
ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 26TH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Last updated: 03 December 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)
 - IOTC–2023–SC26–01a: Agenda of the 26th Session of the Scientific Committee
 - IOTC–2023–SC26–01b: Annotated agenda of the 26th Session of the Scientific Committee
 - IOTC–2023–SC26–02: List of documents of the 26th Session of the Scientific Committee
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.
 - IOTC–2023–SC26–03: Outcomes of the 6th Special Session and 27th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 4.2 Previous decisions of the Commission
 - IOTC–2023–SC26–04: Previous decisions of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
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
 - IOTC–2023–SC26–05: Report of the Secretariat – Activities in support of the IOTC science process in 2023 (IOTC Secretariat)
 - IOTC–2023–SC26-INFO1: Update on the Common Oceans Tuna Project, November 2023
6. **NATIONAL REPORTS FROM CPCs** (CPCs)
 - IOTC–2023–SC26–NR01–30: National Reports (2023) from each IOTC CPC
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
 - IOTC–2023–SC26–06: 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 (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 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

- **IOTC–2023–WGFAD05–R:** Report of the 5th meeting of the Working Group on FADs
 - 7.4.3 Bigeye tuna MP considerations
 - 7.4.4 Other matters
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–11:** A close-kin mark-recapture pilot study for Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna (Williams A, Tremblay-Boyer L, Hillary R, Preece A)
 - 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
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES01:** Status of the Indian Ocean Albacore (ALB: *Thunnus alalunga*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES02:** Status of the Indian Ocean bigeye tuna (BET: *Thunnus obesus*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES03:** Status of the Indian Ocean skipjack tuna (SKJ: *Katsuwonus pelamis*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES04:** Status of the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna (YFT: *Thunnus albacares*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES05:** Report on biology, stock status and management of southern bluefin tuna: 2023 (from CCSBT)
 - 8.2 Tuna and mackerel – Neritic species
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES06:** Status of the Indian Ocean bullet tuna (BLT: *Auxis rochei*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES07:** Status of the Indian Ocean frigate tuna (FRI: *Auxis thazard*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES08:** Status of the Indian Ocean kawakawa (KAW: *Euthynnus affinis*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES09:** Status of the Indian Ocean longtail tuna (LOT: *Thunnus tonggol*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES10:** Status of the Indian Ocean Indo-Pacific king mackerel (GUT: *Scomberomorus guttatus*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES11:** Status of the Indian Ocean narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (COM: *Scomberomorus commerson*) resource
 - 8.3 Billfish
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES12:** Status of the Indian Ocean black marlin (BLM: *Istiompax indica*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES13:** Status of the Indian Ocean blue marlin (BUM: *Makaira nigricans*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES14:** Status of the Indian Ocean striped marlin (MLS: *Kajikia audax*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES15:** Status of the Indian Ocean Indo-Pacific sailfish (SFA: *Istiophorus platypterus*) resource
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES16:** Status of the Indian Ocean swordfish (SWO: *Xiphias gladius*) resource
- 9. STATUS OF SHARKS, MARINE TURTLES, SEABIRDS AND MARINE MAMMALS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (Chairperson)**
- 9.1 Sharks
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES17:** Status of the Indian Ocean blue shark (BSH: *Prionace glauca*)
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES18:** Status of the Indian Ocean oceanic whitetip shark (OCS: *Carcharhinus longimanus*)
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES19:** Status of the Indian Ocean scalloped hammerhead shark (SPL: *Sphyrna lewini*)
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES20:** Status of the Indian Ocean shortfin mako shark (SMA: *Isurus oxyrinchus*)
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES21:** Status of the Indian Ocean silky shark (FAL: *Carcharhinus falciformis*)

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- **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES22:** Status of the Indian Ocean bigeye thresher shark (BTH: *Alopias superciliosus*)
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES23:** Status of the Indian Ocean pelagic thresher shark (PTH: *Alopias pelagicus*)
 - 9.2 Marine turtles
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES24:** Status of marine turtles in the Indian Ocean
 - 9.3 Seabirds
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–ES25:** Status of seabirds in the Indian Ocean
 - 9.4 Marine mammals
 - **IOTC–2022–SC25–ES26:** Status of cetaceans in the Indian Ocean
- 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
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–07:** Update on the implementation of the regional observer scheme (IOTC Secretariat)
- 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
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–10:** Progress on SC25 recommendations (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 11.2 Program of Work (2024–2028) and assessment schedule
 - 11.2.1 Program of Work
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–08:** Revision of the program of work (2024–28) for the IOTC science process (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 11.2.2 Assessment schedule
 - 11.2.3 Consultants
 - 11.3 Schedule of meetings for 2024 and 2025
 - **IOTC–2023–SC26–09:** Proposed schedule of Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2023 and 2024 (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 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)**