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## PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPTmT08

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 1 FEBRUARY 2025

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### PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 9<sup>th</sup> WPTmT(DP) with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous Working Party on Temperate Tunas (WPTmT08) meeting 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 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the WPTmT, participants agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the Secretariat on a range of issues. The subsequent table developed and agreed to by the WPTmT was provided to the SC for its endorsement.

### 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 16<sup>th</sup> Session adopted a set of reporting terminology SC16.07 (para. 23), which was subsequently endorsed by the Commission at its 18<sup>th</sup> 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 A](#) 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 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Sessions, 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 A](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPTmT08(DP).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the WPTmT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the WPTmT and consider whether revised recommendations need to be sent to the SC for its consideration.

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix A:** [Progress made on the recommendations of WPTmT08.](#)

## APPENDIX A

## Progress made on the recommendations of WPTmT08

WPTmT08 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPTmT08	SC Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC (2022, 2023 Or 2024)	Progress / Comments
WPTmT08(DP).01	(para 99) The WPTmT <b>NOTED</b> that the fork length-round weight relationship for albacore was derived in the early 1990s in the Atlantic Ocean and much new data has been collected since then, e.g., those collected by the University of Mauritius, the French national Research Institute for Sustainable Development, and Ifremer across the western Indian Ocean from different fleets and fishing gears as well as data collected through the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme. The WPTmT <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that the IOTC Secretariat coordinate a small project in the coming few months (with a deadline of the end of May) utilising the open-source platform (e.g., GitHub, Markdown) to allow interested researchers to access the data and work collaboratively on the new datasets, including a thorough investigation of the spatial and temporal effects on the length-weight parameters, and differences between sexes. If successful, updated parameters could be used in the new assessment			The project has been successful coordinated and implemented, with the methods and results presented to the WPTmT08 ( <a href="#">IOTC-2022-WPTmT08(AS)-06 Rev2</a> )
WPTmT08(DP).02	(para 108) The WPTmT <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPTmT07(DP), provided at <a href="#">Appendix 7</a> .			The recommendations from the WPTmT08(DP) were discussed at the WPTmT assessment meeting and noted in the appendix of that meeting

				report (IOTC-2022-WPTmT08(AS)-R)
WPTmT08.01	<p><b>Stock synthesis III (SS3)</b></p> <p>(para 71) <b>NOTING</b> the absence of small albacore (&lt;75 cm fork length) in the sample used for estimating the current growth curve and the fact that most samples were collected in the southwestern Indian Ocean while spatial variability in growth has been observed in albacore in the Pacific Ocean, the WPTmT <b>RECOMMENDED</b> to the SC that the collection and analysis of otolith samples is expanded to cover the whole Indian Ocean, with a particular focus on obtaining a broad range of sizes and locations, including fish from the eastern part of the ocean.</p>			The age and growth studies to address the uncertainties in the growth curve has been incorporated into the program of work in all SC meeting reports from 2022 – 2024.
WPTmT08.02	<p><b>Revision of the WPTmT Program of Work</b></p> <p>(Para 92) The WPTmT <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that the SC consider and endorse the WPTmT Program of Work (2023–27), as provided at <a href="#">Appendix V</a>.</p>		(para 184) The SC <b>NOTED</b> the proposed Program of Work and priorities for the SC and each of the working parties and <b>AGREED</b> to a consolidated Program of Work as outlined in <a href="#">Appendix 35a-g</a> . The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of each working party will ensure that the efforts of their respective working party is focused on the core areas contained within the appendix, taking into account any new research priorities identified by the Commission at its next Session.	
WPTmT08.03	<p><b>Date and place of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the WPTmT</b></p> <p>(para 101) The WPTmT <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that a data preparatory meeting (DP) and stock assessment meeting (AS) be held in the same year,</p>	SC22.36	(para 188) <b>ACKNOWLEDGING</b> that holding data preparatory meetings prior to stock assessments is considered to be best practice and noting that since 2019 data preparatory meetings were successfully held for the WPTmT, WPTT and WPEB, the SC <b>AGREED</b> to continue the practice of having data preparatory	The meetings requested for 2025 have been accommodated in the current meeting agenda.

	<p>with the data preparatory meeting being held between April and June and the assessment meeting in July or August. This would facilitate the provision of CPUE series using data from the previous year to the data preparatory meeting, while ensuring catch data for the previous year, which is due to be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat by the end of June each year, is available for use in the stock assessments. The exact dates and meeting locations will be confirmed and communicated by the IOTC Secretariat to the SC for its consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WPTmT09(DP): Host to be decided. Meeting to be held in April 2025 (TBC).</li> <li>• WPTmT09(AS): Host to be decided. Meeting to be held in July 2025 (TBC).</li> </ul>		<p>meetings prior to stock assessment meetings for the major IOTC species. The SC <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that data preparatory meetings continue to be held virtually so as not to increase the travel and costs required for the already full IOTC timetable of meetings.</p>	
<p>WPTmT08.04</p>	<p><b>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 8th Session of the WPTmT</b></p> <p>(para 102) The WPTmT <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPTmT08(AS), provided at <a href="#">Appendix VI</a>, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for albacore (<a href="#">Appendix IV</a>).</p>	<p>SC25.01</p>	<p>(para 159) The SC <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that the Commission note the management advice developed for each tropical and temperate tuna species as provided in the Executive Summary for each species, and the combined Kobe plot for the four species assigned a stock status in 2022 (Fig. 1):</p> <p>Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) – <a href="#">Appendix 8</a></p>	<p>The advice from the WPTmT08 was taken into account when developing the stock status summary for albacore tuna from 2022 - 2024</p>