
ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 27TH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Last updated: 03 December 2023

Date: 2 – 6 December 2024

Location: Hotel, Cape town, South Africa/Hybrid (Cape Town Lodge Hotel and Conference Centre)

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 daily

Chair: Dr Toshihide Kitakado (Japan)

Vice-Chair: Gorka Merino (Spain)

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
 - **IOTC–2024–SC27–01a:** Agenda of the 27th Session of the Scientific Committee
 - **IOTC–2024–SC27–01b:** Annotated agenda of the 27th Session of the Scientific Committee
 - **IOTC–2024–SC27–02:** List of documents of the 27th 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 28th Session of the Commission.
 - **IOTC–2024–SC27–03:** Outcomes of 28th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 4.2 Previous decisions of the Commission
 - **IOTC–2024–SC27–04:** Previous decisions of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
5. **SCIENCE RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE IOTC SECRETARIAT IN 2024** (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 5.1 Report of the Secretariat – Activities in support of the IOTC science process in 2024
 - **IOTC–2024–SC27–06:** Report of the Secretariat – Activities in support of the IOTC science process in 2024 (IOTC Secretariat)
6. **NATIONAL REPORTS FROM CPCs** (CPCs)
 - **IOTC–2024–SC27–NR01–31:** National Reports (2024) from each IOTC CPC
7. **REPORTS OF THE 2024 IOTC WORKING PARTY MEETINGS**
 - 7.1 **IOTC–2024–WPNT14–R:** Report of the 14th Session of the Working Party on Neritic Tunas
 - 7.2 **IOTC–2024–WPB22–R:** Report of the 22nd Session of the Working Party on Billfish
 - 7.2.1 Billfish reproductive biology workshop
 - 7.2.2 Stripe marlin stock assessment
 - 7.2.3 Black marlin stock assessment
 - 7.2.4 Revision of catch levels of Marlins under Resolution 18/05
 - 7.3 **IOTC–2024–WPEB20–R:** Report of the 20th 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–2024–SC27–06:** 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 Longline bycatch mitigation measures workshop
 - 7.3.3 Shortfin mako shark stock assessment
 - 7.3.4 Other matters
 - **IOTC–2024–SC27–11:** Regarding the operation of Working Party of Ecosystem and Bycatch

- 7.4 **IOTC–2024–WPTT26–R**: Report of the 26th Session of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas
- 7.4.1 Yellowfin tuna stock assessment
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–INF01**: Longline CPUE indices for Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna: analysis methods and their implications for the indice
- 7.4.2 Update on the WGFAD06
- **IOTC–2024–WGFAD06–R**: Report of the 5th meeting of the Working Group on FADs
- 7.4.3 Other matters
- 7.5 **IOTC–2024–WPM15–R**: Report of the 15th Session of the Working Party on Methods
- 7.5.1 Update on TCMP08
- 7.5.2 Management Strategy Evaluation Progress
- 7.5.3 Bigeye tuna MP (Resolution 22/03)
- 7.5.4 Skipjack tuna MP (Resolution 24/07)
- 7.5.5 Swordfish tuna MP (Resolution 24/08)
- 7.6 **IOTC–2024–WPDCS20–R**: Report of the 20th Session of the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics
- 7.6.1 Update on WGEMS04
- 7.6.2 Other matters
- 7.7 **IOTC–2024–WPSE01–R**: Report of the 1st Session of the Working Party on Socio-Economics
- 7.8 Summary discussion of matters common to Working Parties (capacity building activities; connecting science and management, etc.)
- 7.8.1 Data collection and capacity building
- 7.8.2 Invited Expert(s) at the WP meetings
- 7.8.3 Meeting participation fund
- 7.8.4 IOTC species identification guides: Tuna and tuna-like species
- 7.8.5 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–2024–SC27–ES01**: Status of the Indian Ocean Albacore (ALB: *Thunnus alalunga*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES02**: Status of the Indian Ocean bigeye tuna (BET: *Thunnus obesus*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES03**: Status of the Indian Ocean skipjack tuna (SKJ: *Katsuwonus pelamis*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES04**: Status of the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna (YFT: *Thunnus albacares*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES05**: Report on biology, stock status and management of southern bluefin tuna: 2023 (from CCSBT)
- 8.2 Tuna and mackerel – Neritic species
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES06**: Status of the Indian Ocean bullet tuna (BLT: *Auxis rochei*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES07**: Status of the Indian Ocean frigate tuna (FRI: *Auxis thazard*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES08**: Status of the Indian Ocean kawakawa (KAW: *Euthynnus affinis*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES09**: Status of the Indian Ocean longtail tuna (LOT: *Thunnus tonggol*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES10**: Status of the Indian Ocean Indo-Pacific king mackerel (GUT: *Scomberomorus guttatus*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES11**: Status of the Indian Ocean narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (COM: *Scomberomorus commerson*) resource
- 8.3 Billfish
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES12**: Status of the Indian Ocean black marlin (BLM: *Istiompax indica*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES13**: Status of the Indian Ocean blue marlin (BUM: *Makaira nigricans*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES14**: Status of the Indian Ocean striped marlin (MLS: *Kajikia audax*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES15**: Status of the Indian Ocean Indo-Pacific sailfish (SFA: *Istiophorus platypterus*) resource
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–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–2024–SC27–ES17:** Status of the Indian Ocean blue shark (BSH: *Prionace glauca*)
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES18:** Status of the Indian Ocean oceanic whitetip shark (OCS: *Carcharhinus longimanus*)
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES19:** Status of the Indian Ocean scalloped hammerhead shark (SPL: *Sphyrna lewini*)
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES20:** Status of the Indian Ocean shortfin mako shark (SMA: *Isurus oxyrinchus*)
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES21:** Status of the Indian Ocean silky shark (FAL: *Carcharhinus falciformis*)
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES22:** Status of the Indian Ocean bigeye thresher shark (BTH: *Alopias superciliosus*)
- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES23:** Status of the Indian Ocean pelagic thresher shark (PTH: *Alopias pelagicus*)

9.2 Marine turtles

- **IOTC–2024–SC27–ES24:** Status of marine turtles in the Indian Ocean

9.3 Seabirds

- **IOTC–2024–SC27–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 24/04 On a regional observer scheme

- **IOTC–2024–SC27–07:** 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–2024–SC27–10:** Progress on SC26 recommendations (IOTC Secretariat)

11.2 Program of Work (2025–2029) and assessment schedule

11.2.1 Program of Work

- **IOTC–2024–SC27–08:** Revision of the program of work (2025–29) for the IOTC science process (IOTC Secretariat)

11.2.2 Assessment schedule

11.2.3 Consultants

11.3 Schedule of meetings for 2025 and 2026

- **IOTC–2024–SC27–09:** Proposed schedule of Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2025 and 2026 (IOTC Secretariat)

11.3.1 Data preparatory meetings

11.3.2 Final meeting schedule

12 IOTC SCIENTIFIC STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN (Chairperson)

- **IOTC–2024–SC27–18:** IOTC Science Strategic Plan (IOTC-SSP) (Chairperson and IOTC-Secretariat)

13 OTHER BUSINESS (Chairperson)

- 13.1 Election of a Chair for the next biennium (Chair and Secretariat)

14 REVIEW OF THE DRAFT, AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 27th SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (Chairperson)