
**DRAFT: AGENDA FOR THE 19TH WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH:
ASSESSMENT MEETING**

Last updated: August 2023

Date: 11-15 September 2023

Location: La Réunion, France

Venue: Hotel le Récif, La Saline-les-Bains

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 (Réunion time, GMT+4)

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** (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.1. Outcomes of the 25th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.2. Outcomes of the 27th Session of the Commission (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 WPEB18 (IOTC Secretariat)
- 4. REVIEW OF THE DATA AVAILABLE AT THE SECRETARIAT FOR BYCATCH SPECIES AND BYCATCH DATA ESTIMATION APPROACHES** (All)
- 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. Updated status of national fisheries and bycatch (CPCs)
- 6. REVIEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO SHARKS** (all)
 - 6.1. Presentation of new information available on sharks (all)
 - 6.2. Development of shark research work plan for scalloped hammerhead shark (all)
- 7. STOCK ASSESSMENT AND INDICATORS FOR SHARKS** (all)
 - 7.1. Review of indicators(all) for:
 - Silky shark
 - Porbeagle shark
 - Other species
 - 7.2. Stock assessment models (all)
 - 7.3. Recommendations and executive summaries (all)

8. NEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH SPECIES (all)

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
- Mitigation devices/techniques

8.2. Development of climate change work plan (all)

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

9.1. All bycatch species (all)

9.2. Other sharks and rays (all)

9.3. Mobulids (all)

9.4. Marine mammals (all)

- Review new information on marine mammal biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- Best practice guidelines for safe release and handling of cetaceans (all);
- Development of management advice on the status of marine mammal species (all)

9.5. Seabirds (all)

- Review new information on seabird biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)

9.6. Sea turtles

- Review new information on marine turtle biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)
- Review of indicators for sea turtles (all);

10. WPEB PROGRAM OF WORK (RESEARCH AND PRIORITIES) (all)

10.1. Revision of the WPEB Program of Work 2024-2028 (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. Election of new Chairs for the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (all)

11.2. Date and place of the 20th and 21st Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chair)

11.3. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 19th Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chairperson)