
AGENDA FOR THE 23RD WORKING PARTY ON BILLFISH

Updated: 1 September 2025

Date: 15–18 September 2025

Location: IRD, Sete, France

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 daily (French 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)
- 3. THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS**
 - 3.1. Outcomes of the 27th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.2. Outcomes of the 29th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.3. Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPB22 (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)
 - 4.2. Climate change (all)
- 5. MARLINS (Priority species for 2025: Blue marlin and Indo Pacific Sailfish)**
 - 5.1. Review new information on marlin biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 5.2. Review of new information on the status of blue marlin and Indo Pacific sailfish (all)
 - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
 - Stock assessments
 - Selection of Stock Status indicators
 - 5.3. Development of management advice for blue marlin and Indo Pacific sailfish 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)
- 6. THE SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT Procedure (Resolution 24/08)**
 - 6.1. Review of exceptional circumstances
- 7. OTHER BILLFISHES (new information for informing future assessments)**
 - 7.1. Review of new information on other billfishes (biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - 7.2. Resolution 18/05 Catch Limits
- 8. WPB PROGRAM OF WORK**
 - 8.1. Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2026–2030) (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
 - 8.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPB meeting (Chairperson)
- 9. OTHER BUSINESS**
 - 9.1. Date and place of the 24th and 25th Sessions of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
 - 9.2. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 23rd Session of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson)