

PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPTmT07

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 15 MARCH 2022

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 8th WPTmT(DP) with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous Working Party on Temperate Tunas (WPTmT07) meeting 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 7th Session of the WPTmT, participants agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the Secretariat on a range of issues. The subsequent table developed and agreed to by the WPTmT was provided to the SC for its endorsement.

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 A](#) 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 22nd to 24th Sessions, 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 A](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPTmT08(DP).

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPTmT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 7th Session of the WPTmT and consider whether revised recommendations need to be sent to the SC for its consideration.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Progress made on the recommendations of WPTmT07.](#)

APPENDIX A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPTmT07

WPTmT07 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPTmT07	SC Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC (2019, 2020 Or 2021)	Progress / Comments
WPTmT07(DP).01	<p>Review of data available at the Secretariat for temperate tuna species</p> <p>(para 20) NOTING that observer data for the Taiwanese deep-freezing longline fleet in the period 2012-2017 has been submitted to the IOTC Secretariat as highly aggregated <i>observer trip reports</i>, and ACKNOWLEDGING that no length-frequency information is available within said data, the WPTmT RECOMMENDED (see Resolution 11-04) Taiwan,China to provide more detailed information (as per IOTC ROS specifications) to its earliest convenience, as this data is considered of particular importance for the validation and understanding of recent changes detected in the length-frequency of albacore tuna (among others) reported by the Taiwanese fleet and could contribute to explain the decline in the proportion of smaller fish sampled for lengths by this same fleet.</p>			To be provided by the CPC

WPTmT07(DP) .02	<p>(para 23) ACKNOWLEDGING that the levels of coverage for length frequency data reported by Japan for its longline fleet exceed – in recent years – the minimum threshold of one sampled fish per metric ton (as per IOTC Resolution 15/02) the WPTmT also NOTED that length frequency data for years prior to 2008 were reported by Japan as 10x20 degrees grids, which is well below the minimum resolution of 5x5 degrees grids, and therefore further RECOMMENDED Japan to ensure that historical data to the expected level of resolution is provided to the IOTC Secretariat in the near future.</p>			To be provided by the CPC
WPTmT07(DP) .03	<p>Biological indicators, including age-growth curves and age-length keys</p> <p>(para 45) The WPTmT NOTED that the new LW relation derived by Dhurmeea et al (2016) is likely biased due to lack of small size data, thus the LW relation by Penny (1994) (South Atlantic) should be used again as a base case for stock assessments. As for the sensitivity, other LW relations including official IOTC observer data will be explored and the results provided by the middle of February 2019. These data, which are sourced from the Japanese observer program, cover a wider range of fish sizes and have larger sample sizes. The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that CPCs submit length-weight data to the IOTC secretariat, so that they may compile a database that represents spatial, seasonal, and sex-based variability in LW.</p>			To be provided by the CPCs

WPTmT07(DP).04	(para 108) The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPTmT07(DP), provided at Appendix 7 .			The recommendations from the WPTmT07(DP) were discussed at the WPTmT assessment meeting and noted in the appendix of that meeting report (IOTC-2019-WPTmT07(AS)-R)
WPTmT07.01	Revision of the WPTmT Program of Work (Para 83) The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the WPTmT Program of Work (2020–24), as provided at Appendix V.		(para. 138)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 . The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of each working party will ensure that the efforts of their respective working party is focused on the core areas contained within the appendix, taking into account any new research priorities identified by the Commission at its next Session.	The program of work has been incorporated into all SC meeting reports from 2019 – 2021.
WPTmT07.02	Date and place of the 8th and 9th Sessions of the WPTmT (para 89) The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that a data preparatory meeting (DP) and stock assessment meeting (AS) be held in the same year, with the data preparatory meeting being held between April and June and the assessment meeting in August or September. This would facilitate the provision of CPUE series using data from the previous year to the data preparatory meeting, while ensuring catch data for the previous year, which is due to be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat by the end of June each year, is available for use in the stock assessments. The exact dates and meeting locations will be confirmed and communicated by	SC22.16	(para. 80) The SC NOTED that the 2020 and draft 2021 calendars of working party meetings were approved by the Commission in June 2019, and the WPTmT is not scheduled to meet in either of these years. The SC NOTED the request by the chairs of the WPTmTs to hold an assessment meeting in April 2020 but AGREED that this would not be appropriate as the SC would not have an opportunity to review the WPTmT outputs prior to the Commission meeting in June 2020. The SC AGREED that it would be beneficial to hold an assessment preparatory meeting in 2020 or 2021; and to this end, the SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission consider approving an assessment preparatory meeting for the WPTmT in either of these years.	The meetings requested for 2022 have been accommodated in the current meeting agenda. The recommendation by the SC to have meetings in 2020 and 2021 were ultimately postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

	<p>the IOTC Secretariat to the SC for its consideration.</p> <p>i. WPTmT08(DP): Host to be decided. Meeting to be held between April and June 2022 (TBC).</p> <p>ii. WPTmT08(AS): Host to be decided. Meeting to be held between August and September 2022 (TBC).</p>			
WPTmT07.03	<p>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 7th Session of the WPTmT</p> <p>(para 90) The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPTmT07, provided in Appendix VI, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for albacore (Appendix IV).</p>	SC22.01	<p>(para. 117) The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the management advice developed for each tropical and temperate tuna species as provided in the Executive Summary for each species, and the combined Kobe plot for the four species assigned a stock status in 2019 (Fig. 1):</p> <p>Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) – Appendix 8</p>	<p>The advice from the WPTmT07 was taken into account when developing the stock status summary for albacore tuna from 2019 - 2021</p>