



PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPDCS18

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, LAST UPDATED: 10TH NOVEMBER 2023

Purpose

To provide participants at the 19th Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS19) with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous WPDCS, which were endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC), and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants.

Background

At the 18th Session of the WPDCS, 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 WPDCS was provided to the SC for its endorsement at its 2022 meeting.

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) to carry out other technical activities of relevance to the Commission.

Noting the core tasks of the SC, and hence the WPDCS, participants are reminded that any recommendations developed during a Session, must be carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e., a specific CPC of the IOTC, the Secretariat, another subsidiary body of the Commission or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time from for delivery of the action (i.e., by the next working party meeting, or other date).

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 A 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 A](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPDCS17.

Recommendation

That the WPDCS:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-06 which detailed the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the WPDCS18, taking into consideration the recommendations from the SC and decisions of the Commission;
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary, the recommendations, and for these to be combined with any new recommendations arising from the WPDCS19, noting that these will be provided to the SC for their endorsement.

Appendices

Appendix A: Progress made on the recommendations of WPDCS18.

Appendix B: Updates and progress on data-related matters following the WPDCS18.

Appendix A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPDCS18

WPDCS18 Rec. no.		SC25	Response / follow-up by the SC25	S27	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS19
WPDCS18.01 (para. 37)	<i>Data reporting (to the IOTC Secretariat)</i> The WPDCS ENDORSED the proposed approach for a more rigorous characterization of the fisheries of relevance to the IOTC, and RECOMMENDED that the approach and its outcomes are CONSIDERED for ENDORSEMENT by the SC, so that the new fishery codes may be progressively included in a) the IOTC data reporting forms for the submission of statistical data, b) all publicly disseminated IOTC datasets and reference manuals / guidelines, c) the IOTC databases and supporting applications.	SC25.23 (para. 130)	Updates: The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission ENDORSE the proposed improvements in the data submission process of fisheries statistics, including the new approach for the classification of IOTC fisheries.	S27 (para. 31)	Update: The Commission ENDORSED the Scientific Committee's 2022 list of recommendations as its own.
WPDCS18.02 (para. 45)	<i>Data reporting (to the IOTC Secretariat)</i> The WPDCS ENDORSED a) the proposal of replacing of Forms 3-AR and 3-CE with the updated version of form 3-CE to rationalise and simplify the submissions of geo-referenced catch and effort data; b) that catch and effort and size-frequency fishery statistics be submitted with the versions of form 3-CE and 4-SF that support the provision of records for multiple fisheries and species at the same time, and c) that at the next	SC25.23 (para. 130) SC25.24 (para. 131)	Updates: The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission ENDORSE the proposed improvements in the data submission process of fisheries statistics, including the adoption of the new data submission forms. The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission ENDORSE the mandatory reporting of fishing craft statistics and that this change is included in the next revision of Res. 15/02.	S27 (para. 31)	Update: The Commission ENDORSED the Scientific Committee's 2022 list of recommendations as its own. In absence of revised Res. 15/02, the submission of fishing craft statistics remains voluntary.

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	revision of Res. 15/02 the requirement of submitting fishing craft statistics be changed from voluntary to mandatory, and RECOMMENDED the SC to consider for ENDORSEMENT the changes proposed in a)-c).				
WPDCS18.03 (para. 46)	Data reporting (to the Secretariat) The WPDCS AGREED on the new electronic forms for the reporting of fisheries statistics and RECOMMENDED that the SC ENDORSE them, NOTING that they will greatly assist data management tasks by the Secretariat, as well as ensuring that all data are reported to the IOTC in a consistent manner.	SC25.23 (para. 130)	Update: The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission ENDORSE the proposed improvements in the data submission process of fisheries statistics, including a) the new approach for the classification of IOTC fisheries, and b) the adoption of the new data submission forms.	S27 (para. 31)	Update: The Commission ENDORSED the Scientific Committee's 2022 list of recommendations as its own.
WPDCS18.04 (para. 47)	Data reporting (to the Secretariat) The WPDCS AGREED that, once that the Commission has adopted data requirements, it should be the role of the SC to adopt mandatory forms to facilitate reporting by the CPC. The WPDCS therefore RECOMMENDED that the SC brings this proposed process to the attention of the 2023 Commission for ENDORSEMENT .	SC25.25 (para. 132)	Update: The SC RECOMMENDED that, once the Commission adopts data requirements for IOTC fisheries, the Commission DELEGATES the adoption of data standards and submission forms to the SC to facilitate reporting by the CPCs.	S27 (para. 31)	Update: The Commission ENDORSED the Scientific Committee's 2022 list of recommendations as its own.
WPDCS18.05 (para. 103)	Overview of data processing procedures and proposed revisions of historical data	SC25 (para. 136)	Update: The SC ENDORSED the request that Indonesia continue reassessing their official catch data in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat, and that this process continues		Update: None

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	The WPDCS REQUESTED that Indonesia continue – in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat – to reassess their official catches and RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee ENDORSE this activity.		until fluctuations in the official catch levels reported for several species are reduced sensibly, and the discontinuities with years before and after those subject to this re-estimation exercise are minimized.		
WPDCS18.06 (para. 162)	Electronic Monitoring Systems in support of the IOTC ROS The WPDCS ENDORSED the EMS terms and definitions (detailed in IOTC-2022-WPDCS18-32) for review by the Scientific Committee. The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the SC review and endorse the EM terms and definitions for subsequent review and potential adoption by the Commission at its session in 2023.	SC25.8 (para. 148)	Update: The SC reviewed and ENDORSED a) the EM terms and definitions b) the EM Program standards, and c) the EM Data standards described in Appendices 6A, 6B and 6C (except Annex 1 and 2 to be adopted in March 15-16), respectively, and RECOMMENDED their adoption by the Commission.	S27 (para. 48)	Update: The basis of this resolution was Proposal G which provided a revision to Resolution 12/06. <u>Resolution 23/8 On Electronic Monitoring Standards for IOTC Fisheries</u> [Download here]
WPDCS18.07 (para. 163)	Electronic Monitoring Systems in support of the IOTC ROS The WPDCS NOTED the significant work of the WGEMS and very advanced state of the EMS standards (both EM Program and EM Data standards as described in IOTC-2022-WPDCS18-33 and IOTC-2022-WPDCS18-34 , respectively) and ENDORSED these for review by the SC. The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the SC review and endorse those EMS Standards for subsequent review and potential	SC25.8 (para. 148)	Update: The SC reviewed and ENDORSED a) the EM terms and definitions b) the EM Program standards, and c) the EM Data standards described in Appendices 6A, 6B and 6C (except Annex 1 and 2 to be adopted in March 15-16), respectively, and RECOMMENDED their adoption by the Commission.	S27 (para. 48)	Update: The basis of this resolution was Proposal G which provided a revision to Resolution 12/06. <u>Resolution 23/8 On Electronic Monitoring Standards for IOTC Fisheries</u> [Download here]

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	adoption by the Commission at its session in 2023.				
WPDCS18.08 (para. 120)	<p>Main challenges encountered in reporting mandatory statistics to the Secretariat</p> <p>RECALLING that the WPDCS17 identified aspects of several data-related resolutions (15/01, 15/02 and 19/02) that are either unclear or inconsistent and, in particular, that the SC24 NOTED that the following specific clarifications are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● that silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>) be included in the list of “other” species appearing in the gillnet table in Section 2.3 of Annex II of Res. 15/01 ● that the terms “shall be submitted frequently” appearing in para. 4.c of Res. 15/02 be further clarified ● that para 5 of Res. 15/02 be amended with the inclusion of “and baitboats” in addition to purse seiners already mentioned in this paragraph ● that para. 4.c of Res. 15/02 be amended with the inclusion of the request that “Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely” that already 	SC25.26 (para. 133)	<p>Update: The SC NOTED that some of the paragraphs in some of the Resolutions are either unclear or inconsistent and therefore the SC RECOMMENDED the Commission to ENDORSE the following changes for inclusion in the next revision of the relevant IOTC Resolutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. that silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>) be included in the list of “other” species appearing in the gillnet table in Section 2.3 of Annex II of Res. 15/01; b. that the terms “shall be submitted frequently” appearing in para. 4.c of Res. 15/02 be further clarified and complemented by a clearer indication of the spatial-temporal stratification of the dataset concerned; c. that para. 4.c of Res. 15/02 be amended with the inclusion of the request that “Documents describing the extrapolation procedures (including raising factors corresponding to the logbook coverage) shall also be submitted routinely” that already appears in both para. 4.a and 4.b of Res. 15/02; d. that para. 5 of Res. 15/02 be amended with the inclusion of “and all other relevant gears” in addition to purse seiners already mentioned in this paragraph; 		<p>Update: None in absence of revised Res. 15/01, 15/02, and 19/02 (due to objection to Res. 23/02)</p>

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	<p>appears in both para. 4.a and 4.b of Res. 15/02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that para. 26 of Res. 19/02 be amended to also allow the use of buoy position data for scientific purposes, and to further clarify how to protect business confidentiality aspects as per para. 24 of Res. 19/02, <p>the WPDCS RECOMMENDED the SC to RECOMMEND that the Commission consider how to best address these issues at the next revision of each resolution.</p>		<p>e. that para. 26 of Res. 19/02 be amended to also allow the use of buoy position data for scientific purposes, and to further clarify how to protect business confidentiality aspects as per para. 24 of Res. 19/02.</p>		
WPDCS18 (para. 152)	<p>The WPDCS NOTED that Res. 22/04 specifies that observer coverage should be estimated by comparing the number of observed operations/sets with the total reported operations/sets by each CPC</p>	SC25.34 (para. 172)	<p>Update: The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission ENDORSE the mandatory reporting of geo-referenced effort data as number of sets/operations for longline and surface fisheries (according to the definitions in Res 15/02) to complement the current requirements of Res. 15/02, in order for the Secretariat to accurately and independently calculate the ROS coverage in agreement with the provisions of Res. 22/04.</p>		<p>Update: The Commission ENDORSED the Scientific Committee's 2022 list of recommendations as its own.</p>
WPDCS18.09 (para. 182)	<p>WPDCS program of work</p> <p>The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider and endorse the WPDCS Program of Work (2023-2027), as provided at Appendix V.</p>	SC25 (para. 180)	<p>Update: 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.</p>		<p>Update: None</p>

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WPDCS18.10 (para. 186)	<p><i>Review of the draft, and adoption of the report of the 18th Session of the WPDCS</i></p> <p>The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPDCS18, provided at Appendix VI.</p>	SC25.38 (para. 192)	Update: The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from SC25, provided at Appendix 38.	S27 (para. 31)	Update: The Commission ENDORSED the Scientific Committee's 2022 list of recommendations as its own.

Appendix B

Updates and progress on data-related matters following the WPDCS18

WPDCS18 Report	WPDCS18 notes and requests	Update / Progress
<i>Updates on national statistics systems</i>		
Para. 84	The WPDCS NOTED that the Secretariat is gathering conversion factors (and the corresponding data used for their calculation) for subsequent storage in the developing IOTC database of biological/morphometric data, and therefore ENCOURAGED CPCs to provide these data to the Secretariat at their earliest availability	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>Some large data sets of individual length-weights have been provided to the Secretariat for albacore by IRD, University of Mauritius, OFDC, and SHO (IOTC-2022-WPTmT08(AS)-06 Rev2)</p> <p>Morphometric data have also been kindly provided for several shark species by Blue Resources Trust, IRD, IPMA, IEO, and Evgeny Romanov (collected through YugNiRO scientific cruises), and for billfish by IGFA and Ifremer.</p>
Para. 85	ACKNOWLEDGING that there might be different types of dressing used by fishers in their respective fisheries and the Secretariat ENCOURAGED CPCs to share their length-length and length-weight conversion factors and dressing types.	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>A review of the literature was performed by the Secretariat to collate morphometric relationships for all IOTC species as well as the main elasmobranch species.</p> <p>No information was reported by CPCs on the length-length and length-weight relationships and conversion factors used as part of the processing of national data.</p>
Para. 103	ACKNOWLEDGING that a number of issues remain unresolved regarding the proposal by Indonesia to re-estimate their official catches, the WPDCS REQUESTED that Indonesia continue – in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat – to reassess their official catches and RECOMMENDED that the SC ENDORSE this activity	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>Indonesia has been continuing the work on the revision of their fisheries statistics and an on-site mission was made by the Secretariat in February-March 2023 followed by several technical meetings (see IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-21).</p>
<i>Global fisheries information systems and best practices</i>		
Para. 124	The WPDCS THANKED the CPCs that participated voluntarily in the exercise of filling up the FAO matrix and ENCOURAGED all other participants and CPCs	<p>[Ongoing]</p>

	to contribute to this initiative by working with the IOTC Secretariat on the application of the FAO methodology for the characterization of their national fisheries.	The Secretariat has revised the original methodology and supplemented it with additional material (spreadsheet template and step-by-step guide) to facilitate the completion of the matrix. The template and the original FAO documentation methodology were also translated into French. An online workshop was conducted to assist CPCs in refining the characterisation of IOTC fisheries using the FAO matrix approach (see IOTC-2023-WPDCS19-23).
Para. 144	The WPDCS AGREED that the fishery-specific average weights estimated by the Secretariat for all flags combined have some interest for scientific analyses and REQUESTED the Secretariat to add them as a public-domain data set accessible from the IOTC website.	<p>[Ongoing]</p> <p>The Secretariat will make the data available for the forthcoming Working Parties once the new definitions of fisheries have been implemented.</p>