
ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 21ST WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH: DATA PREPARATORY MEETING

Last updated: March 2025

Date: 28-30 April 2025

Location: Online

Time: 12:00 – 16:00 (Seychelles time, GMT+4)

Chair: Dr Charlene da Silva (South Africa)

Vice-Chairs: Mr Mohammed Koya (India)

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING (Chair)

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

- IOTC-2025-WPEB21(DP)-01a: Agenda of the 21st Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Data Preparatory Meeting)
- IOTC-2025-WPEB21 (DP)-01b: Annotated agenda of the 21st Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Data Preparatory Meeting)
- IOTC-2025-WPEB21 (DP)-02: List of documents of the 21st Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Data Preparatory Meeting)

2.1. Requests from Commission for WPEB in 2025

3. REVIEW OF THE DATA AVAILABLE AT THE SECRETARIAT FOR BYCATCH SPECIES (All)

- IOTC-2025-WPEB21(DP)-03: Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for blue shark (IOTC Secretariat)

4. REVIEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO BLUE SHARK (All)

4.1. Review new information on the biology, stock structure, their fisheries and associated environmental data for blue shark

- Catch and effort
- Observer data
- Catch at size
- Catch at age
- Biological indicators, including age-growth curves and age-length keys

5. REVIEW OF NEW INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF BLUE SHARK (Chair)

5.1. Nominal and standardised CPUE indices

- IOTC-2025-WPEB21(DP)-04: Standardised CPUE indices of abundance for pelagic sharks, mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), off South Africa (Yemane, D., da Silva, C. and Kerwath, S.)
- IOTC-2025-WPEB21(DP)-05: Updated standardized CPUE of blue shark bycaught by the French Reunion-based pelagic longline fishery (2007-2023) (Sabarros, P. S., Tellier, C., Coelho, R., and Romanov, E. V.)

- IOTC-2025-WPEB21(DP)-06: Updated standardized catch rates in biomass for the Indian stock of blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) from the Spanish surface longline fleet for the period 2001-2023 (Ramos-Cardelle, A., García-Cortés, B. and Fernández-Costa, J.)
- IOTC-2025-WPEB21(DP)-07: Updated catch, effort and standardized CPUEs of blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) captured by the Portuguese pelagic longline fishery in the Indian Ocean (Coelho, R., Rosa D., Lino, P. G.)
- IOTC-2025-WPEB21(DP)-08: Spatio-temporal model for CPUE standardization: Application to blue shark caught by Japanese tuna longline fishery in the Indian Ocean from 1994 to 2023 (Kai, M. and Semba, Y.)
- IOTC-2025-WPEB21(DP)-09: Historical standardized CPUEs of the blue shark from 1966 through 1989. (Gee, E., Ferretti, F. and Romanov, E.)

5.2. Other abundance indices

6. STOCK ASSESSMENT AND INDICATORS FOR BLUE SHARK (Chair)

6.1. Review of indicators (all)

6.2. Discussion on blue shark assessment models to be developed and their specifications

- IOTC-2025-WPEB21(DP)-10: A review of the 2021 blue shark assessment in the Indian Ocean (Rice, J.)
- IOTC-2025-WPEB21(DP)-11: Preliminary catch estimates of blue shark in the Indian Ocean in support of an assessment in 2025 (Rice, J.)

7. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT, AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 21st SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH (DATA PREPARATORY) (Chair)