

## REVISION OF THE WPDCS PROGRAM OF WORK (2021–2025)

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### Purpose

To ensure that participants at the 16<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS16) revise the Program of Work for the WPDCS by taking into consideration the specific requests of the Commission and Scientific Committee.

### Background

At the 21st Session of the SC:

(Para. 219) The SC noted paper IOTC–2018–SC21–09 which provided the Scientific Committee (SC) with a proposed Program of Work for each of its Working Parties (WP), including prioritisation of the elements requested by each WP.

(Para. 220) 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 35a-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 Commission at its next Session.

(Para. 223) The SC noted that the consolidated table of priorities does not replace the full programme of work of each Working Party (Appendix 35a-g) and that adequate attention and focus should still be allocated to those activities where possible. The SC further noted that Table 5 has been developed by the SC and WP Chairs to provide more specific direction to the IOTC Secretariat and the SC Chair as to the priorities of the SC so that, if and when external funding becomes available intersessionally, it is possible to clearly prioritise across all WPs based on the objectives of the SC (as agreed in IOTC–2014–SC17–R, para. 179).

(Para. 225) The SC noted Table 5 outlining the highest priorities from each WP in terms of funding requirements. The complete set of research priorities identified (and ranked according their importance) by each WP are detailed more fully in **Appendix 35a-g**.

### Discussion

Participants at the WPDCS16 are requested to consider the priorities set by the Commission and the Scientific Committee, via Conservation and Management Measures, and revise its Program of Work to match those priorities.

### Recommendations

That the WPDCS:

1. **NOTE** paper IOTC–2020–WPDCS16–09, which encouraged the WPDCS to further develop and refine its Program of Work for 2021–2025 to align with the requests and directives from the Commission and Scientific Committee.
2. **RECOMMEND** a revised Program of Work for 2021–2025 to the Scientific Committee for its consideration and potential endorsement.

### Appendices

Appendix A: DRAFT: Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics Program of Work (2021–2025)

## Appendix A

### **DRAFT: Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics Program of Work (2021–2025)**

The Program of Work consists of the following, noting that a timeline for implementation would be developed by the SC once it has agreed to the priority projects across all of its Working Parties:

**Table 1.** Priority topics for obtaining the information necessary to deliver the necessary advice to the Commission.

Topic	Sub-topic and project	Priority ranking	Timing				
			2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1. Artisanal fisheries data collection	1.1 Assist the implementation of data collection and sampling activities of coastal fisheries in countries/fisheries insufficiently sampled in the past; priority to be given to the following fisheries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal fisheries of Indonesia</li> <li>• Coastal fisheries of I.R. Iran</li> <li>• Coastal fisheries of Pakistan</li> <li>• Coastal fisheries of Sri Lanka</li> <li>• Coastal fisheries of Kenya</li> </ul>	2					
2. Compliance with IOTC Data Requirements	2.1 Data support missions 2.2.1 Identification of indicators to assess performance of IOTC CPCs against IOTC Data Requirements; evaluation of performance of IOTC CPCs with those Requirements; development of plans of action to address the issues identified, including timeframe of implementation and follow-up activities required. Priority to be given to the following fisheries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pakistan</li> <li>• Indonesia</li> <li>• Sri Lanka</li> </ul>						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India</li> <li>Yemen</li> </ul>							
3.	IOTC Data access	3.1 Improving discoverability of IOTC scientific assets through standard metadata and DOIs		?				
4.	Improvement of scientific data for stock assessment purposes	4.1 Revision of PS size frequency and species composition data	4	?				
		4.2 Review of the extent of discarding practices in deep-freezing longline fleets	3	?				
5.	ROS – Support for the implementation of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme	5.1 ROS tools						
		5.1.1 Support the adoption of the ROS e-Reporting and ROS national database tools by countries not having any existing observer data collection and management system in place						
		5.2 ROS Regional Database						
		5.2.1 Incorporate all historical observer data currently available in other proprietary data formats (e.g. ObServe, ICCAT ST09 and other custom observer forms)						
		5.2.2 Implement dissemination best-practices for all data collected by the ROS Regional Database						
		5.3 ROS Electronic Monitoring Systems						
		5.3.1 Implement pilot EMS system on gillnet / coastal longline vessels for fleets insufficiently covered by on-board observers						
	5.4 Evaluate the combination of alternative data collection systems and protocols for the collection of scientific observer data		1					
				2021	2022	2023	2024	2025