
PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF WPNT13 AND SC26

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT

LAST UPDATED: JUNE 2024

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 14th WPNT with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations developed by the previous Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT) 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 WPNT, participants also agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the IOTC Secretariat on a range of issues. This paper provides a summary of the progress made on this list of requests so that the working party can evaluate progress made and to agree on the next steps to be taken for each issue.

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 26th 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 WPNT14.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPNT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations and requests of the 13th Session of the WPNT, 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 WPNT13.



APPENDIX I

Progress made on the Recommendations and Requests of WPNT13 and SC26

WPNT13 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPNT13	SC26 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC26	Progress/Comments
WPNT13.01 (para 11)	The WPNT NOTED that the current name of the working group may be misleading as two of the six species covered by the group are not classed as neritic tunas, they are in fact seerfish. The WPNT DISCUSSED the possibility of changing the name of the working group to clarify this with suggested options including the Working Party on: neritic tunas and seerfish; neritic tuna and tuna-like species; and neritic species. The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC discuss the necessity for a name change and the proposed options.	(para 46)	The SC NOTED the recommendation by the WPNT to consider changing the name of the WP from the Working Party on Neritic Tunas to the Working Party on Neritic Tunas and Seerfish. The SC AGREED that this change may cause confusion to managers but that seerfish species will continue to be monitored and evaluated by the WP.	Status: Completed
WPNT13.02 (para 33)	NOTING how issues in species identification are common for neritic tunas and seerfish in several fisheries and that this affects the accuracy of the time series of catch which are the main input for the assessment models, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC endorse the organisation of training workshops for fish species identification.	(para 47)	NOTING how issues in species identification are common for neritic tunas and seerfish in several fisheries and that this affects the accuracy of the time series of catch which are the main input for the assessment models, the SC ENDORSED the organisation of training workshops for fish species identification.	Status: Completed
WPNT13.03 (para 40)	ACKNOWLEDGING that FAO, through its Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), is actively working on the standardization of effort definitions and on a proposal for standard effort units by gear type, the WPNT			Status: Ongoing

	RECOMMENDED that the SC endorses the amendment of the IOTC data reporting requirements accordingly in order to reflect the results of these studies and guarantee homogeneous reporting of effort statistics in the future.			
WPNT13.04 (para 44)	NOTING the interest of size-based assessment models such as LB-SPR as an alternative or complement to catch-based approaches, the WPNT RECOMMENDED the SC to endorse the development of a large-scale regional sampling program focusing on the collection of size-frequency data from coastal fisheries and also including the collection of morphometric data required to develop robust conversion factors, length-length and length-weight relationships.	(para 43)	The SC ENDORSED the development of a large-scale regional sampling program focusing on the collection of size-frequency data and tissue samples from coastal fisheries and also including the collection of morphometric data required to develop robust conversion factors, length-length and length-weight relationships. To this end, several Members expressed their interest to share samples in order to build on the stock structure project conducted and presented in 2020 (IOTC-2020-WPNT10-10).	Status: Completed
WPNT13.05 (para 116)	The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the WPNT Program of Work (2024–2028), as provided in Appendix VI .	(para 182)	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.	Status: Completed

<p>WPNT13.06 (para 123)</p>	<p>The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPNT12, provided in Appendix XIII, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each of the six neritic tuna (and seerfish) species under the IOTC mandate, and the combined Kobe plot for the species assigned a stock status in 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – Appendix VII ○ Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – Appendix VIII ○ Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – Appendix IX ○ Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) – Appendix X ○ Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) – Appendix XI ○ Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) – Appendix XII 	<p>SC26.02 (para 161)</p>	<p>The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the management advice developed for each neritic tuna (and mackerel) species under the IOTC mandate, as provided in the Executive Summary for each species, and the combined Kobe plot for the three species assigned a stock status in 2023 (Fig. 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – Appendix 17 • Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – Appendix 18 • Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – Appendix 19 • Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) – Appendix 20 • Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) – Appendix 21 • Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) – Appendix 22 	<p>Status: Completed</p>
---------------------------------	--	-------------------------------	---	---------------------------------

WPNT13 Report	WPNT13 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
<p>(para 10)</p>	<p>The WPNT REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat continue to annually prepare a paper on the progress of the recommendations arising from the previous WPNT, incorporating the final recommendations adopted by the Scientific Committee and endorsed by the Commission.</p>	<p>Update: Completed.</p> <p>The IOTC Secretariat has prepared document “IOTC–2023–WPNT13–06” for WPNT13 to address the progress of the recommendations and requests from the previous WPNT meeting.</p>

(para 36)	<p>Additionally, the WPNT NOTED that geo-referenced catch-and-effort data are still unavailable or not reported according to IOTC standards for several important coastal fisheries such as those from India, Pakistan, and Oman, and REITERATED its REQUEST that CPCs seek advice from the IOTC Secretariat to improve their national data collection and reporting processes.</p>	<p>Update: Ongoing</p> <p>Staff from India, Pakistan, and Oman attended the Data reporting Workshops held in April and May 2024 so detailed information on the nature, contents, and formats of the catch and effort dataset has been conveyed to the CPCs.</p> <p>The IOTC Secretariat will provide updates on the status of data submissions by all CPCs in document IOTC-2024-WPNT14-07.</p>
(para 43)	<p>The WPNT NOTED with great concern the paucity of size-frequency data available at the Secretariat for many neritic fisheries, particularly for Indo-Pacific king mackerel and bullet tuna, and REQUESTED all CPCs to work to find and report historical data that may not have been reported and to develop and implement procedures for the collection of size data when necessary.</p>	<p>Update: Ongoing</p> <p>The IOTC Secretariat continues to provide support to CPCs that require assistance.</p> <p>The IOTC Secretariat will provide updates on the status of data submissions in document IOTC-2024-WPNT14-07.</p>
(para 46)	<p>The WPNT REITERATED its REQUEST that CPCs facing issues with data collection and reporting (and particularly in those fisheries interacting with neritic and seerfish species) seek support from the IOTC Secretariat by engaging in data compliance and support missions.</p>	<p>Update: Ongoing</p> <p>The IOTC Secretariat continues to provide support to CPCs that require assistance.</p> <p>The IOTC Secretariat will provide updates on the status of data submissions in document IOTC-2024-WPNT14-07.</p>
(para 75)	<p>The WPNT NOTED that the size data presented in this study would be of interest to the wider scientific community and so REQUESTED that Indonesia share these data with the Secretariat so that they can be included in the morphological database that is under development for all species managed by the IOTC.</p>	<p>Update: Ongoing</p> <p>These size data have not yet been shared with the Secretariat by Indonesia.</p>
(para 91)	<p>NOTING the apparent conflicts between the standardised indices of abundance derived from Iranian gillnets and the time series of catches for kawakawa, longtail tuna, frigate tuna, and narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (which end in 2018), the WPNT REQUESTED the Secretariat to work further with scientists from I.R. Iran on the development of an extended standardised CPUE time series, and also explore the possibility of deriving</p>	<p>Update: Ongoing</p> <p>The Secretariat is in the process of organising missions to Iran and Sri Lanka in 2025.</p>

	abundance indices for some fisheries from other CPCs such as Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Indonesia.	
(para 92)	The WPNT further REQUESTED that all CPCs work to develop CPUE series for their own fisheries to improve the data available for use in stock assessments NOTING the availability of the Secretariat to assist with this work. The WPNT NOTED that without additional CPUE series', stock assessments for all neritic species will continue to be full of uncertainties and so the WPNT will continue to be unable to provide robust management advice to the Commission for these species.	Update: Ongoing It is hoped that CPCs will present new CPUE series' during the current WPNT14 meeting.
(para 123)	The WPNT REQUESTED CPCs that may be interested in hosting the 14 th and 15 th Working Party on Neritic tunas to contact the Secretariat.	Update: Ongoing It is hoped that CPCs will offer to host the 15 th Working Party meeting during the current WPNT14 meeting.