ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 22ND WORKING PARTY ON BILLFISH

Updated: 29 August 2024

Date: 4–7 September 2024
Location: Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Hotel, Seychelles
Time: 09:00 – 17:00 daily (Seychelles time)
Chair: Dr Jie Cao (China); **Vice-Chair** Dr Sylvain Bonhommeau (France)

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chairperson)

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
   - IOTC-2024-WPB22-01a: Draft: Agenda for the 22nd Working Party on Billfish
   - IOTC-2024-WPB22-01b: Draft: Annotated agenda for the 22nd Working Party on Billfish
   - IOTC-2024-WPB22-02: Draft: List of documents for the 22nd Working Party on Billfish

3. **THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS**
   - 3.1. Outcomes of the 26th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
     - IOTC-2024-WPB22-03: Outcomes of the 26th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
   - 3.2. Outcomes of the 28th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
     - IOTC-2024-WPB22-04: Outcomes of the 28th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
   - 3.3. Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
     - IOTC-2024-WPB22-05: Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
   - 3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPB21 (IOTC Secretariat)
     - IOTC-2024-WPB22-06: Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPB21 and SC26 (IOTC Secretariat)

4. **NEW INFORMATION ON FISHERIES AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FOR BILLFISH**
   - 4.1. Review of the statistical data available for billfish at the Secretariat (IOTC Secretariat)
     - IOTC-2024-WPB22-07: Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for billfish species (IOTC Secretariat)
     - IOTC-2024-WPB22-13: An update on the billfish landings in Pakistan with special reference to the use of sub-surface gillnetting (M Moazzam)
     - IOTC-2024-WPB22-14: Towards sustainable management of billfish fisheries in Iran: a Large pelagic fishery assessment (R Dafrazi)
     - IOTC-2024-WPB22-15: Billfish fishery resources; present context and research challenges (K Bandaranayake)
     - IOTC-2024-WPB22-16: Billfish bycatch from different fishing methods of purse seine fishery in the Andaman Sea of Thailand (W Thitipongtrakul, S Hoimuk)
   - 4.2. New information on sport fisheries (all)

5. **BILLFISH REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY**
   - IOTC-2024-WPB22-09: Review of past and recent studies applying gonad histology to define reproductive phases and maturity status in billfish species (R Humphreys)
   - IOTC-2024-WPB22-10: Macroscopic visual criteria for the identification of the sex and maturity of billfish gonads, used in Reunion Island, following the ICES WKASMSF 2018 scale (B Brisset, H Evano).

- IOTC-2024-WPB22-11: Introduction to the gonadal staging standards of Chinese scientific observers for billfish and estimation of maturity size (X Wang, Z Chen)
- IOTC-2024-WPB22-12: Assessment of billfish reproductive biology for enhanced sustainable management (M Silas)

6. MARLINS (Priority species for 2024: Black marlin and Striped marlin)

6.1. Review new information on marlin biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)

6.2. Review of new information on the status of black and striped marlins (all)

Striped marlin

- Nominal and standardised CPUE indices

- IOTC-2024-WPB22-17: CPUE standardization of striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*) caught by Taiwanese large-scale longline fishery in the Indian Ocean. (Y Chen, S Wang, W Xu, C Lin)
- IOTC-2024-WPB22-18: Japanese longline CPUE Standardization (1979-2022) for striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*) in the Indian Ocean using Bayesian hierarchical spatial model. (T Matsumoto, K Taki, H Ijima, M Kai)

- Stock assessments

- IOTC-2024-WPB22-23: Stock assessment of Striped marlin (Tetrapturus audax) in the Indian Ocean using the Stock Synthesis. (W Xu, S Wang, C Lin, Y Chen)

- IOTC-2021-WPB19-24: Stock assessment of Striped marlin (Tetrapturus audax) in the Indian Ocean using the JABBA. (Y Chen, S Wang, W Xu, C Lin)

Black marlin

- Nominal and standardised CPUE indices

- IOTC-2024-WPB22-19: CPUE standardization of black marlin (Makaira indica) caught by Taiwanese large-scale longline fishery in the Indian Ocean. (W Xu, S Wang, C Lin, Y Chen)
- IOTC-2024-WPB22-20 Japanese longline CPUE Standardization (1979-2022) for black marlin (Makaira indica) in the Indian Ocean using Bayesian hierarchical spatial model (T Matsumoto, K Taki, H Ijima, M. Kai)
- IOTC-2024-WPB22-21: Update on CPUE standardization of black marlin (Makaira indica) from Indonesian (B Setyadji, M Spencer, S Ferson, L Kell, S Wright)

- Stock assessments

- IOTC-2024-WPB22-25: Stock assessment of black marlin (Makaira indica) in the Indian Ocean using the JABBA. (Y Chen, S Wang, W Xu, C Lin)

6.3. Development of management advice for black and striped marlins and update of species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee, including discussion on current catch limits as per standing IOTC Resolutions (all)

7. SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT Procedure (Resolution 24/08)

7.1. Process for running Resolution 24/08 on Swordfish MP

8. OTHER BILLFISHES (new information for informing future assessments)

8.1. Review of new information on other billfishes (swordfish, other marlins, I.P. sailfish) biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)

8.2. Resolution 18/05 Catch Limits

- IOTC-2024-WPB22-INF04: Status of marlins and sailfish catches- resolution 18/05 (IOTC Secretariat)

9. WPB PROGRAM OF WORK

9.1. Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2025–2029) (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)

- IOTC-2024-WPB22-08: Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2025–2029) (IOTC Secretariat)

9.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPB meeting (Chairperson)

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. Date and place of the 23rd and 24th Sessions of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)

10.2. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 22nd Session of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson)