
ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 20TH WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH: ASSESSMENT MEETING

Last updated: August 2024

Date: 9-13 September 2024

Location: Seychelles

Venue: Eden Bleu Hotel

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 (Seychelles time, GMT+4)

Chair: Dr Mariana Tolotti (EU, France)

Vice-Chairs: Mr Mohammed Koya (India) and Dr Charlene da Silva (South Africa)

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING (Chair)

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION (Chair)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-01a: Agenda of the 20th Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Assessment Meeting)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-01b: Annotated agenda of the 20th Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Assessment Meeting)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-02: List of documents of the 20th Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Assessment Meeting)

3. THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS

3.1. Outcomes of the 26th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-03: Outcomes of the 26th Session of the Scientific Committee

3.2. Outcomes of the 28th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-04: Outcomes of the 28th Session of the Commission

3.3. Review of the Conservation and Management Measures relevant to Ecosystems and Bycatch (IOTC Secretariat)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-05: Review of the Conservation and Management Measures relevant to Ecosystems and Bycatch

3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPEB19 (IOTC Secretariat)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-06: Progress on the recommendations of WPEB19

4. REVIEW OF THE DATA AVAILABLE AT THE SECRETARIAT FOR BYCATCH SPECIES AND BYCATCH DATA ESTIMATION APPROACHES (All)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-07: Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for ecosystems and bycatch species (IOTC Secretariat)

5. REVIEW OF NATIONAL BYCATCH ISSUES IN IOTC MANAGED FISHERIES AND NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION (sharks; seabirds; marine turtles) (CPCs and IOTC Secretariat)

- 5.1. Updated status of development and implementation of NPOA for seabirds and sharks, and the implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations (CPCs)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-08_rev1: Status of development and implementation of NPOA for seabirds and sharks, and the implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations (IOTC Secretariat)

Information paper:

- 5.2. Updated status of national fisheries and bycatch (CPCs)

6. OUTCOMES OF BYCATCH MITIGATION WORKSHOP (all)

7. REVIEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO SHARKS (Chair)

7.1. Presentation of new information available on sharks (all)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-14: Embracing modern methods in fisheries: an encouraging first attempt at using machine learning to monitor catches in the demersal shark longline fishery (C da Silva, N Chapman, M Rio, W West, A Booth, S Lamberth, S Kerwath)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-15: Elasmobranchs bycatch in purse seine fishery in the Andaman Sea of Thailand (W Thitipongtrakul, S Hoimuk)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-16: Estimation Iran's sharks total catch historical data 1950-2023 (R Shahifar)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-17: Estimation of Iranian fishing vessels By-catch in IOTC competence of area in 2023 (H Bargahi)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-18: Necessity to review and updating fish taxonomic guidelines in the Northern Indian Ocean (H Ayeshya, D Balawardhana, R Jayasinghe)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-37: Assessment of the distribution and abundance of blue shark and silky shark to highlight conservation gaps of bycatch in the Kenyan exclusive economic zone (K Wachira, S Ndegwa, E Mueni, B Kiilu, A Lukhwendah, G Okemwa)

Information papers:

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-INF01: Inputs for comprehensive bycatch management strategy evaluation in tuna fisheries (E Gilman, H Murua, M Chaloupka)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-INF02: Undetected silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) in the wells of the tropical tuna purse seine fleet in the Indian Ocean (A Juan, M Alonso, V Sierra, J Baez)

7.2. Development of shark research work plan for scalloped hammerhead shark (all)

8. STOCK ASSESSMENT FOR SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK (Chair)

8.1. Review of indicators for shortfin mako shark(all)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-11: Regional observer scheme data on shortfin mako shark CPUE (IOTC Secretariat)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-12: Standardized CPUE of Shortfin Mako Shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) from Indonesian tuna longline fleets in the north-eastern Indian Ocean (D Novianto, B Setyadji, A Widodo, U Chodrijah)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-13: Exploring the spatial-temporal dynamics of standardized CPUE for shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) caught by the Taiwanese large-scale tuna longline fishery in the Indian Ocean (H Huynh, W Tsai)

8.2. Stock assessment models (all)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-10: Stock assessment of the shortfin mako shark in the Indian Ocean (IOTC), using Bayesian surplus production models (JABBA): catch reconstruction, demographic analysis, stock assessment models and projections (R Coelho, D Rosa, B Mourato)

8.3. Review of the proposed stock assessment of shortfin mako shark (all)

8.4. Recommendation and executive summaries (all)

9. NEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH SPECIES (Chair)

9.1. Review new information on the environment and ecosystem interactions and modelling, including climate change issues affecting pelagic ecosystems in the IOTC area of responsibility (all)

- Ecosystems and climate
- Impact of gears
- Mitigation devices/techniques

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-19: Preliminary summary report on the leader type used by Japanese longline fleet in the Indian Ocean (Y Semba)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-20: Effect of bait and hook types on pelagic shark by-catch and discards of tuna longline fishery in Sri Lanka (D Balawardhana, R Jayasinghe, S Haputhantri, M Ariyaratna)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-21: IOTC ROS mitigation measure and shark catches summary (IOTC Secretariat)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-22: Proposal of an online digital ocean atlas for the Indian Ocean and a dedicated IOTC webpage on climate change and its impacts on tuna fisheries (F Marsac, N Gunawardane)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-23: Preliminary steps towards assessing the ecosystem impacts of fishing in the tropical Indian Ocean through a trophic modelling approach (R Amate, M Juan-Jordá, X Corrales, I Zudaire, E Andonegi)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-24: Ecosystem Fisheries Overviews - A Pilot Product to Assess the General Applicability of IOTC Candidate Ecoregions as a Spatial Framework for developing Ecosystem-Based Advisory Products (M Juan-Jordá, H Murua; V Idárraga-Garcés, E Andonegi)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-25: Validating IOTC candidate ecoregions through a comparative analysis of main tuna and tuna-like species and fishing fleets (V Idárraga-Garcés, E Andonegi, H Murua, M Juan-Jordá)

Information paper:

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-INF03: Best handling and release practice guidelines for sharks in IATTC fisheries

10. BYCATCH, SPECIES INTERACTIONS, AND ECOSYSTEM RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR OTHER SHARK SPECIES, MARINE MAMMALS, SEABIRDS, AND SEA TURTLES

10.1. All bycatch species (all)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-26: Crustacean as bycatch of tuna gillnet fishery of Pakistan (M Moazzam)

10.2. Other sharks and rays

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-27: An update for 2024 on the development of IOTC BTH PRM Project (E Romanov)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-28: Demographic analysis for silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) in the Indian Ocean (J Zhu, Z Geng, Y Li, X Wang)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-29: Why is IOTC lagging behind on shark conservation? An analysis of the status quo and comparison with other tuna RFMOs (I. Ziegler)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-30: Ecological interactions between 19 shark species in the Indian Ocean (E Gee)

10.3. Mobulids (all)

- Review new information on mobulid biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- Review of indicators for Mobulids (all)
- Development of management advice on the status of mobulid species (all)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-31: Mobulids caught by French purse seiners in the western Indian Ocean between 2005 and 2023 (P Sabarros, E Mollier, C Tellier)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-32: High bycatch rates of manta and devil rays in the “small-scale” artisanal fisheries of Sri Lanka (D Fernando, J Stewart)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-33: Mobulid ray fisheries and conservation management in the Chagos Archipelago (N Barros)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-34: Overview of Mobulid fisheries and trade in the Indian Ocea (N. D’Costa, N Barros, B. Carter and G. M. W. Stevens)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-35: Progress in addressing key research to inform Mobulid ray conservation (M Cronin, G Moreno, J Murua, H Murua, V Restrepo)

Information papers:

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-INF04: Safe handling and release guidelines for mobulids - updated version (Manta trust)

10.4. Marine mammals (all)

- Best practice guidelines for safe release and handling of cetaceans (all);
- Review new information on marine mammal biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- Development of management advice on the status of marine mammal species (all)
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-38: IWC advice on best practice guidelines for safe release and handling of cetaceans
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-39: Spatial and temporal dynamics of dolphin bycatch in gillnet fisheries of the Northern Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean: implications for conservation and management (S. A. Razaque, U. Shahid, C. Johnson, R. Nawaz, G. Salahuddin, N. Afsar)

Information papers:

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-INF05: Best Practices for the disentanglement of free-swimming small cetaceans

10.5. Seabirds (all)

- Review new information on seabird biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)
- Developing advice on best practices for branch weighting
- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-36: Updated ACAP Advice on Branch line Weighting as a Mitigation Measure to Reducing the Bycatch of Albatrosses and Petrels in IOTC Pelagic Longline Fisheries (S Jiménez)

10.6. Sea turtles

- Review new information on marine turtle biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)

11. WPEB PROGRAM OF WORK (RESEARCH AND PRIORITIES)

11.1. Revision of the WPEB Program of Work 2025-2029 (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)

- IOTC-2024-WPEB20(AS)-09: WPEB Program of Work 2025-2029 (IOTC Secretariat)

- 11.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPEB meeting (Chairperson)

12. OTHER MATTERS (Chair)

- 12.1. Date and place of the 21st and 22nd Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chair)
- 12.2. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 20th Session of the (Chairperson)