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**DRAFT: AGENDA FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH:  
ASSESSMENT MEETING**

**Last updated: August 2021**

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**Date:** 6-10 September 2021

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Venue:** Virtual

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

**Chairs:** Dr Mariana Tolotti (EU, France)/Mr Mohammed Koya (India)

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chair)
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chair)
- 3. THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS**
  - 3.1. Outcomes of the 25th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.2. Outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.3. Review of the Conservation and Management Measures relevant to Ecosystems and Bycatch (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPEB16 (IOTC Secretariat)
- 4. REVIEW OF THE DATA AVAILABLE AT THE SECRETARIAT FOR BYCATCH SPECIES** (IOTC Secretariat)
- 5. REVIEW OF NATIONAL BYCATCH ISSUES IN IOTC MANAGED FISHERIES AND NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION** (sharks; seabirds; marine turtles) (CPCs and IOTC Secretariat)
  - 5.1. Updated status of development and implementation of NPOA for seabirds and sharks, and the implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations (CPCs)
  - 5.2. Species identification tools
- 6. STOCK ASSESSMENT FOR BLUE SHARKS**
  - 6.1. Review of indicators for blue shark (all)
  - 6.2. Stock assessment models (all)
  - 6.3. Review of the proposed stock assessment of blue shark (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 6.4. Recommendation and executive summary for blue shark (all)
- 7. REVIEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO SILKY SHARKS** (Chair)
  - 7.1. Presentation of new information available on silky sharks
  - 7.2. Review of all data available on silky sharks
- 8. NEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH SPECIES** (Chair)
  - 8.1. Review new information on the environment and ecosystem interactions and modelling, including climate change issues affecting pelagic ecosystems in the IOTC area of responsibility (all)
    - Impact of gears

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- Ecosystem approach to fisheries management
  - Climate change issues

## **9. BYCATCH, SPECIES INTERACTIONS, AND ECOSYSTEM RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR MARINE MAMMALS, SEABIRDS, AND SEA TURTLES**

9.1. All ETP species (all)

9.2. Other sharks and rays (all)

9.3. Marine mammals (all)

- Review new information on marine mammal biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- Development of management advice on the status of marine mammal species (all).
- Report on the IWC meeting on bycatch
- Collaboration with the IWC

9.4. Seabirds (all)

- Review new information on seabird biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)

9.5. Sea turtles

- Review new information on marine turtle biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)

## **10. WPEB PROGRAM OF WORK (RESEARCH AND PRIORITIES)**

10.1. Revision of the WPEB Program of Work 2021-2025 (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)

10.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPEB meeting (Chairperson)

## **11. OTHER MATTERS (Chair)**

11.1. Election of new Chairs for the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch

11.2. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chairperson)