



PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPDCS17

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, LAST UPDATED: 23RD NOVEMBER 2022

Purpose

To provide participants at the 18th Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS18) with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous WPDCS, which were endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC), and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants.

Background

At the 17th Session of the WPDCS, 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 WPDCS was provided to the SC for its endorsement at its 2021 meeting.

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) to carry out other technical activities of relevance to the Commission.

Noting the core tasks of the SC, and hence the WPDCS, participants are reminded that any recommendations developed during a Session, must be carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e., a specific CPC of the IOTC, the Secretariat, another subsidiary body of the Commission or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time from for delivery of the action (i.e., by the next working party meeting, or other date).

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 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 A](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPDCS17.

Recommendation

That the WPDCS:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2022-WPDCS18-06 which detailed the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the WPDCS17, taking into consideration the recommendations from the SC and decisions of the Commission;
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary, the recommendations, and for these to be combined with any new recommendations arising from the WPDCS18, noting that these will be provided to the SC for their endorsement.

Appendices

Appendix A: Progress made on the recommendations of WPDCS17

Appendix B: Updates and progress on data-related matters following the WPDCS17

Appendix A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPDCS17

WPDCS17 Rec. no.		SC24	Response / follow-up by the SC24	S26	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS18
WPDCS17.01 (para. 82)	<p><i>Extraction of UK catch data from historic EU catch data</i></p> <p>The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider and endorse the process outlined in document IOTC-2021-WPDCS17-19 regarding the re-labelling of historical EU,GBR statistical data assets held and disseminated by the IOTC Secretariat</p>		Update: None		Update: None
WPDCS17.02 (para. 101)	<p><i>Draft report on the review of re-estimation methodology of Indonesia's annual tuna catch data in IOTC for 2017-2019</i></p> <p>Therefore NOTING the unusual variabilities in some of Indonesia's official catch statistics prior to the implementation of One Data in 2017, particularly in the case of neritic and tropical tuna species, the WPDCS REQUESTED that Indonesia undertake work – in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat – to reassess their official catches (for the period 2010-2016) to ensure consistency and coherence in the longer-term catch series available for management and stock assessment purposes and RECOMMENDED that the</p>	Para 130	Update: The SC CONGRATULATED Indonesia's progress adopting novel approaches to data collection and analysis at national level, ACKNOWLEDGED that the implementation of initiatives such as the e-logbook and streamlining of procedures for the collection and validation of data are expected to lead to long-term improvements in the quality of Indonesia's official fisheries statistics and ENDORSED the request that the IOTC Secretariat collaborate with Indonesia to reassess their official data and ensure consistency and coherence in the longer-term catch series for management and stock assessment purposes.		Update: None

WPDCS17 Rec. no.		SC24	Response / follow-up by the SC24	S26	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS18
	Scientific Committee endorse this process.				
WPDCS17.03 (para. 116)	Data reporting (to the Secretariat) The WPDCS therefore RECOMMENDED that work is undertaken to test an alternative, more flexible, matrix-based approach developed by FAO, to help refine the characterization of fisheries in IOTC at the national and regional level, and NOTED that a number of CPCs (including Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) expressed their interest in participating in these studies.		Update: None		Update: None
WPDCS17.04 (para. 118)	Resolution 15/02 On mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) NOTING the difficulty for some CPCs to fulfil the mandatory requirement of sampling at least 1 fish per metric ton of catch (by species and gear), particularly in the case of bycatch species that are brought onboard alive and whose handling might put the safety of crew members at risk (e.g., sharks), the WPDCS RECOMMENDED the Scientific Committee to further discuss this issue to ensure that CPCs are not penalized from		Update: None		Update: None

WPDCS17 Rec. no.		SC24	Response / follow-up by the SC24	S26	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS18
	a compliance perspective when the above circumstances arise in their fisheries.				
WPDCS17.05 (para. 145)	<p>Resolution 15/01 On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence</p> <p>The WPDCS NOTED that silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>) is a bycatch species frequently interacted with by the gillnet fisheries operating in the Indian Ocean and therefore RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee discuss its inclusion in the list of 'other' species for which information should be recorded by gillnet fisheries (paragraph 2.3 of Resolution 15/01).</p>	Para. 137	<p>In particular, the SC NOTED that the following specific clarifications required in the various Resolutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that Silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>) be included in the list of "other" species appearing in the gillnet table in Section 2.3 of Annex II of Res. 15/01 		Update: None
WPDCS17.06 (para. 175)	<p>Resolution 19/02 Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan</p> <p>For this reason, the WPDCS RECOMMENDED the Scientific Committee to finalize the work required to improve current definitions of FAD and FAD activities used by the IOTC, in collaboration with the WPTT and WGFAD.</p>	Para. 107	The SC RECOMMENDED the Commission endorse the process to improve current definitions of FAD types and FAD activities used by the IOTC, to be conducted by the WPTT and WGFAD.		Update: None
WPDCS17.07 (para. 203)	Update from the consultancy on the development and Implementation of an Observer Training Programme to	Para. 138	The SC NOTED that Japan expressed their interest to participate as reviewer in the peer-review process leading to the		Update: None

WPDCS17 Rec. no.		SC24	Response / follow-up by the SC24	S26	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS18
	<p>support the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme</p> <p>Finally, in order to overcome the practical issues and delays introduced by the onset of the CoViD-19 pandemic and to further guarantee that OTP materials and standards be fully developed, the WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee endorse the proposed process for their revision and finalization, that calls the IOTC Secretariat, the service provider, external peer-reviewers and international experts to contribute to the consolidation of the final outputs in the intersessional period.</p>		<p>finalization of the ROS Observer Training Programme's outputs, in particular for what concerns the expected updates to the data collection and reporting requirements.</p>		
<p>WPDCS17.08 (para. 217)</p>	<p>Outcomes of the 1st ad hoc IOTC WGEMS - Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems</p> <p>For the reasons above, the WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee continue discussing the terms of references of the group and its continuation in the future, while CONSIDERING the possibility of moving the WGEMS under the direct responsibility of the Scientific Committee.</p>	<p>SC24.22 (para. 143)</p>	<p>The SC NOTED the outcomes of the 1st ad-hoc IOTC WGEMS and RECOMMENDED the Commission endorse its continuation in the future and for the Commission to discuss if the WGEMS should remain under the WPDCS or report directly to the SC or CoC. The SC ENDORSED the Terms of Reference and Plan of Work for the WGEMS.</p>	<p>Para 28</p>	<p>The Commission NOTED the recommendation by the SC to endorse the continuation of the WGEMS in the future and for the Commission to discuss if the WGEMS should remain under the WPDCS or report directly to the SC or CoC. The Commission also NOTED that the Terms of Reference and Plan of Work for the WGEMS as endorsed by the SC. The Commission AGREED that the WGEMS should continue to work under the WPDCS at this time.</p>

WPDCS17 Rec. no.		SC24	Response / follow-up by the SC24	S26	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS18
WPDCS17.09 (para. 238)	<p>IOTC-OFCF Project</p> <p>Therefore The WPDCS RECOMMENDED the Scientific Committee to endorse the signing of the agreement between FAO / IOTC and OFCF concerning the continuation of the IOTC-OFCF project in 2022.</p>	SC24.21 (para. 140)	The SC ACKNOWLEDGED the long-term relationship between the OFCF and the IOTC to improve the collection, management and reporting of fisheries statistics and RECOMMENDED the Commission consider the continuation of this collaboration through an appropriate arrangement	Para. 113-114	<p>The Commission AGREED on the text of the instruments (available [here]) and REQUESTED that these be sent to the respective organisations for their consideration.</p> <p>The Commission AGREED that, if required, the Executive Secretary and the Chairperson can liaise between the organisations on any further un-substantive amendments to the instruments, and if they are not substantive, the Executive Secretary shall sign the instruments on behalf of the Commission once they are approved. The final texts of the instruments will be made available [here].</p>
WPDCS17.10 (para. 250)	<p>Revision of the WPDCS program of work 2022-2026</p> <p>The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider and endorse the WPDCS Program of Work (2022-2026), as provided at Appendix V.</p>	Paras. 175-176	<p>The SC NOTED IOTC–2021–SC24–08 which provided the SC with a proposed Program of Work for each of its working parties, including prioritisation of the elements requested by each working party.</p> <p>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.</p>		Update: None
WPDCS17.11 (para. 252)	<p>Revision of the WPDCS program of work 2022-2026</p>	SC24.20 (para. 139)	ACKNOWLEDGING that the workload of the Secretariat data team has increased markedly in recent years to manage an increasing number of datasets, provide more data		Update: None

WPDCS17 Rec. no.		SC24	Response / follow-up by the SC24	S26	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS18
	In light of the above, and NOTING also how the number of new working groups and working parties (now including data preparatory sessions) has increased markedly the workload of the Data Section of the Secretariat in recent years, the WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee discuss this resourcing issue and seek a solution from the Commission to address it.		outputs, and improve data access. The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission consider strengthening the capacity of the Secretariat's Data Group with the addition of an extra staff member.		
WPDCS17.12 (para. 260)	<i>Review of the draft, and adoption of the report of the 17th Session of the WPDCS</i> The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPDCS17, provided at Appendix VI .	Para. 128	The SC NOTED the report of the 17 th Session of the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (IOTC-2021-WPDCS17-R), including the consolidated list of recommendations provided as an appendix to the report.		Update: None

Appendix B

Updates and progress on data-related matters following the WPDCS17

WPDCS17 Report	WPDCS17 REQUESTS	Update / Progress
<i>IOTC Secretariat Report</i>		
Para. 35	The Secretariat NOTED that size-frequency data from industrial purse seine fisheries have been inconsistently reported in recent years, either as raw or extrapolated, and RECALLED that both raw size-frequency data and catch-at-size data (i.e., size data extrapolated for the whole fishery) should be reported to the Secretariat as they provide complementary sources of information for scientific analysis as well as information on the data processing (e.g., strata without samples), NOTING that the IOTC data form 4SF has been recently amended to enable the reporting of either raw or extrapolated data	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with the concerned CPCs (in particular EU,France, EU,Spain and Seychelles) to receive both raw and raised size-frequency data sets covering the longest period possible.</p>
<i>Dissemination of IOTC datasets and documents</i>		
Para. 53	The WPDCS WELCOMED the possibility that the IOTC Secretariat publicly shares the IOTC R libraries and their complementing datasets (the latter as standalone R data files, with spatio-temporal aggregation duly applied in agreement with the requirements of IOTC Resolution 12/02) and NOTED how the standardization approach fostered by the adoption of the IOTC R libraries will guarantee homogeneity and clarity when disseminating IOTC data across several media and products (IOTC data papers, website, reports, publications, dashboards, etc.).	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>The Secretariat is working on the decoupling of the R libraries from the IOTC databases.</p>
Para. 55	Finally, the WPDCS ACKNOWLEDGED that the proposed data browser will replace the IOTC Online Querying Services once its trial phase is successfully completed and all necessary adjustments are incorporated in the tool.	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>Some technical problems have been encountered during preliminary trials made to embed the data browser within the Content Management System (Drupal) used to manage the IOTC website.</p>

Para. 60	The WPDCS ACKNOWLEDGED that understanding price information may deliver useful insights into the drivers of patterns observed in IOTC catch histories, further NOTING that Australia has recently adopted the same approach that the FFA developed for collecting and using price information (e.g., for studying changes of targeting in longline fisheries) and that Australia would be keen to liaise with the Secretariat to share the data and approaches.	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>The Secretariat contacted the Natural Resource Economics section at ABARES to evaluate the interest of the price time series they manage and complement the price data collated by the FFA and now available from the IOTC website.</p>
Para. 61	The WPDCS NOTED that FAO has recently started collecting economic data from countries as part of their annual survey forms, including price data from capture fisheries, NOTING however that the response rate has been low and that some work of cleaning and harmonization is required. The WPDCS THANKED FAO for proposing to liaise with the IOTC Secretariat and collaborate on the curation of fish price data, including a review of historical data available.	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>The Secretariat initiated contacts with FAO to assess the availability and status of price data collected as per the surveys.</p>
Updates on national statistics systems		
Para. 82	The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider and endorse the process outlined in document IOTC-2021-WPDCS17-19 regarding the re-labelling of historical EU,GBR statistical data assets held and disseminated by the IOTC Secretariat.	<p>[Done]</p> <p>All historical fisheries data from EU,GBR have now been re-assigned to GBR (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) fleet in all IOTC databases. Clarifications are still required regarding how to handle historical data currently recorded for GBRT.</p>
Para. 101	Therefore NOTING the unusual variabilities in some of Indonesia's official catch statistics prior to the implementation of One Data in 2017, particularly in the case of neritic and tropical tuna species, the WPDCS REQUESTED that Indonesia undertake work – in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat – to reassess their official catches (for the period 2010-2016) to ensure consistency and coherence in the longer-term catch series available for management and stock assessment purposes and RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee endorse this process.	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>Indonesia is in the process of assessing and revising their data processing procedure for both artisanal and industrial fisheries. Staff from the data section of the Secretariat had two face-to-face meetings in Indonesia in July and November 2022 to provide technical assistance to Indonesia and the revised methodology will be presented at the WPDCS18 (see IOTC-2022-WPDCS18-27 – still pending submission).</p>
Review of data requirements in conservation and management measures relevant to the WPDCS		

Para. 116	The WPDCS therefore RECOMMENDED that work is undertaken to test an alternative, more flexible, matrix-based approach developed by FAO, to help refine the characterization of fisheries in IOTC at the national and regional level, and NOTED that a number of CPCs (including Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) expressed their interest in participating in these studies.	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>The FAO matrix for the characterization of fishing activities has been shared with the interested CPCs and results will be presented and discussed at the WPDCS18 (see IOTC-2022-WPDCS18-16).</p>
Para. 119	The WPDCS reiterated the REQUEST from the Scientific Committee that all CPCs with purse seine fisheries operating in the Indian Ocean provide their effort information as number of sets alongside any other effort unit specific to the various fishing modes (e.g., fishing days or hours searching), and RECALLED that this was requested not only for future submissions of catch and effort data but also for all historical records currently held by the IOTC Secretariat.	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with the concerned CPCs to assess the feasibility of re-exporting the historical time series of fishing effort expressed in both fishing hours and numbers of fishing sets, including information on the success/failure of the operation according to the fishers.</p> <p>IOTC form 3CE has been modified to facilitate the submission of multiple effort units and will be presented at the WPDCS18 (see IOTC-2022-WPDCS18-14)</p>
Para. 120	Similarly, the WPDCS reiterated the REQUEST from the Scientific Committee that all purse seine fisheries report size-frequency data both in raw (i.e., actual measurements) and in raised form (i.e., catch-at-size, if and when available) both for historical and for new submissions.	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with the concerned CPCs (in particular EU,France, EU,Spain and Seychelles) to receive both raw and raised size-frequency data sets covering the longest period possible.</p>
Para. 121	The WPDCS NOTED with concern that no update was provided by the EU regarding the expected revision of species composition of tropical tuna catches reported by the Spanish component of the EU purse seine fleet for the year 2018, and REQUESTED that the EU present the revised data and the methodology adopted for its revision no later than the next WPDCS in 2022.	<p>[No update]</p> <p>No information on the methodology used for processing the catches of the Spanish component of the EU purse seine fleet for 2018 has been provided to the Secretariat.</p>
Para. 122	Also, the WPDCS NOTED with concern that no size-frequency data was reported by the Spanish component of the EU purse seine fleet for the year 2020 and REQUESTED as a matter of urgency that EU,Spain provide the missing data at their earliest convenience.	<p>[No update]</p> <p>No geo-referenced size-frequency data have been submitted for the Spanish component of the EU purse seine fleet for 2020.</p>
Para. 168	NOTING that WWF has provided some size-frequency and CPUE data to the government of Pakistan, the WPDCS REQUESTED Pakistan to submit these data to the IOTC Secretariat at its earliest convenience.	<p>[No update]</p> <p>No geo-referenced catch and effort and size-frequency data have been submitted by Pakistan to the Secretariat.</p>

Para. 175	For this reason, the WPDCS RECOMMENDED the Scientific Committee to finalize the work required to improve current definitions of FAD and FAD activities used by the IOTC, in collaboration with the WPTT and WGFAD.	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>Following the 3rd IOTC ad hoc Working Group on FADs (October 2022), a small working group was set up to discuss the definitions and report back to the WPDCS18.</p>
<i>Regional Observer Scheme</i>		
Para. 212	The WPDCS REQUESTED that the new reporting templates be ADOPTED by the Scientific Committee as one of the two standard data reporting formats for the ROS, the other being the ROS XML format produced by the ROS e-tools.	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>A new version of the reporting templates will be presented at the WPDCS18.</p>