

---

## REVISION OF THE WPM PROGRAM OF WORK (2024–2028)

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 6 OCTOBER 2023

---

### PURPOSE

To ensure that participants at the 14<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Methods (WPM14) revise the Program of Work for the WPM by taking into consideration the specific requests of the Commission and Scientific Committee.

### BACKGROUND

#### *Scientific Committee*

At the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the SC:

(Para. 179) *The SC **NOTED** IOTC–2022–SC25–08 which provided the SC with a proposed Program of Work for each of its working parties, including prioritisation of the elements requested by each working party.*

(Para. 180) *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 and in accordance with the IOTC Strategic Science Plan 2020-2024. 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. 182) *The SC **AGREED** on the consolidated table of priorities across all Working Parties, as developed by each WP Chair, and **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair and vice-Chair of the SC and relevant Working Parties, develop ToRs for the specific projects to be carried out.*

#### *Commission*

At Sessions of the Commission, Conservation and Management Measures adopted contained elements that call on the Scientific Committee, via the WPM, to undertake specific tasks. These requests will need to be incorporated into a revised Program of Work for the WPM.

At the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission:

#### **Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP05)**

(Para. 46): *The Commission **NOTED** the report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) (IOTC-2023-TCMP06-R) and **ENDORSED** the following TCMP recommendation:*

- *The TCMP **NOTED** the recommendation by the SC that it is advisable to have focused dialogue with managers on those MSEs which are more advanced such as that for SKJ and SWO. The TCMP therefore **RECOMMENDED** that a virtual TCMP is convened early in 2024 with a special focus on the MSEs for SKJ and SWO, and that it be held back-to-back with the WPM(MSE) meeting.*

(Para. 77): *The Commission **SUPPORTED** the work conducted by the TCMP and its role in providing science-based advice for management. However, the Commission **AGREED** that the dialogue in the TCMP has become too technical and has limited the involvement of managers in recent years, as most of the discussions take place among the technical experts.*

(Para. 79). The Commission **REQUESTED** the MSE developers to communicate the results of their analyses in a less technical manner and **ENDORSED** the creation of a small working group to discuss and agree on ways to improve communication between the scientists and the managers. This could include modifying the existing templates for presentation of MSE outputs to increase understanding and better meet the needs of the managers.

## **DISCUSSION**

Participants at the WPM14 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the WPM:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2023-WPM14-07, which encouraged the WPM to further develop and refine its Program of Work for 2024-2028 to align with the requests and directives from the Commission and Scientific Committee.
- 2) **RECOMMEND** a revised Program of Work for 2024-2028 to the Scientific Committee for its consideration and potential endorsement.
- 3) **NOTE** Appendix B (Schedule of work for the development of management procedures for key species in the IOTC area) that has been **ENDORSED** by the SC in 2021.

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A:** Working Party on Methods Program of Work (2023-2027) – to be updated for 2024 - 2028

**Appendix B:** Schedule of work for the development of management procedures for key species in the IOTC area.

**APPENDIX A**  
**WORKING PARTY ON METHODS PROGRAM OF WORK (2023-2027)**

**Table 1.** Priority topics for obtaining the information necessary to deliver the necessary advice to the Commission. Resolution 15/10 elements have been incorporated as required by the Commission.

Topic	Sub-topic and project	Timing				
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1.	Continuation of Management Strategy Evaluation for Albacore, Skipjack, Yellowfin, Bigeye tunas as well as Swordfish					
	Peer review of BET MSE as per the ToRs endorsed by the SC					
<b>Future Research Requirements (not in order of priority)</b>						
	1.1 Albacore					
Management Strategy Evaluation	1.1.1 Revision of Operating Models based on WPM and SC feedback, including possible robustness tests					
	1.1.2 Implementation of simulation runs and presentation of results at the TCMP					
	1.1.3 Revision and evaluation of new set of Management Procedures after presentation of MP runs to TCMP and Commission (as needed)					

<p>1.1.5 External peer review</p>					
<p>1.2 Skipjack tuna</p>					
<p>1.2.1 Implementation of simulation runs and presentation of results at the TCMP</p>					
<p>1.2.2 Revision and evaluation of new set of Management Procedures after presentation of MP runs to TCMP and Commission (as needed)</p>					
<p>1.3 Bigeye tuna</p>					
<p>1.3.1 Presentation of MP application and exceptional circumstances and resulting TAC to the TCMP and Commission meeting</p>					
<p>1.3.2 External peer review</p>					
<p>1.3.3. Run MP, consider exceptional circumstances and provide the TAC advice</p>					
<p>1.3.4 Stock assessment to provide information on stock status</p>					
<p>1.4 Yellowfin tuna</p>					
<p>1.4.1 Update OM &amp; present preliminary MP results to TCMP, WPTT/WPM review of new OM</p>					
<p>1.4.2 Present revised MP results to TCMP; iteratively update development if required)</p>					
<p>1.4.3 additional iterations if required</p>					

<p>1.5 Swordfish</p> <p>1.5.1 Revision of Operating Models based on WPM and SC feedback, including possible robustness tests</p> <p>1.5.2 Implementation of simulation runs and presentation of results at the TCMP</p> <p>1.5.3 Revision and evaluation of new set of Management Procedures after presentation of MP runs to TCMP and Commission (as needed)</p>	
<p>Multiple stock status derived from different model structures</p> <p>3.1 Develop specific guidance for the most appropriate models to be used or how to synthesize the results when multiple stock assessment models are presented. (see <i>IOTC-2016-WPTT18-R, para.91</i>)</p>	
<p>Presentation of stock status advice for data limited stocks</p> <p>2.1 Explore potential methods of presenting stock status advice to managers from a range of data limited scenarios, e.g. through the development of a 'Tier' approach for providing stock status advice, based on the type of indicators used to determine stock status (e.g. CPUE series, stock assessment model)</p>	
<p>Peer Review</p> <p>External peer review based on Terms of Reference agreed to by the WPM and following the schedule recommended in Appendix V of the WPM12 report.</p>	

---

Capacity Building	Ongoing development of tools, materials and courses to continue Capacity Building for increasing participation in the MSE process					
-------------------	---	--	--	--	--	--

**Table 2.** Management Strategy Evaluation schedule for the IOTC Working Party on Methods (WPM) 2023-2027

Species	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
<i>Working Party On Methods</i>					
Albacore	Technical Guidance on MSE development				
Skipjack tuna	Technical Guidance on MSE development				
Bigeye tuna	Technical review				
Yellowfin tuna	Technical Guidance on MSE development				
Swordfish	Technical Guidance on MSE development				

Note: the assessment schedule may be changed dependant on the annual review of fishery indicators, or SC and Commission requests. ALB: albacore; BET: bigeye tuna; YFT: yellowfin tuna; SKJ: skipjack tuna.

**APPENDIX B**

**SCHEDULE OF WORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES FOR KEY SPECIES IN THE IOTC AREA**

*A more detailed explanation of the roles of the Working Parties (WPs), Scientific Committee (SC), Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) and the Commission are provided below*

Year	Albacore	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Swordfish
2021	<p><b>TCMP:</b> Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b> Provide advice to the Commission on outcomes from the application of the HCR.  Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b> Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b> Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b> Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p>
	<p><b>Commission:</b> Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need for further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs.</p>	<p><b>Commission:</b> Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs</p>	<p><b>Commission:</b> Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs.</p>	<p><b>Commission:</b> Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs.</p>	<p><b>Commission:</b> Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs.</p>
	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b> Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide</p>	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b> Consider recommendations from the Commission and</p>	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b> Consider recommendations from the Commission and</p>	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b> Consider recommendations from the Commission and</p>	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b> Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide</p>



	advice on the performance of candidate MPs.	undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs.	undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs.	undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs.	advice on the performance of candidate MPs.
<b>2022</b>	<p><b>TCMP:</b></p> <p>Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p> <p><b>Commission:</b></p> <p>Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need for further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b></p> <p>Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p> <p><b>Commission:</b></p> <p>Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b></p> <p>Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p> <p><b>Commission:</b></p> <p>Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b></p> <p>Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p> <p><b>Commission:</b></p> <p>Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies. Decision and adoption of an MP.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b></p> <p>Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p> <p><b>Commission:</b></p> <p>Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs.</p>

	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b></p> <p>Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs.</p>	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b></p> <p>Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs.</p>	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b></p> <p>Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs.</p>	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b></p> <p>Process and application of the adopted MP.</p>	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b></p> <p>Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs.</p>
2023	<p><b>TCMP:</b></p> <p>Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b></p> <p>Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b></p> <p>Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b></p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b></p> <p>Provide advice to the Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p>
	<p><b>Commission:</b></p> <p>Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs.</p>	<p><b>Commission:</b></p> <p>Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies. Decision and adoption of an MP.</p>	<p><b>Commission:</b></p> <p>Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs.</p>	<p><b>Commission:</b></p>	<p><b>Commission:</b></p> <p>Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies and provide direction to the WPs/SC on the need to undertake further MSE of candidate or alternative MPs.</p>
	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b></p>	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b></p>	<p><b>WPs/SC:</b></p>		<p><b>WPs/SC:</b></p>

	Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs.	Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs.	Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs.		Consider recommendations from the Commission and undertake MSE to provide advice on the performance of candidate MPs,
<b>2024</b>	<p><b>TCMP:</b> Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p> <p><b>Commission:</b> Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies. Decision and adoption of an MP.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b> Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p> <p><b>Commission:</b> Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies. Decision and adoption of an MP.</p>	<p><b>TCMP:</b> Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p> <p><b>Commission:</b> Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies. Decision and adoption of an MP.</p>		<p><b>TCMP:</b> Provide advice to Commission on elements of candidate MPs, and any proposed Resolutions for an MP, that require a decision by the Commission, including the performance of candidate MPs against Commission objectives.</p> <p><b>Commission:</b> Consider work and advice from subsidiary bodies. Decision and adoption of an MP.</p>