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## **DRAFT: AGENDA FOR THE 18<sup>TH</sup> WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH: ASSESSMENT MEETING**

**Last updated: August 2022**

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**Date:** 5-9 September 2022

**Location:** Zoom

**Venue:** Virtual

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

**Chair:** Dr Mariana Tolotti (EU, France)

**Vice-Chairs:** Mr Mohammed Koya (India) and Dr Charlene da Silva (South Africa)

- 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 26<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.2. Outcomes of the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 WPEB17 (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. REVIEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO SHARKS** (Chair)
  - 6.1. Presentation of new information available on sharks (all)
  - 6.2. Shark research plans (all)
- 7. STOCK ASSESSMENT AND INDICATORS FOR SHARKS**
  - 7.1. Review of indicators(all)
    - Scalloped hammerhead
    - Oceanic whitetip
    - Pelagic thresher
    - Bigeye thresher
    - Other species
  - 7.2. Stock assessment model for scalloped hammerhead shark (all)
  - 7.3. Review of the proposed stock assessment of scalloped hammerhead shark (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 7.4. Recommendation and executive summaries (all)

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**8. NEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO 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)
- Ecosystems and climate
  - Impact of gears
  - Report on the gillnet bycatch mitigation workshop
  - Report on the Second ecoregions workshop

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

- 9.1. All bycatch 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);
- 9.4. Seabirds (all)
- Review new information on seabird biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)
  - Review of mitigation measures in Resolution 12/06
- 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 2023-2027 (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. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chairperson)