
AGENDA FOR THE 20TH WORKING PARTY ON BILLFISH

Updated: 23 August 2022

Date: 12–15 September 2022

Location: Online

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

Chair: Dr Denham Parker (South Africa); **Vice-Chair:** Dr Jie Cao (China)

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chairperson)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
3. **THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS**
 - 3.1. Outcomes of the 24th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.2. Outcomes of the 26th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.3. Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPB19 (IOTC Secretariat)
4. **NEW INFORMATION ON FISHERIES AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FOR BILLFISH**
 - 4.1. Review of the statistical data available for billfish at the Secretariat (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 4.2. New information on sport fisheries (all)
5. **MARLINS (Priority species for 2022: Blue marlin)**
 - 5.1. Review new information on marlin biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 5.2. Review of new information on the status of blue marlins (all)
 - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
 - Stock assessments
 - Selection of Stock Status indicators
 - 5.3. Development of management advice for blue marlins and update of species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee, including discussion on current catch limits as per standing IOTC Resolutions (all)
6. **INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH**
 - 6.1. Review new information on I.P sailfish biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 6.2. Review of new information on the status of I.P. Sailfish (all)
 - Available abundance indices
 - Stock assessments
 - Selection of Stock Status indicators
 - 6.3. Development of management advice for I.P. Sailfish and update of species Executive Summary for the consideration of the Scientific Committee, including discussion on current catch limits as per standing IOTC Resolutions (all)
7. **SWORDFISH**
 - 7.1. Review of new information on swordfish biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 7.2. Review of new information and indicators on the status of swordfish (all)
 - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
 - Other indicators
 - 7.3. Updates on the Management Strategy Evaluation for Swordfish

8. OTHER BILLFISHES (new information for informing future assessments)

- 8.1. Review of new information on other billfishes biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)

9. WPB PROGRAM OF WORK

- 9.1. Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2023–2027) (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 9.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPB meeting (Chairperson)

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1. Date and place of the 21st and 22nd Sessions of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 10.2. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 20th Session of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson)