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**DRAFT: ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 16<sup>th</sup> WORKING PARTY ON METHODS****UPDATED: 1 OCTOBER 2025**

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**Date:** 27-28 October 2025**Location:** Anse Royale, Seychelles**Venue:** Laila Resort, Seychelles**Time:** 09:00 – 17:00 daily**Chairperson:** Dr. Hilario Murua; **Vice-Chairperson:** Ann Preece

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chairperson)
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
  - IOTC-2025-WPM16-01a: Agenda of the 14th Working Party on Methods
  - IOTC-2025-WPM16-01b: Annotated agenda of the 16th Working Party on Methods
  - IOTC-2025-WPM16-02: List of documents of the 16th Working Party on Methods
- 3. THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS**
  - 3.1. Outcomes of the 27th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
    - IOTC-2025-WPM16-03: Outcomes of the 26th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.2. Outcomes of the 9th Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (IOTC Secretariat)
    - IOTC-2025-TCMP09-R: Report of the 8th Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.3. Outcomes of the 29th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
    - IOTC-2025-WPM16-04: Outcomes of the 29th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.4. Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to the WPM (IOTC Secretariat)
    - IOTC-2025-WPM16-05: Review of Conservation and Management Measures relating to methods (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.5. Progress on the recommendations of WPM15 (IOTC Secretariat and Chairperson)
    - IOTC-2025-WPM16-06: Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPM15 and SC27 (IOTC Secretariat)
- 4. ALBACORE MSE: UPDATE** (Developers)
  - 4.1. Review of OM and candidate MP development
    - IOTC-2025-WPM16-11: Simulation testing of management procedures for Indian ocean albacore tuna based on ABC operating models (Mosqueira I, Hilary R)
  - 4.2. Discussion and feedback on MSE development
  - 4.3. Future workplan
- 5. SKIPJACK TUNA MP (Resolution 24/07)**
  - 5.1. Running the Skipjack MP as per Resolution 24/07

- IOTC-2025-WPM16-25: Update on the long time series CPUE standardization for skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) of the EU purse-seine fishery on floating objects (FOB) in the Indian Ocean (Kaplan et al.)
- IOTC-2025-WPM16-12: Running the IOTC skipjack tuna management procedure for 2025 (IOTC Secretariat)

## 5.2. Review of exceptional circumstance

- IOTC-2025-WPM16-09: Preliminary study of length frequency analysis of skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) in Indonesia (Jatmiko I et al.)
- IOTC-2025-WPM16-21: Consideration of Exceptional Circumstances for the skipjack tuna Management Procedure adopted by the IOTC in 2023 (Merino G)

## 6. BIGEYE TUNA MP (Resolution 22/03)

### 6.1. Review of exceptional circumstances

- IOTC-2025-WPM16-13: Consideration of exceptional circumstances for the IOTC bigeye tuna management procedure for 2025 (Preece A, Williams A)

### 6.2. External peer-review

- IOTC-2025-WPM16-14: Review of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission bigeye tuna management procedure and its underlying management strategy evaluation (Neubauer P)

## 7. SWORDFISH MP (Resolution 24/08)

### 7.1. Review of Exceptional Circumstances

- IOTC-2025-WPM16-15: Consideration of exceptional circumstances for the IOTC Swordfish tuna management procedure for 2025 (Bromhead D, Preece A, Williams A, Brunel T, Mosqueira I)
- IOTC-2025-WPM16-INF02: Population structure of the swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) across the Indian Ocean using next-generation sequencing (Chevrier T et al.)

## 8. YELLOWFIN TUNA MSE: UPDATE (Developers)

### 8.1. Discussion and feedback on MSE development

- IOTC-2025-WPM16-16: Conditioning of OMs and preliminary evaluation of MPs for Indian Ocean yellowfin. (Urtizberea A, Correa M, Merino G, Murua H)

### 8.2. Future workplan

## 9. BLUE SHARK TUNA MSE: UPDATE (Developers)

### 9.1. Discussion and feedback on MSE development

- IOTC-2025-WPM16-17: Potential for a blue shark management procedure in the Indian Ocean (Edwards C)

### 9.2. Future workplan

## 10. GENERAL MSE ISSUES (Chairperson and Vice-chairperson)

- 10.1. Climate change scenarios in MSE
- 10.2. MSE capacity building
- 10.3. Feedback on MSE and MP communication to TCMP

## 11. CPUE STANDARDISATION (Chairperson)

- 11.1. Update on the development of the joint CPUE indices for 2026/2027.
- 11.2. Advice on CPUE standardisation
- 11.3. Future workplan

## 12. STOCK ASSESSMENT and STOCK STATUS GUIDANCE (Chairperson)

- 12.1. Review the approach used to provide stock status and management advice relative to reference points

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- IOTC-2025-WPM16-08: Stock assessment for Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) in the Andaman Sea Thailand (Prasertsook O)
  - IOTC-2025-WPM16-10: Photo-Based Method for Collecting Fish Length Data of Coastal Tuna in Sri Lanka (Ayeshya H, Johannessen T, Jayasinghe R, Bandaranaike K , Rushinika S ,Thilakarathne K, Wijewardhana W)
  - IOTC-2025-WPM16-18: Strengthening Artisanal Tuna and Tuna-like Species Data Collection in Tanzania: Bridging Geographical Gaps (Tumu M)
  - IOTC-2025-WPM16-20: Catch level projections and management benchmarks in the face of non-stationarity - an application to Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna (Merino et al 2025)
  - IOTC-2025-WPM16-22: Preliminary evaluation of Seychelles longline length, catch and effort data (Medley P)
  - IOTC-2025-WPM16-23: A Stratified Baseline-Anchored Simulator for Precision and Reliability Metric for Longline Fisheries Observer Programs' Coverage Design and Validation by Integrating the Coefficient of Variation: A Case Study of Kenya (Wachira K)
  - IOTC-2025-WPM16-24: Spatial Distribution of Marine Fish Landings through a Modified Grid Framework (Kuriakose S et al.)
  - IOTC-2025-WPM16-INF01: Is my red the same as your red? Improving the communication of stock status and support for management in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission with specific recommendations for Indian Ocean skipjack (Merino et al 2025)

### **13. WPM PROGRAM OF WORK (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)**

- 13.1. Revision of the timeline of the MSE development
- 13.2. Revision of the WPM Program of Work (2026–2030) and research priorities
  - IOTC-2025-WPM16-07: Revision of the WPM Program of Work (2026–2030) (IOTC Secretariat & Chairpersons)

### **14. OTHER BUSINESS**

- 14.1. Election of a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson of the WPM for the next biennium (Secretariat)
- 14.2. Date and place of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the WPM (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 14.3. Development of priorities for Invited Expert(s) at the next WPM meeting (Chairperson)
- 14.4. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the WPM (Chairperson)