

PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF WPM13 AND SC25

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PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 14th Working Party on Methods (WPM14) with an update on the progress made in implementing those recommendations from the previous WPM meeting 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 13th Session of the WPM, 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 WPM was provided to the SC for its endorsement at its meeting in December 2022.

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 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 I](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPM12.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPM **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations and requests of the 13th Session of the WPM, 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 WPM13

APPENDIX I

Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPM13 and SC25

WPM13 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPM07	SC25 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC24	Progress/Comments
WPM013.01	<p>Outcomes of the 26th Session of the Commission</p> <p>(Para 9) The WPM QUERIED whether it would be necessary to hold a virtual TCMP meeting early in the year if no MPs are considered ready for presentation to the TCMP that particular year. The WPM RECOMMENDED that the SC inform the Commission that no candidate MPs will be ready for consideration for adoption in 2023 and therefore the virtual TCMP meeting should not take place that year</p>	SC25.21	(para. 122) The SC QUERIED whether it would be necessary to hold a virtual TCMP meeting early in the year if no MPs are considered ready for presentation to the TCMP that particular year. The SC RECOMMENDED that there is no need to organize a virtual TCMP as no candidate MPs will be ready for consideration for adoption in 2023.	Update: No TCMP meeting was held in early 2023.
WPM013.02	<p>Review of intersessional meetings related to the IOTC MSE process</p> <p>(Para 15) The WPM THANKED the participants of the Working Party on Methods Management Strategy Evaluation Task Force meeting for their informative discussions and input on the technical aspects of MSE and related topics. The WPM NOTED that the output of this meeting remains very important to the WPM as it provides an informal forum for the highly technical discussions necessary to advance the MSE process in IOTC for which there is insufficient time during the WPM meeting. The WPM further RECOMMENDED that the SC endorse this meeting being included in the schedule of meetings for 2023.</p>			Update: Completed. The meeting was held in March 2023
WPM013.03	<p>Process for running Resolution 22/03 on Bigeye MP</p> <p>(Para 34) The WPM NOTED that the application of the bigeye management procedure resulted in a</p>	SC25.18	(para. 98) The SC NOTED that the application of the bigeye management procedure resulted	Update: Completed. Resolution 23/04 On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the

WPM013.04	<p>recommended TAC of 80,583t per year for 2024 and 2025, which requires a 15% catch reduction from the 2021 catch level. The WPM RECOMMENDED that the SC adopt the TAC advice from the MP.</p> <p>(Para 35) The WPM also NOTED that necessary catch reductions in other stocks have not been successfully implemented and RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee note this concern and recommend to the Commission that it address this issue to maximize the reliability of the BET MP.</p>	SC25.19	<p>in a recommended TAC of 80,583 t per year for 2024 and 2025, which requires a 15% catch reduction from the 2021 catch level. The SC RECOMMEND that the Commission endorse the calculated TAC for 2024 and 2025</p> <p>(para. 99) Given average catch of BET in the past 5 years being above the calculated TAC for 2024 and 2025 and the lack of effective implementation of catch limits for other stocks in the IOTC, the SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission ensure effective implementation of the bigeye management procedure recommended TAC, especially taking into consideration the current overfished and subject to overfishing status of the stock. The SC NOTED that respecting the BET TAC is especially important when taking into consideration the multi-species nature of the Tropical tuna fisheries and especially taking into account the existing catch limit for YFT and TAC for SKJ.</p>	<p><i>IOTC area of competence</i> was adopted by the Commission in 2023.</p> <p>Update: Ongoing</p>
WPM013.05	<p><i>Exceptional Circumstances</i></p> <p>(Para 40) The WPM NOTED that the preliminary stock assessment in 2022, which included new growth data or natural mortality scenarios, did not provide any new or different information about population trends or stock status with these being within the range of estimates from the MSE operating models. There were no major changes in fisheries or fishing operations. The catch data input to the MP is unchanged from past collation methods. The CPUE standardisation (for the series used in the MP) was not completed as specified because the operational data were not available (1 x 1 degree data were</p>		<p>[para. 100] The SC NOTED the consideration of exceptional circumstances for the Bigeye Tuna MP in 2022 were discussed extensively at WPM8 and WPTT24 and evidence reviewed included new biological parameters and fishery operations, input data, and a comparison of the estimated population trend in the assessment with operating models. The SC AGREED that the review of evidence for exceptional circumstances did not identify any reasons to change the advice on the TAC.</p>	<p>Update: Completed. The Commission did not revise the recommended TAC.</p>

	used instead), however, the recent CPUE points are within the 90% probability interval of the MSE operating models. Therefore, the WPM AGREED these changes were not considered as exceptional circumstances that require changes in the recommended TAC. THE WPM RECOMMENDED to the SC that the review of evidence for exceptional circumstances did not identify any reasons to change the advice on the TAC.			
WPM013.06	<p><i>Update on the development of the joint CPUE indices for 2023</i></p> <p>(Para 90) The WPM INQUIRED about the possibility of access to operational-level data be granted again in the future for this exercise. Contacts have been carried out to see if this could be the case next year. ACKNOWLEDGING the key role of the joint CPUE time series in the assessment of the stock status for yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, and albacore, the WPM RECOMMENDED that the SC endorse the use of operational-level data for the standardization of indices of abundance derived from longline CPUE time series.</p>			Update: Ongoing. No agreement reached to date.
WPM013.07	<p><i>Revision of the WPM Program of work (2023–2027)</i></p> <p>(para.95) The WPM RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider and endorse the WPM Programme of Work (2021–2025), as provided in Appendix IV.</p>		(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	Update: Completed.

			identified by the Commission at its next Session.	
WPM13.08	<p><i>Date and place of the 13th and 14th sessions of the WPM</i></p> <p>(para 97) The WPM NOTED that the global Covid-19 pandemic has complicated international travel and it was not possible to finalise arrangements for a physical meeting in 2022. The Secretariat will continue to liaise with CPCs to determine their interest in hosting these meetings in the future as the SC is encouraging a return to physical meetings in 2023. The WPM RECOMMENDED the SC consider mid October 2023 as a preferred time period to hold the WPM14. As usual it was also AGREED that this meeting should continue to be held back-to-back with the WPTT, with the WPM taking place before the WPTT.</p>			Update: Completed
WPM13.09	<p><i>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 13th Session of the WPM</i></p> <p>(para. 199) The WPM RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPM13, provided in Appendix V.</p>			Update: Completed

WPM13 Report	WPM13 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
Para. 22	<p><i>Albacore MSE Update</i></p> <p>The WPM NOTED that it is generally good practice to only use alternative approaches such as the ABC approach for conditioning when they have been widely tested and there is more literature about them. However, the WPM NOTED that albacore would provide a good example case for the application of ABC for OM conditioning, given that the generic model that has already been developed for multiple fleets. As such, the WPM REQUESTED that the developers progress with conditioning OMs for albacore using the ABC approach. The WPM further NOTED that funding for albacore</p>	Update: Ongoing. The developers will present the updates to the WPM in 2023 and will provide feedback to the WPTmT

	MSE work is currently only available until the end of 2023 which provides a time constraint on the work going forwards.	
Para. 48	<p>Swordfish MSE Update</p> <p>The WPM SUGGESTED that the developers further explore the reasons for these results and REQUESTED them to present this issue back to the WPM and SC, and that the use of other statistics to determine the performance of the OM against the tuning criteria could be investigated.</p>	Update: Ongoing. The developers will present the updates to the WPM in 2023 and will provide feedback to the WPB
Para. 81	<p>MSE Capacity Building</p> <p>The WPM NOTED that a MSE Capacity Building workshop for coastal states had been initially planned for November 2022, but no suitable date could be finalised. The WPM were informed that this workshop would likely take place in early 2023 and the WPM REQUESTED the Secretariat to keep the WPM informed of any developments.</p>	Update: Ongoing. A tentative workshop for September 2023 was ultimately postponed and will likely happen in early 2024.
Para. 194	<p>Revision of the WPM Program of work (2023–2027).</p> <p>The WPM REQUESTED that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the WPM, in consultation with the IOTC Secretariat, develop Terms of Reference (ToR) for each of the projects detailed on the WPM Programme of Work (2023–2027) that are yet to be funded, for circulation to potential funding bodies.</p>	Update: Ongoing.
Para. 96	<p>The WPM reviewed the progress of the MSE work conducted to date, and subject to the comments held in this report, endorsed the MSE conducted thus far and REQUESTED additional work to address the reviewed comments made.</p>	Update: Ongoing. To be presented during the WPM in 2023.