–08	Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for tropical tunas (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTT21–09	Revision of the WPTT Program of Work (2020–2024) (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPTT21–47	Evaluation of the potential impact of catch underreporting on yellowfin stock assessment using exploratory scenarios of catch history (Merino G, Fu D, Geehan J, Urtizberea A, Santiago J, Murua H)
IOTC–2019–WPTT21–50	Preliminary Assessment of Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna 1950-2018 (Stock Synthesis, v3.30). (Urtizberea A, et al.)
IOTC–2019–WPTT21–61	Preliminary Indian Ocean Bigeye Tuna Stock Assessment 1950-2018 (Stock Synthesis). (Fu D).

15th Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics

IOTC–2019–WPDCS15–03	Outcomes of the 21st Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPDCS15–04	Outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPDCS15–05	Review of current Conservation and Management Measures relating to the WPDCS (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPDCS15–06	Progress on the recommendations of WPDCS14 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPDCS15–07	Report on IOTC Data Collection and Statistics (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPDCS15–08	IOTC capacity building activities in support of developing coastal IOTC CPCs (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–WPDCS15–09	Revision of the WPDCS Program of Work (2020–2024) (IOTC Secretariat, Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson)
IOTC-2019-WPDCS15–10	Alternative approaches to the revision of official species composition for the Spanish log-associated catch-and-effort data for tropical tuna species in 2018 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC-2019-WPDCS15–11	Assigning DOIs to publically-accessible IOTC documents and their publication on the open-access data repository Zenodo (Nieblas A-E, Fiorellato F, Blondel E, de Bruyn P and Barde J)

21st Session of the Scientific Committee

IOTC–2019–SC22–03	Outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–SC22–04	Previous decisions of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–SC22–05	Report of the Secretariat – Activities in support of the IOTC science process in 2019 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–SC22–06	Status of development and implementation of national plans of action for seabirds and sharks, and implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–SC22–07	2019: Update on the implementation of the regional observer scheme (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–SC22–08	2019: Update on progress regarding Resolution 09/01 – on the performance review follow–up (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–SC22–09	Revision of the program of work (2020–2024) for the IOTC science process (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–SC22–10	Proposed schedule of Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2020 and 2021 (IOTC Secretariat)
IOTC–2019–SC22–11	Progress on recommendations from SC21 (IOTC Secretariat)

2nd Technical Committee on Performance Review

IOTC-2019-TCPR02-01	Draft: Agenda for the 2nd Technical Committee on Performance Review
IOTC-2019-TCPR02-02	Implementation of PR2 actions by bodies of the Commission
IOTC-2019-TCPR02-03	Draft IOTC Agreement text
IOTC-2019-TCPR02-04	Matters relating to putting a new Agreement in place – a discussion document

APPENDIX 3
ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

CMM	Conservation and Management Measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CNCP	Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, of the IOTC
CoC	Compliance Committee
CPs	Contracting Parties
CPCs	Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
MPF	Meeting participation fund
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
OFCF	Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan
SC	Scientific Committee
SCAF	Standing Committee on Administration and Finance
TCAC	Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria
TCMP	Technical Committee on Management Procedures
TCPR	Technical Committee on Performance Review
WPB	Working Party on Billfish
WPDCS	Working Party on Data Collection & Statistics
WPEB	Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch
WPICMM	Working party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures
WPM	Working Party on Methods
WPNT	Working Party on Neritic Tunas
WPTmT	Working Party on Temperate tunas
WPTT	Working Party on Tropical Tunas