

PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF WPNT10 AND SC23

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PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 11th 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 10th 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 23rd 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 WPNT11.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPNT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations and requests of the 10th 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 WPNT10.



APPENDIX I

Progress made on the Recommendations and Requests of WPNT10 and SC23

WPNT10 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPNT10	SC23 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC23	Progress/Comments
WPNT10.01 (para 15)	CONSIDERING point iii above, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that the reconstruction and re-estimation of historical catch series for neritic tuna and tuna-like species, at least for the major fleets known to target these species, be considered as a priority activity for future works of the group		None	Status: Ongoing. This is more suitable as a request to the relevant CPCs or to the Secretariat to work with the relevant CPCs to achieve this aim.
WPNT10.02 (para 101)	The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the WPNT Program of Work (2021–2025), as provided in Appendix VI		(Para 157) 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 and in accordance with the IOTC Strategic Science Plan 2020-2024. The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of each working party will ensure that the efforts of their respective working parties 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.	Status: Completed
WPNT10.03 (para 103)	WPNT10.03 (para 103) The WPNT NOTED that Kenya had expressed interest in potentially hosting the 10 th Session of the WPNT while Sri Lanka and Malaysia had expressed an interest in		(Para 166) The SC REQUESTED that the schedule of Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2021 and 2022 provided at Appendix 37 be communicated by	Status: Completed. The WPNT11 meeting is being held in June 2021

	potentially hosting the 11 th Session of the WPNT in 2021. However the global Covid-19 pandemic resulted in these plans being abandoned. The Secretariat will continue to liaise with CPCs to determine their interest in hosting these meetings in the future when this once again becomes feasible. The WPNT RECOMMENDED the SC consider early July 2021 as a preferred time period to hold the WPNT11 in 2021.		the IOTC SC Chairperson to the Commission for its endorsement.	
WPNT10.04 (para 104)	<p>The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC and Commission note the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 through the hosting of the WPNT in developing coastal State Contracting Parties (Members) of the Commission (Table 11). The WPNT NOTED that as the 2020 meeting was a virtual meeting, no MPF funds were required to facilitate the participation of scientists to the meeting. 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 	SC23.16 (Para 116)	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 <u>Draft</u> 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

	<p>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>			
WPNT10.5 (Para. 105)	<p>The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPNT10, 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 	SC23.03 Para. 132	<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 2020 (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

WPNT10 Report	WPNT10 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
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Para. 11	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–2021–WPNT11–06” for WPNT11 to address the progress of the recommendations and requests from the previous WPNT meeting.
Para. 18	CONSIDERING that the currently available information on fishing crafts as well as the list of authorized and active vessels provided by Indonesia for the concerned year does not reflect the presence of such new component in their fleets, the WPNT REQUESTED Indonesia to provide further updates on the matter to exclude any potential issues in data reporting	Update: Ongoing Indonesia to provide an update on this issue.
Para. 25	The WPNT NOTED that compliance with the mandatory data reporting obligations (in particular concerning catch-and-effort and size-frequency data) is particularly low for the majority of coastal fisheries catching neritic tuna species, despite the importance of this information for stock assessment purposes, and REQUESTED CPCs do their best to collect data and comply with IOTC data reporting requirements	Update Ongoing: The IOTC Secretariat will provide an update to status of the IOTC datasets to the WPNT during the presentation accompanying paper IOTC-2021-WPNT11-07.
Para. 28	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: The IOTC Secretariat continues to provide support to CPCs that require assistance.
Para. 33	The WPNT REQUESTED that the results of these projects be presented in due course during the next WPNT meetings, and used to further drive the identification of priority areas for the activities of the group.	Update: Ongoing: The Secretariat continues to work with these initiatives and CPCs to improve data collection. Due to the Covid pandemic, this work has been complicated due to travel restrictions. As such there has been less progress in the past annum than would have been hoped. The IOTC Secretariat will provide updates on the status of data submissions in document IOTC-2021-WPNT11-07.
Para. 94	The WPNT ADOPTED the OCOM management advice developed for longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>), Narrow-barred Spanish Mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>), and kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) as provided in the draft resource stock status summary – Appendix X, XII and IX, respectively and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary for the three species with the latest 2018 catch data, and for the	Update: Completed:

	summary to be provided to the SC as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration.	
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