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## REVISION OF THE WPDCS PROGRAM OF WORK (2023–2027)

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, WPDCS CHAIRS, LAST UPDATED: 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

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### Purpose

To ensure that participants at the 18<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS18) revise the Program of Work for the WPDCS by taking into consideration the specific requests of the Commission and Scientific Committee.

### Background

At the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the SC:

(Para. 219) The SC noted paper IOTC–2018–SC21–09 which provided the Scientific Committee (SC) with a proposed Program of Work for each of its Working Parties (WP), including prioritisation of the elements requested by each WP.

(Para. 220) The SC noted the proposed Program of Work and priorities for the Scientific Committee 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 shall ensure that the efforts of their working party 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.

(Para. 223) The SC noted that the consolidated table of priorities does not replace the full programme of work of each Working Party (Appendix 35a-g) and that adequate attention and focus should still be allocated to those activities where possible. The SC further noted that Table 5 has been developed by the SC and WP Chairs to provide more specific direction to the IOTC Secretariat and the SC Chair as to the priorities of the SC so that, if and when external funding becomes available intersessionally, it is possible to clearly prioritise across all WPs based on the objectives of the SC (as agreed in IOTC–2014–SC17–R, para. 179).

(Para. 225) The SC noted Table 5 outlining the highest priorities from each WP in terms of funding requirements. The complete set of research priorities identified (and ranked according to their importance) by each WP are detailed more fully in **Appendix 35a-g**.

### Discussion

Participants at the WPDCS18 are requested to consider the priorities set by the Commission and the Scientific Committee, via Conservation and Management Measures, and revise its Program of Work to match those priorities.

### Recommendations

That the WPDCS:

1. **NOTE** paper IOTC–2022–WPDCS18–09, which encouraged the WPDCS to further develop and refine its Program of Work for 2023–2027 to align with the requests and directives from the Commission and Scientific Committee.
2. **RECOMMEND** a revised Program of Work for 2023–2027 to the Scientific Committee for its consideration and potential endorsement.

### Appendices

Appendix A: DRAFT: Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics Program of Work (2023–2027)

## Appendix A

### DRAFT: Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics Program of Work (2023–2027)

**Table 1.** Priority topics for obtaining the information necessary to deliver the necessary advice to the Commission.

Topic	Sub-topic and project	Priority ranking	Timings						
			2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
<b>1 Artisanal fisheries data collection</b>	<b>1.1</b> Implement a region-wide study focusing on the application of FAO methodology for the characterization of artisanal fisheries (Secretariat, CPCs)								
	<b>1.2</b> Assist the implementation of data collection and sampling activities for artisanal fisheries in countries / fisheries insufficiently sampled in the past. Priority to be given to the following fisheries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal fisheries of Indonesia</li> <li>• Coastal fisheries of India</li> <li>• Coastal fisheries of Bangladesh</li> <li>• Coastal fisheries of Pakistan</li> <li>• Coastal fisheries of I.R. Iran</li> <li>• Coastal fisheries of Kenya</li> <li>• Coastal fisheries of Somalia</li> <li>• Coastal fisheries of Sri Lanka</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>							
	<b>1.3</b> Enhance the use of electronic tools to support data collection in artisanal fisheries	<b>2</b>							
<b>1.3.1</b> Define minimum standards for artisanal fisheries data collection									
<b>1.3.2</b> Encourage and support sharing of experience and initiatives already implemented by IOTC CPCs in this regard									

2	<b>Evaluation of catch data uncertainties</b>	2.1	Review of historical catch data for all stocks being assessed in the following year to determine the level of uncertainty to be used for stock assessment and management procedures <sup>1</sup>	2						
3	<b>Compliance with IOTC data reporting requirements</b>	3.1	<p>Data support missions</p> <p><b>3.1.1</b> Drafting of indicators to assess performance of IOTC CPCs against IOTC Data Requirements; evaluation of performance of IOTC CPCs with those Requirements; development of plans of action to address the issues identified, including timeframe of implementation and follow-up activities required. Priority to be given to the following CPCs / fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indonesia</li> <li>• India</li> <li>• Pakistan</li> <li>• Oman</li> <li>• Sri Lanka</li> <li>• Somalia</li> </ul>							
		3.2	Workshops to clarify data reporting requirements <sup>2</sup>							
		3.3	Support the documentation of sampling protocols and processing <sup>3</sup>							
		3.4	Strengthen collaboration with the WGFAD to propose new terminology for FAD activities and types							
4	<b>Data access</b>	4.1	Improve discoverability of IOTC scientific assets through standard metadata and DOI <sup>4</sup>							
5		5.1	ROS e-tools							

<sup>1</sup> Secretariat / WPTT / WPM / national scientists / external experts

<sup>2</sup> Recommended by the CoC

<sup>3</sup> Secretariat to finalize the template, CPC to provide information

<sup>4</sup> Secretariat in collaboration with INTERREG project

<b>Support for the implementation of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme (ROS)</b>	<b>5.1.1</b> Support the adoption of the ROS e-Reporting and ROS national database tools by countries not having any existing observer data collection and management system in place						
	<b>5.2</b> ROS Regional Database						
	<b>5.2.1</b> Incorporate all historical observer data currently available in other proprietary data formats (e.g., ObServe, ICCAT ST09 and other custom observer forms)						
	<b>5.2.2</b> Implement dissemination best-practices for all data collected by the ROS Regional Database						
	<b>5.3</b> ROS Electronic Monitoring Systems						
	<b>5.3.1</b> Implement pilot EMS system on gillnet / coastal longline vessels for fleets insufficiently covered by on-board observers possibly by providing support through remote meetings until travel bans are lifted <sup>5</sup>						
	<b>5.3.2</b> Ad hoc Working Group on EMS programme standards, including workshops (in person / virtual, depending on the case)	<b>3</b>					
	<b>5.4</b> Evaluate the combination of alternative data collection systems and protocols for the collection of scientific observer data for artisanal and coastal fisheries, with an initial expert to develop protocols and guidelines for minimum data collection requirements in small-scale, artisanal, and coastal fisheries, including through EMS systems.						
	<b>5.5</b> Supporting intersessional work to finalize the outputs from the ROS Pilot Project training programme						
			<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>

<sup>5</sup> Sri Lanka EMS, training and setup of data exchange

