
PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF WPNT12 AND SC25

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PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 13th WPNT with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations developed by the previous Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT) 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 WPNT, participants also agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the IOTC Secretariat on a range of issues. This paper provides a summary of the progress made on this list of requests so that the working party can evaluate progress made and to agree on the next steps to be taken for each issue.

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 24th 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 WPNT11.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPNT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations and requests of the 12th Session of the WPNT, 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 WPNT12.



APPENDIX I

Progress made on the Recommendations and Requests of WPNT12 and SC25

WPNT12 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPNT11	SC25 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC25	Progress/Comments
WPNT12.01 (para 79)	The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the WPNT Program of Work (2023–2027), as provided in Appendix VI .	Para 180	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 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.	Status: Completed
WPNT12.02 (para 81)	The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPNT12, provided in Appendix XIII , as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each of the six neritic tuna (and seerfish) species under the IOTC mandate, and the combined Kobe plot for the species assigned a stock status in 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – Appendix VII ○ Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – Appendix VIII ○ Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – 	SC25.03 (para 161)	The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the management advice developed for each neritic tuna (and mackerel) species under the IOTC mandate, as provided in the Executive Summary for each species, and the combined Kobe plot for the three species assigned a stock status in 2022 (Fig. 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – Appendix 17 • Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – Appendix 18 • Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – Appendix 19 • Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) – Appendix 20 	Status: Completed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appendix IX Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) – Appendix X ○ Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) – Appendix XI ○ Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) – Appendix XII 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) – Appendix 21 • Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) – Appendix 22 	
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WPNT12 Report	WPNT11 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
Para 10	<p>The WPNT REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat continue to annually prepare a paper on the progress of the recommendations arising from the previous WPNT, incorporating the final recommendations adopted by the Scientific Committee and endorsed by the Commission.</p>	<p>Update: The IOTC Secretariat has prepared document “IOTC–2023–WPNT13–06” for WPNT13 to address the progress of the recommendations and requests from the previous WPNT meeting.</p>
Para 19-21	<p>The WPNT NOTED that high levels of catches of bullet tuna were still present in 2020, and RECALLED that these originate mostly from data reported by the purse seine fisheries of Indonesia and Thailand.</p> <p>In particular, the WPNT ACKNOWLEDGED that Thailand has recently (2018) introduced changes in their national collection systems which resulted in bullet tuna being reported disaggregated from other neritic species, as opposed to what generally done in the past.</p> <p>Considering the importance of improving the quality of catch estimates for bullet tuna and all other neritic tuna species, the WPNT REQUESTED Thailand to also extend the disaggregation process to years prior to 2018, and report back the results of this exercise to the next session of the WPNT.</p>	<p>Update: The IOTC Secretariat will provide updates on the status of data submissions by Thailand and all CPCs in document IOTC-2023-WPNT13-07.</p>

Para 24	<p>Additionally, the WPNT NOTED that geo-referenced catch-and-effort data are still unavailable or not reported according to IOTC standards for several important coastal fisheries such as those from India, Pakistan and Oman, and REITERATED its request that CPCs seek advice from the IOTC Secretariat to improve their national data collection and reporting processes.</p>	<p>Update: The IOTC Secretariat continues to provide support to CPCs that require assistance.</p> <p>The IOTC Secretariat will provide updates on the status of data submissions in document IOTC-2023-WPNT13-07.</p>
Para 38	<p>Finally, the WPNT REITERATED its request that CPCs facing issues with data collection and reporting, in particular for those fisheries interacting with neritic and seerfish species, seek support from the IOTC Secretariat by engaging in data compliance and support mission, and expressing their interest to participate to workshops and webinars specifically dealing with these matters.</p>	<p>Update: The IOTC Secretariat continues to provide support to CPCs that require assistance.</p> <p>The IOTC Secretariat will provide updates on the status of data submissions in document IOTC-2023-WPNT13-07.</p>
Para 57	<p>The WPNT NOTED that there are likely to be very few updates on the data provided in paper IOTC-2022-WPNT12-07 available for the stock assessments to be conducted next year with the exception of the additional data point for 2021. The WPNT NOTED that overall there is a lack of information and high levels of uncertainties in many catch series for neritic tuna species and REQUESTED that CPCs submit their data accurately and in a timely manner. The WPNT NOTED that data missions by the Secretariat to Indonesia and Oman may result in improvements to some catch series for neritic species.</p>	<p>Update: The IOTC Secretariat will provide updates on the status of data submissions in document IOTC-2023-WPNT13-07.</p>