

PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF WPM12 AND SC24

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PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 13th Working Party on Methods (WPM13) with an update on the progress made in implementing those recommendations from the previous WPM 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 12th Session of the WPM, participants agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the IOTC Secretariat on a range of issues. The subsequent table developed and agreed to by the WPM was provided to the SC for its endorsement at its meeting in December 2021.

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 WPM12.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPM **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations and requests of the 12th Session of the WPM, 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 WPM12

APPENDIX I

Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPM12 and SC24

WPM12 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPM07	SC24 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC24	Progress/Comments
WPM012.01	(Para. 82) The WPM RECOMMENDED that the SC should consider adopting these guidelines (Appendix IV) for dealing with exceptional circumstances while further NOTING that these guidelines are a living document and revisions may still be required in the future. The WPM NOTED these guidelines should provide a basis for the consideration of exceptional circumstances in future IOTC resolutions on the adoption of management procedures.	SC24.17	(para. 114) The SC NOTED the guidelines included as Appendix 6a to this report to deal with exceptional circumstances in the MSE process. The SC further NOTED that these guidelines are a living document and revisions may still be required in the future. The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission consider and endorse the guidelines.	Update: The Commission ENDORSED the Scientific Committee's 2021 list of recommendations as its own.
WPM012.02	Revision of the WPM Program of work (2022–2026) (para.109) The WPM NOTED that the schedule is still ambitious but that the technical work could, in principle, be completed within the proposed timeframes with minor adjustments. The MSE schedule is included are included in Appendix V. The WPM RECOMMENDED that the SC consider the revised timetable and endorse it for consideration by the Commission		(para. 115) The SC NOTED the revised schedule of MSE work included as Appendix 6b to this report to provide the timeframe for the development of management procedures for key IOTC species. The SC NOTED that the revised MSE schedule is still ambitious but that the technical work could, in principle, be completed within the proposed timeframes with minor adjustments. The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission consider and endorse the revised timetable.	Update: Completed.
WPM012.03	(para.114) The WPM RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider and endorse the WPM Programme of Work (2021–2025), as provided in Appendix IV.		(para. 176) 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	Update: Completed.

			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.	
WPM12.04	<p><i>Date and place of the 12th and 13th sessions of the WPM</i></p> <p>(para 116) The WPM NOTED that the global Covid-19 pandemic has complicated international travel and with no clear end to the pandemic in sight, it was not possible to finalise arrangements for the meeting in 2022. The Secretariat will continue to liaise with CPCs to determine their interest in hosting these meetings in the future when this becomes feasible. The WPM RECOMMENDED the SC consider mid October 2022 as a preferred time period to hold the WPM13. As usual it was also AGREED that this meeting should continue to be held back-to-back with the WPTT, with the WPM taking place before the WPTT.</p>			Update: Completed
WPM12.05	<p><i>Development of priorities for Invited Expert(s) at the next WPM meeting</i></p> <p>(para 118) Given the importance of external peer review, the WPM RECOMMENDED that the Commission continues to allocate sufficient budget for a regular invited expert to be invited to meetings of the WPM.</p>		(para. 145) Given the importance of external independent review for working party meetings, the SC RECOMMENDED the Commission continues to allocate sufficient budget for invited scientific experts to be regularly invited to scientific working party meetings.	Update: Completed.
WPM12.06	<p><i>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 12th Session of the WPM</i></p> <p>(para. 124) The WPM RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated</p>			Update: Completed

	set of recommendations arising from WPM12, provided in Appendix VII.			
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WPM12 Report	WPM12 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
Para. 51	<p><i>Swordfish MSE Update</i></p> <p>The WPM REQUESTED the swordfish MSE developers to obtain from WPB a range of possible scenarios of implementation error for this stock and fisheries.</p>	<p>Update: Ongoing. The developers presented the updates to the WPB in 2022 and will provide feedback to the WPM</p>
Para. 113	<p><i>Revision of the WPM Program of work (2022–2026).</i></p> <p>The WPM REQUESTED that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the WPM, in consultation with the IOTC Secretariat, develop Terms of Reference (ToR) for each of the projects detailed on the WPM Programme of Work (2022–2026) that are yet to be funded, for circulation to potential funding bodies.</p>	<p>Update: Ongoing.</p>
Para. 115	<p>The WPM reviewed the progress of the MSE work conducted to date, and subject to the comments held in this report, endorsed the MSE conducted thus far and REQUESTED additional work to address the reviewed comments made.</p>	<p>Update: Ongoing. To be presented during the WPM in 2022.</p>