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## REVISION OF THE WPTT PROGRAM OF WORK

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 12 OCTOBER 2023

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### PURPOSE

To ensure that the participants at the 25<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT25) revise the Program of Work for the WPTT 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 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.
- (Para. 182) The SC **AGREED** on the consolidated table of priorities across all working parties, as developed by each working party Chairperson, and **REQUESTED** that the IOTC Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairpersons and vice-Chairpersons of the SC and relevant working parties, develop ToRs for the specific projects to be carried out.
- (Para. 183) The SC **NOTED** a request from a member to provide MSY and catch information by zone (and in particular by EEZ). The SC were informed by the Secretariat that the data provided by CPCs is not stratified by EEZ and therefore proportioning catch in this way is problematic. In addition, the SC **NOTED** that for highly migratory pelagic tuna species, providing MSY by region is not possible due to the high mobility of the species. As such any MSY estimate would not reflect the true abundance of the species in a region throughout the year or between years and that MSY only makes sense if provided across the entire range of a stock.
- (Para. 184) The SC **NOTED** that the consolidated table of priorities does not replace the full programme of work of each working party (Appendix 35a-g) and that adequate attention and focus should still be allocated to those activities where possible. The SC further **NOTED** that Table 3 has been developed by the SC and working party Chairs to provide more specific direction to the IOTC Secretariat and the SC Chair as to the priorities of the SC so that, if and when external funding becomes available intersessionally, it is possible to clearly prioritise across all working parties based on the objectives of the SC (as agreed in IOTC–2014–SC17–R, para. 179).

#### *Commission*

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

#### **Resolution 15/10 On target and limit reference points and a decision framework**

#### **Interim Target and Limit Reference Points (TRPs and LRPs)**

(para. 1) When assessing stock status and providing recommendations to the Commission, the IOTC Scientific Committee should, where possible, apply MSY-based target and limit reference points for tuna and tuna-like species and in particular the interim reference points agreed by the Commission in 2013 for albacore, swordfish and the three (3) tropical tunas (Bigeye tuna, Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna) (per Resolution 13/10 *On interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework*) [superseded by Resolution 15/10]), as listed in **Table 1**.  $B_{MSY}$  refers to the biomass level for the stock that would produce the Maximum Sustainable Yield;  $F_{MSY}$  refers to the level of fishing mortality that produces the Maximum Sustainable Yield.

**Table 1.** Interim target and limit reference points.

Stock	Target Reference Point	Limit Reference Point
Albacore		
Yellowfin tuna	$B_{TARGET} = B_{MSY}$ ;	$B_{LIM} = 0.40 B_{MSY}$
Swordfish	$F_{TARGET} = F_{MSY}$	$F_{LIM} = 1.40 F_{MSY}$
Bigeye tuna	$B_{TARGET} = B_{MSY}$ $F_{TARGET} = F_{MSY}$	$B_{LIM} = 0.50 B_{MSY}$ $F_{LIM} = 1.30 F_{MSY}$
Skipjack tuna	$B_{TARGET} = B_{MSY}$ $F_{TARGET} = F_{MSY}$	$B_{LIM} = 0.40 B_{MSY}$ $F_{LIM} = 1.50 F_{MSY}$

#### Alternate interim Target and Limit Reference Points

(para. 2) Where the IOTC Scientific Committee considers that MSY-based reference points cannot be robustly estimated, biomass limit reference points will be set at a rate of  $B_0$ . Unless the IOTC Scientific Committee advises the Commission of more suitable limit reference point for a particular species, by default, the interim  $B_{LIM}$  will be set at  $0.2 B_0$  and fishing mortality rate limit reference point at  $F_{0.2 B_0}$  (the value corresponding to this biomass limit reference point). These interim limit reference points will be reviewed no later than 2018.

(para. 3) Where the IOTC Scientific Committee considers that MSY-based reference points cannot be robustly estimated, target reference points based on the depletion proportion (i.e. reference points with respect to the ratio of current biomass to  $B_0$ ,  $B_0$  being the virgin biomass estimate) should be used as a basis for  $B_{TARGET}$  and  $F_{TARGET}$ , as follows:

- a) the interim biomass target reference point  $B_{TARGET}$  could be set at a ratio of  $B_0$ , the virgin biomass;
- b) the interim fishing mortality rate target reference point  $F_{TARGET}$  could be set at a level consistent with the target biomass reference point, the fishing mortality rate corresponding then to the adopted ratio of  $B_0$ , the virgin biomass).

(para.4) These target and limit reference points, referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, shall be further reviewed by the IOTC Scientific Committee according to the program of work at **Annex 1** and in accordance with paragraph 6. The results shall be presented to the Commission for adoption of species-specific reference points.

(para. 5) The IOTC Scientific Committee shall continue to provide advice on the status of stocks and on recommendations for management measures in relation to the reference points referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, where available, until the Commission adopts other reference points that achieve the IOTC's conservation and management objectives and are consistent with paragraph 6.

(para. 6) The IOTC Scientific Committee shall recommend to the Commission for its consideration options for harvest control rules for IOTC species in relation to agreed reference points and, in doing so, shall take into account:

- c) the provisions set forth in the UNFSA and in Article V of the IOTC Agreement;

- d) the following objectives and any other objective identified through the Science and Management Dialogue process designed in Resolution 14/03 [superseded by [Resolution 16/09](#)] (or any revision thereof) and agreed thereafter by the Commission:
- i. Maintain the biomass at or above levels required to produce MSY or its proxy and maintain the fishing mortality rate at or below  $F_{MSY}$  or its proxy;
  - ii. Avoid the biomass being below  $B_{LIM}$  and the fishing mortality rate being above  $F_{LIM}$ ;
- e) the following guidelines:
- i. For a stock where the assessed status places it within the lower right (green) quadrant of the Kobe Plot, aim to maintain the stock with a high probability within this quadrant;
  - ii. For a stock where the assessed status places it within the upper right (orange) quadrant of the Kobe Plot, aim to end overfishing with a high probability in as short a period as possible;
  - iii. For a stock where the assessed status places it within the lower left (yellow) quadrant of the Kobe plot, aim to rebuild these stocks in as short a period as possible;
  - iv. For a stock where the assessed status places it within the upper left quadrant (red), aim to end overfishing with a high probability and to rebuild the biomass of the stock in as short a period as possible.

#### Final Clauses

(para 7.) Bearing in mind Article 64 of UNCLOS and Article 8 of UNFSA, the entirety of this Resolution is subject to Article XVI (Coastal States' Rights) of the IOTC Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, and Articles 87 and 116 of the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea regarding the right to fish on the high seas;

(para. 8) The IOTC Scientific Committee is requested to evaluate the performance of any harvest control rules with respect to the species specific target and limit reference points adopted for IOTC species, but not later than 10 years following their adoption, and the Commission will consider, as appropriate and consistent with the scientific advice, these harvest control rules.

(para 9.) As soon as advice from the IOTC Scientific Committee regarding the appropriateness of TRPs and LRPs, as required under **Annex 1**, is available to the Commission, and where possible no later than at the IOTC Commission meeting in 2020, this Resolution will be reviewed with the view to adopting revised TRPs and LRPs.

#### **Resolution 19/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence***

(para 22) CPCs are encouraged to increase their observer coverage or field sampling in gillnet fishing vessels by 10% using alternative data collection methodologies (electronic or human) verified by the IOTC Scientific Committee by 2023.

(para 28) The Scientific Committee via its Working Party on Tropical Tunas shall implement the “Workplan to improve current assessment of yellowfin tuna” and shall advise the Commission the financial and administrative requirements to further strengthen the work undertaken to minimize the issues and complexities regarding yellowfin tuna stock assessment.

**Resolution 21/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence***

(Para 17). The tropical tuna data submitted by CPCs in accordance with Resolution 15/01 “On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence” and Resolution 15/02 “Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)” shall be reviewed by the Secretariat and discussed by the Scientific Committee for possible inconsistencies. In such cases, the Scientific Committee shall provide the rationale of the detected inconsistencies and justify the choice of the best solution available with regard the scientific analysis to be carried out. Data used for catch limit calculations shall be based on the data reviewed, including possible estimates, by the Secretariat.

(Para 23). CPCs are encouraged to increase their observer coverage or field sampling in gillnet fishing vessels by 10% using alternative data collection methodologies (electronic or human) verified by the IOTC Scientific Committee by 2023.

(Para 30). The IOTC Scientific Committee via its Working Party on Tropical Tunas shall implement the “Workplan to improve current assessment of yellowfin tuna” and shall advise the Commission the financial and administrative requirements to further strengthen the work undertaken to minimize the issues and complexities regarding yellowfin tuna stock assessment.

(Para 31). The IOTC Scientific Committee and its Working Parties shall prioritise the work on the yellowfin tuna management procedure and to provide advice to the Technical Committee on Management Procedures and to enable the Commission to adopt the yellowfin tuna management procedure at the earliest opportunity.

(Para 32). The Scientific Committee via its Working Party on Tropical Tunas shall undertake evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures detailed in this Resolution, taking into account all sources of fishing mortality possible aiming at returning and maintaining biomass levels at the Commission’s target level.

**Resolution 16/02 *On harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence***

(para. 15) The IOTC Scientific Committee shall:

- a) Include the LRP and TRP as part of any analysis when undertaking all future assessments of the status of the IOTC skipjack tuna stock.
- b) Undertake and report to the Commission a model-based skipjack tuna stock assessment every three (3) years, commencing with the next stock assessment in 2017.
- c) Undertake a programme of work to further refine Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the IOTC skipjack tuna fishery as required in paragraph 12, including, but not limited to,
  - i. Refinement of operating model(s)/ used,
  - ii. Alternative management procedures,
  - iii. Refining performance statistics.

**Resolution 21/03 *On harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence***

(Para 6). The skipjack tuna stock assessment shall be conducted every three (3) years, with the next stock assessment to occur in 2023. Estimates of 7(a–c) shall be taken from a model-based stock assessment that

has been reviewed by the Working Party on Tropical Tunas and endorsed by the Scientific Committee via its advice to the Commission.

(Para 15). The IOTC Scientific Committee shall:

- a) Include the LRP and TRP as part of any analysis when undertaking all future assessments of the status of the IOTC skipjack tuna stock.
- b) Undertake and report to the Commission a model-based skipjack tuna stock assessment every three (3) years, commencing with the next stock assessment in 2023.
- c) Undertake a programme of work to further refine Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the IOTC skipjack tuna fishery as required in paragraph 12 including, but not limited to,
  - i. Refinement of operating model(s)/ used,
  - ii. Alternative management procedures,
  - iii. Refining performance statistics.

#### **Resolution 22/03 On a Management Procedure for Bigeye Tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence**

##### **Total Allowable Catch setting**

4. The Scientific Committee shall run the MP and advise the Commission of the outcome, including a recommended TAC and any advice on exceptional circumstances in accordance with the Commission endorsed Guidelines for the Provisions of Exceptional Circumstances for IOTC MPs as documented in Appendix 6a of IOTC-2021-SC24-R.
5. The Commission shall adopt the TAC based on the outcome of the MP, unless the Scientific Committee identifies exceptional circumstances that require consideration of alternate management actions to be taken by the Commission.
6. The first TAC derived from the MP shall apply in 2024 and 2025. After 2025, the TAC shall apply in each of the subsequent three years following the year it is set by the Commission<sup>1</sup>.
7. The schedule for setting and applying the TAC, beginning the calendar year immediately following adoption of this Resolution, is shown in Annex II.
8. If exceptional circumstances are triggered, the pre-existing TAC shall remain in place until a new TAC or other management action is agreed by the Commission.

##### **Review**

11. A review of performance of the MP by the Commission and its subcommittees is to occur in 2030. The aim of the review is to ensure the MP is performing as expected and whether there are any conditions that warrant reconditioning the operating models, retuning the existing MP, or consideration of alternate candidate MPs and a new full management strategy evaluation.

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. the Scientific Committee runs the MP in 2022, the TAC is set by the Commission in 2023, the TAC applies in 2024 and 2025. The Scientific Committee runs the MP in 2024, the TAC is set by the Commission in 2025, the TAC applies from 2026-2028.

12. The Scientific Committee is requested to review, and if necessary, further develop and refine (not later than 2024), the exceptional circumstances guidelines (adopted by SC24 and S26), taking into account, *inter alia*, the need for an appropriate balance between specificity versus flexibility in defining exceptional circumstances, and the appropriate level of robustness to ensure that exceptional circumstances are triggered only when necessary.
13. The IOTC, through the Technical Committee on Management Procedures, is requested to review the need for, and if necessary, develop at latest by 2025, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should those exceptional circumstances be found to occur.

**Resolution 23/03 On a Voluntary Fishing Closure in the Indian Ocean for the Conservation of Tropical Tuna's Scientific advice on fishing closure**

3. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall provide advice and recommendations no later than 31st December 2023 on appropriate fishing closures applicable to all fishing gears. These recommendations need to consider the area, closure period and any other details, with the objective of achieving a high probability of reducing fishing mortality of juvenile tropical tuna, in particular bigeye and yellowfin tuna. If the IOTC Scientific Committee concludes that it does not currently possess access to sufficient scientific data to provide recommendations to the Commission, the SC shall provide recommendations relating to the data necessary for science-based recommendations for the information of the Commission.
4. In producing its advice and recommendations, the IOTC Scientific Committee shall take into account, *inter alia*:
- available IOTC fisheries data;
  - fishing behaviours/ patterns in the Indian Ocean, both historically and those anticipated as a consequence of the implementation of the closure or any new management measures.

**Resolution 23/04 On Establishing Catch Limits for Bigeye Tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence**

13. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall conduct a comparative analysis of the contribution of all fishing gears to the mortality of bigeye tuna, which shall include both absolute and relative contributions to mortality and stock depletion.
14. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall develop a table as shown in Annex 2 that quantifies the expected impact on maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and SSB<sub>msy</sub> for bigeye tuna resulting from replacing fishing mortality/catches of any major fishing gear/fishery (e.g., Longline, DFAD fisheries, AFAD fisheries, Purse seine on free school, other fisheries) for consideration by the Commission at its 2025 Session. The IOTC Scientific Committee shall also provide advice on FAD management options, including on, limits on FADs sets, that may be necessary to achieve a replacement of fishing mortality of FAD fisheries with free school fisheries. This analysis shall be conducted for DFADs and AFADs fleets separately.

**DISCUSSION**

Participants at the WPTT25 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 WPTT:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2023–WPTT24–05, which encouraged the WPTT 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.

#### APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): DRAFT: Working Party on Tropical Tunas Program of Work (2023–2027) – to be revised during the meeting

**APPENDIX A**
**DRAFT: WORKING PARTY ON TROPICAL TUNAS PROGRAM OF WORK (2023–2027)**

The following is the Draft WPTT Program of Work (2023–2027) and is based on the specific requests of the Commission and Scientific Committee, and will need to be modified to incorporate topics identified during the WPTT24. The Program of Work consists of the following, noting that a timeline for implementation would be developed by the SC once it has agreed to the priority projects across all of its Working Parties:

- **Table 1:** Priority topics for obtaining the information necessary to develop stock status indicators for tropical tunas in the Indian Ocean;
- **Table 2:** Stock assessment schedule.

**Table 1.** Priority topics for obtaining the information necessary to develop stock status indicators for bycatch species in the Indian Ocean.

Topic in order of priority	Sub-topic and project	TIMING				
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Stock assessment priorities	Address the issues identified as priorities by the yellowfin tuna peer review panel (February 2023)					
CPUE standardisation	Develop standardised CPUE series for each tropical tuna fleet/fishery for the Indian Ocean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review period where stock was assessed as being overfished without experiencing overfishing.</li> <li>• Regional scaling parameters</li> <li>• Effect of piracy on CPUE after piracy period</li> </ul>					
Fisheries impact analysis	Impact of individual fisheries on stock parameters					

**Other Future Research Requirements (not in order of priority)**

1. Stock structure (connectivity and diversity)	1.1 Genetic research to determine the connectivity of tropical tuna species throughout their distribution (including in adjacent Pacific Ocean waters as appropriate) and the effective population size.					
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	<p>1.1.1 Population genetic analyses to decipher intraspecific connectivity, levels of gene flow, genetic divergence and effective population sizes based on genome-wide distributed Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs).</p>					
	<p>1.2 Connectivity, movements and habitat use</p> <p>1.2.1 Connectivity, movements, and habitat use, including identification of hotspots and investigate associated environmental conditions affecting the tropical tuna species distribution, making use of conventional and electronic tagging (P-SAT).</p> <p>1.2.2 Investigation into the degree of local or open population in main fishing areas (e.g., the Maldives and Indonesia – archipelagic and open ocean) by using techniques such flux in FAD arrays or used of morphological features such as shape of otoliths.</p>					
<p>2. Biological and ecological information (incl. parameters for stock assessment)</p>	<p>2.1 Biological sampling</p> <p>2.1.1 Design and develop a plan for a biological sampling program to support research on tropical tuna biology. The plan would consider the need for the sampling program to provide representative coverage of the distribution of the different tropical tuna species within the Indian Ocean and make use of samples and data collected through observer programs, port sampling and/or other research programs. The plan would also consider the types of biological samples that could be collected (e.g. otoliths, spines, gonads, stomachs, muscle and liver tissue, fin clips, etc.), the sample sizes required for estimating biological parameters, and the logistics involved in collecting, transporting and processing biological samples. The specific biological parameters that could be estimated include, but are not limited to, estimates of growth, age at maturity, fecundity, sex ratio, spawning season, spawning fraction and stock structure.</p> <p>2.1.2 Collect gonad samples from tropical tunas to confirm the spawning periods and location of the spawning area that are presently hypothesized for each tropical tuna species.</p>					
<p>3. Historical data review</p>	<p>3.1 Changes in fleet dynamics need to be documented by fleet</p> <p>3.1.1 Provide an evaluation of fleet-specific fishery impacts on the stock of bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna and yellowfin tuna. Project potential impact of realizing fleet</p>					

	development plans on the status of tropical tunas based upon most recent stock assessments.				
4	CPUE standardisation	4.1 Develop standardised CPUE series for each tropical tuna fleet/fishery for the Indian Ocean			
		4.1.1 Further development and validation of the collaborative longline CPUE indices using the data from multiple fleets and to provide joint CPUE series for longline fleets where possible			
		4.1.2 That standardised CPUE index for juvenile yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna caught by the EU purse seiner fleets, be estimated and submitted to the WPTT before the next round of stock assessments of tropical tunas.			
		4.1.3 Development of minimum criteria (e.g. 10% using a simple random stratified sample) for logbook coverage to use data in standardisation processes; and 2) identifying vessels through exploratory analysis that were misreporting, and excluding them from the dataset in the standardisation analysis.			
		4.1.4 Vessel identity information for the Japanese fleets for the period prior to 1979 should be obtained either from the original logbooks or from some other source, to the greatest extent possible to allow estimation of catchability change during this period and to permit cluster analysis using vessel level data.			
		Bigeye tuna: High priority fleets			
		Skipjack tuna: High priority fleets			
		Yellowfin tuna: High priority fleets			
		4.1.5 Gillnet CPUE standardization including further investigate and use of gillnet CPUE series from Sri Lankan gillnet fishery			
		4.1.6 Workshops to assist in standardising CPUEs for tropical tuna fleets			
		4.2 That methods be developed for standardising purse seine catch species composition using operational data, so as to provide alternative indices of relative abundance (see Terms of Reference, Appendix IXb IOTC-2017-WPTT19-R).			
		4.3 Investigate the potential to use the Indian longline survey as a fishery-independent index of abundance for tropical tunas.			

<p>5 Stock assessment / stock indicators</p>	<p>5.1 Develop and compare multiple assessment approaches to determine stock status for tropical tunas</p> <p>5.2 Scoping of ongoing age composition data collection for stock assessment</p> <p>5.3 Develop a high resolution age structured operating model that can be used to test the spatial assumptions including potential effects of limited tags mixing on stock assessment outcomes (see Terms of Reference, Appendix IXa IOTC-2017-WPTT19-R).</p>					
<p>6 Fishery monitoring</p>	<p>6.1 Develop fishery independent estimates of stock abundance to validate the abundance estimates of CPUE series.</p> <p>All of the tropical tuna stock assessments are highly dependent on relative abundance estimates derived from commercial fishery catch rates, and these could be substantially biased despite efforts to standardise for operational variability (e.g. spatio-temporal variability in operations, improved efficiency from new technology, changes in species targeting). Accordingly, the IOTC should continue to explore fisheries independent monitoring options which may be viable through new technologies. There are various options, among which some are already under test. Not all of these options are rated with the same priority, and those being currently under development need to be promoted, as proposed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Acoustic FAD monitoring, with the objective of deriving abundance indices based on the biomass estimates provided by echo-sounder buoys attached to FADs</li> <li>ii. Longline-based surveys (expanding on the Indian model) or “sentinel surveys” in which a small number of commercial sets follow a standardised scientific protocol</li> <li>iii. Aerial surveys, potentially using remotely operated or autonomous drones</li> <li>iv. Studies (research) on flux of tuna around anchored FAD arrays to understand standing stock and independent estimates of the stock abundance.</li> <li>v. Investigate the possibility of conducting ongoing ad hoc, low level tagging in the region</li> </ul>					
<p>7 Target and Limit</p>	<p>7.1 To advise the Commission, on Target Reference Points (TRPs) and Limit Reference Points (LRPs). Used when assessing tropical tuna stock status and when establishing</p>					



reference points	the Kobe plot and Kobe matrices					
8 Fisheries Independent Monitoring	<p>8.1 Use of Close Kin Mark Recapture (CKMR) methods to study fishery independent methods of generating spawner abundance estimates based on genotyping individuals to a level that can identify close relatives (e.g. parent-offspring or half-siblings).</p> <p>8.2 Plan for a staged approach for implementation of a YFT CKMR project</p>					
9 Fisheries Indicators	9.1 Examination of additional fisheries indicators and their discussion at WP meetings. Perhaps a section in report to accommodate these. See how this is being addressed in other RFMOs.					
10 Peer review	10.1 Plan and ToRs for a peer review to be presented to the SC					

**Table 2.** Assessment schedule for the IOTC Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT)

Species	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Bigeye tuna	Indicators  MP to be run	Data preparatory meeting  Full assessment	Indicators	Indicators	Data preparatory meeting  Full assessment
Skipjack tuna	Indicators	Indicators	Data preparatory meeting  Full assessment	Indicators	Indicators
Yellowfin tuna	Data preparatory meeting  Full assessment	Indicators	Indicators	Data preparatory meeting  Full assessment	Indicators