
AGENDA FOR THE 26TH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Last updated: 24 October 2023

Date: 4 - 8 December 2023**Location:** Hotel St Regis, Mumbai, India/Hybrid**Time:** 09:00 – 17:00 daily**Chair:** Dr Toshihide Kitakado (Japan)**Vice-Chair:** NA

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
3. **ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS** (Chairperson)
4. **DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE** (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 4.1 Outcomes of the 27th Session of the Commission.
 - 4.2 Previous decisions of the Commission
5. **SCIENCE RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE IOTC SECRETARIAT IN 2023** (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 5.1 Report of the Secretariat – Activities in support of the IOTC science process in 2023
6. **NATIONAL REPORTS FROM CPCs** (CPCs)
7. **REPORTS OF THE 2023 IOTC WORKING PARTY MEETINGS**
 - 7.1 IOTC–2023–WPNT13–R Report of the 13th Session of the Working Party on Neritic Tunas
 - 7.2 IOTC–2023–WPB21–R Report of the 21st Session of the Working Party on Billfish
 - 7.2.1 Swordfish stock assessment
 - 7.2.2 Revision of catch levels of Marlins under Resolution 18/05
 - 7.3 IOTC–2023–WPEB19–R Report of the 19th Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch
 - 7.3.1 Status of development and implementation of national plans of action for seabirds and sharks, and implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations
 - 7.3.2 Other matters
 - 7.4 IOTC–2023–WPTT25–R Report of the 25th Session of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas
 - 7.4.1 Skipjack tuna stock assessment
 - 7.4.2 Update on the WGFAD04 and WGFAD05
 - 7.4.3 Bigeye tuna MP considerations
 - 7.4.4 Other matters
 - 7.5 IOTC–2023–WPM14–R Report of the 14th Session of the Working Party on Methods
 - 7.5.1 Update on TCMP06
 - 7.5.2 Management Strategy Evaluation Progress
 - 7.6 IOTC–2023–WPDCS19–R Report of the 19th Session of the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics
 - 7.6.1 Update on WGEMS03
 - 7.6.2 Other matters
 - 7.7 Summary discussion of matters common to Working Parties (capacity building activities; connecting science and management, etc.)
 - 7.7.1 Data collection and capacity building
 - 7.7.2 Invited Expert(s) at the WP meetings
 - 7.7.3 Meeting participation fund
 - 7.7.4 IOTC species identification guides: Tuna and tuna-like species
 - 7.7.5 Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the SC and its subsidiary bodies

-
- 8. STATUS OF TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE RESOURCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN** (Chairperson)
- 8.1 Tuna – Highly migratory species
 - 8.2 Tuna and mackerel – Neritic species
 - 8.3 Billfish
- 9. STATUS OF SHARKS, MARINE TURTLES, SEABIRDS AND MARINE MAMMALS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN** (Chairperson)
- 9.1 Sharks
 - 9.2 Marine turtles
 - 9.3 Seabirds
 - 9.4 Marine mammals
- 10. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME** (IOTC Secretariat)
- 10.1 Consideration of Resolution 16/04 On the implementation of a Pilot Project in view of promoting the Regional Observer Scheme of IOTC
 - 10.1.1 Update on the Pilot Project approved by the Commission in 2017
- 11. PROGRAM OF WORK AND SCHEDULE OF WORKING PARTY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS** (IOTC Secretariat and Chairperson)
- 11.1 Progress on previous Recommendations from WPs and SC
 - 11.2 Program of Work (2024–2028) and assessment schedule
 - 11.2.1 Program of Work
 - 11.2.2 Assessment schedule
 - 11.2.3 Consultants
 - 11.3 Schedule of meetings for 2024 and 2025
 - 11.3.1 Data preparatory meetings
 - 11.3.2 Final meeting schedule
- 12 OTHER BUSINESS** (Chairperson)
- 12.1 Election of a Chair and a Vice-Chair for the next biennium (Chair and Secretariat)
- 13 REVIEW OF THE DRAFT, AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 26th SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE** (Chairperson)