IOTC DATA SECTION ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WPDCS

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Introduction

The work of the Data Section of the IOTC Secretariat includes managing and curating the data submitted by CPCs, providing support for data reporting, and verifying, preparing, and analysing fisheries datasets and reports. These activities support the Working Parties and Scientific Committee meetings and contribute to the dissemination of information on the Secretariat's data-related work.

The Data Section also provides technical assistance to strengthen CPCs' capacity to improve the quality of the fisheries data they report, in accordance with the data-reporting resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Support to CPCs is provided upon request, with the Secretariat proactively engaging with CPCs that face challenges identified by the Scientific Committee. This includes direct requests for assistance from CPCs as well as requests from the scientific Working Parties, aligned with the workplan and priorities aimed at improving data related to specific Working Parties.

This document provides an overview of the Data Section's activities for the year 2025, along with updates on data-related requests from other Working Parties and progress on recommendations from last Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS20).

Capacity Development Activities

In-Country Missions

The Data Section of the IOTC Secretariat undertook a range of activities in 2025 aimed at improving the quality of data reported by CPCs. These activities primarily involved direct engagement with CPCs and with other organisations that have an interest in IOTC data. In cases where the Secretariat observed a continued decline in the quality of data submitted by a CPC, or inconsistencies or recurring issues the Secretariat initiated collaboration to support improvements in their reporting systems.

In 2025, the Data Section conducted five capacity-development missions, organised two data-focused workshops, participated in seven meetings with other fisheries organisations, and collaborated with FAO and several non-governmental organisations on data-related matters (**Appendix I**).

Madagascar

The objectives of the mission were to: (i) assess Madagascar's data collection, recording, and processing systems, including the use of electronic tools, (ii) identify data gaps and understanding the factors contributing to inconsistencies in reported data, (iii) evaluate the most effective approaches for processing and reporting fisheries data, (iv) assess the status of Madagascar's national fisheries observer program and its linkage to the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme, and (v) provide information

on IOTC data reporting obligations pertaining to purse seine fisheries, following reports that two large-scale vessels from the EU might be flagged in Madagascar.

The main activities entailed:

- Discussion with officers from various fisheries sectors and government departments. The officials expressed concern over the state of data collection in the fisheries sector, especially following the reduction in the sector's budget and the closure of four research centres in 2021, including the Unité Statistique Thonière d'Antisranana (USTA) which was in charge of data collection and reporting for the tuna fisheries during 2017-2020. The government outlined plans to improve the system in smaller regions and focus on more productive areas, which include hiring and training of local enumerators to collect data region-wise; and the use of electronic tools, such as Calipseo. Three national framework surveys ("Enquêtes cadres") were conducted in 1988, 2012, and 2023 in the country to assess the extent of fishing vessels and activities. Furthermore, Madagascar was made aware of the reporting requirements for purse seine fisheries, as they plan to initiate industrial purse seine fisheries.

- Visits to landing sites: Due to the extensive network of landing sites and the locations of the main fisheries offices, visiting landing sites was an essential initial activity. Two sites in Mahajanga City (Antsahabingo and Antsanitia in the Boeny area) were visited, with guidance from the regional manager for Boeny, the head of Statistics for the Ministry of Blue Economy, and the head of regional fisheries.

During the mission, several gaps were identified. Although addressing these challenges will be difficult, the Secretariat will work closely with the officers to implement the following follow-up actions:

- Data mining to identify any information that could help re-estimate historical catches, which are currently repeated in the IOTC database

- Re-estimation of catches using data collected through the catch assessment survey, boat frame survey, and the latest data from new electronic tools

- Collaboration with Madagascar fisheries officers to estimate 2024 catch data based on the limited information collected (October 2024 to March 2025)

- Coordination with local experts who develop modules for collecting size-frequency data, ensuring continuity of the work

- Review of data collection methodology to enhance our understanding of the coverage and its effects on catch estimates

- Explore the implementation of the R version of data processing for artisanal fisheries recently developed by FAO (https://github.com/fdiwg/artfishr)

- Proposal for a fisheries officer from Madagascar to work as an intern for at least one month in the data section of the IOTC Secretariat to gain insight into data processing.

Indonesia

At its 20th Session (November 2024), the IOTC Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS) endorsed the methodology and results used to re-estimate Indonesia's historical catches for the period 1950-2022, while noting that this methodology had not yet been applied to bycatch species (IOTC-2024-WPDCS20-R; para. 103). The catch data submitted by Indonesia for 2023 were still under revision and considered provisional. In the absence of updated guidance from the Scientific Committee, catch estimates for Indonesian coastal fisheries in 2023 were produced by the Secretariat using the legacy

data processing procedure (IOTC-2012-SC15-38), which has introduced interannual variability across species and gear types and some inconsistencies in the time series. Additionally, the Fisheries Statistics Division of FAO noted significant discrepancies between the data reported in the FAO Global Capture Production database and those held by the IOTC Secretariat.

In response, the Secretariat organised an in-country mission to Indonesia with the following objectives to (i) understand the reasons for discrepancies between the catch data submitted by Indonesia to the IOTC and those available in the FAO Global Capture Production database, (ii) define a catch estimation procedure for IOTC species for the year 2023 and for future reporting cycles, and (iii) develop a methodology to estimate historical catches of pelagic sharks for the period 1950-2023.

The activities focused on reviewing the various data available and methodologies applied. Indonesia committed to finalising revised catch estimates for the 16 IOTC species for 2023, applying the established methodology used for 2010-2022, and submitting the updated time series via Form 1RC by 31 August 2025. The country also committed to develop and finalise catch estimation methods for pelagic sharks covering 1950-2023 by 30 October 2025, with the Secretariat providing remote technical support on request, subject to staff availability.

Following completion of catch estimates for both IOTC species and relevant bycatch species, Indonesia will prepare a full resubmission of national statistics to FAO using Form NS-1 by 31 December 2025. The Secretariat will develop an automated script to support completion of Form NS-1, noting that the revised dataset submitted to FAO will include only the 16 IOTC species.

Kenya

The objectives of the mission were to (i) assess Kenya's data collection, recording, and processing systems, including the use of electronic tools, (ii) identify data gaps and understanding the factors contributing to the lack of reported data, (iii) train officers on reporting fisheries data, and (iv) assess the status of Kenya's national fisheries observer program and its linkage to the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme.

The workshop was attended by officers from the Kenya Fisheries Service (KeFS) and the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries, representing various units, including data and statistics, observer programmes, research, and compliance. The principal activities focused on discussions related to IOTC data requirements and Kenya's current data collection and processing systems. A key component of the workshop involved training participants on the reporting procedures for all IOTC datasets, including those required under the Regional Observer Scheme. During the workshop, the Secretariat was also briefed on the new developments in Kenya's fisheries database management system, which aims to integrate all national data collection and reporting processes. The system is being developed using the CALIPSEO tool created by FAO.

The mission focused primarily on hands-on training for data reporting and a review of existing data collection systems. Gaps in historical data were highlighted, and several follow-up actions were identified to address these issues. Future activities will include:

- Data mining to identify information that can support the re-estimation of historical catches and help eliminate inconsistencies
- Reviewing industrial longline data to improve the accuracy and completeness of past reporting
- Coordinating with observer program officers to ensure proper reporting of Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) data
- Observing the progress of Kenya's fisheries database management platform.

India

A technical meeting was held between the Secretariat and representatives from various Indian fisheries departments involved in collecting and submitting data to the IOTC Secretariat. The objective was to review the data submitted by India for the statistical year 2024, assess its quality, and identify practical steps to improve future reporting.

The meeting covered the following key areas:

- A briefing on IOTC data reporting tools, including: Data reporting guidelines; Fishery Wizard; Reference data; and form pages and their descriptions.
- Evaluation of the quality of India's submissions for the three primary datasets: 1RC (retained catch data), 3CE (geo-referenced catch and effort data), and 4SF (size-frequency data)
- Discussion on the potential for disaggregating catch data by species and by fisheries, using sampling data collected in Indian waters to enhance reporting by both fishery and species
- Clarification of requirements for spatial and temporal resolution of data
- Emphasis on the importance of completing datasets with all mandatory information to ensure compliance and improve the utility of the data.

Following the discussions, India committed to (i) liaise with the Secretariat for the shapefiles of fishing grounds, particularly for coastal fisheries operating in irregular spatial areas, (ii) review the forms, aggregate data by fishing ground where appropriate, and resubmit the revised versions of Forms 1RC, 3CE, and 4SF for the year 2024.

In addition to these actions, India is currently in the process of developing a new Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) for data collection, which they planned to present at the upcoming Working Party of Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS21). This system aims to support field data collectors at landing sites and enhance the quality and consistency of fisheries data gathered at the national level (see paper IOTC-2025-WPDCS21-20).

Virtual Technical meetings

Providing support to CPCs is crucial for enhancing the quality of data used for assessments. In 2025, the section conducted four technical meetings with CPCs, in webinar. The data section also participated in data-related meetings, primarily online, to stay updated on developments across various domains of the fisheries sector. Details of the technical meetings, categorised by type and date, are provided in Appendix I.

The objective of the technical meetings was to review the issues identified with the quality of data submitted by the CPCs and in some instances, assess progress of the ongoing work of catch re-estimation.

- Oman: two virtual meetings in 2025 (June and September) with the objective of (i) discussing on Oman data reporting obligation for 2024 and (ii) review the current development of Oman data review, data processing currently being developed to revise the historical catch data. Emphasized on the reporting obligation
- Mozambique: reviewing fisheries statistical data submitted by Mozambique for 2024, addressing the gaps and how to improve

- Indonesia: In the ongoing review of the re-estimation process of Indonesia, the Secretariat held two virtual meetings with Indonesia (in July and September), including discussions on the re-estimation process to estimate historical shark catch data and IOTC species data beyond 2022.

Technical workshops

Data Reporting Workshop

The IOTC Data Reporting Workshop, held in Jakarta from 26 to 30 May 2025, brought together 32 participants from 18 CPCs to strengthen the reporting of fishery statistics. The workshop was successful in improving understanding and use of IOTC reporting forms, supported by hands-on exercises using Secretariat-developed tools such as data validators and spatial grid mapping aids. Key datasets discussed included annual retained catch, geo-referenced catch and effort, size frequency, FAD-related data, and artisanal landings monitoring, along with fishing craft statistics. Thanks to active participant engagement, several code lists were updated and improvements were agreed on for some of the reporting forms. The Secretariat also presented updates on data compliance assessments and proposed CPC factsheets, The workshop concluded with discussions on persistent challenges, tool enhancements, and priorities for assist the CPCs on reporting data to the Secretariat.

Species Identification Workshops

The IOTC Secretariat organised two species identification and sampling workshops in Sri Lanka and India in late 2024, and September 2025, respectively (Appendix I). The overarching objective of the workshops was to develop the capacity of coastal CPCs, expecting that the workshop participants will be able to train enumerators in species identification and sampling in their own countries, i.e., 'Training of Trainers'. The workshops also provided training on basic sampling protocols, including best practices on measuring techniques for specimens and collecting hard (e.g., otoliths) and soft (e.g., muscle) tissue samples to support the development of large-scale regional sampling programs endorsed by the Scientific Committee.

The training sessions were developed by external tuna and sharks and ray's specialists, and the Data Section assisted the lecturers and presented an overview of the problems associated with species identification and sampling programmes in the data reported by the CPCs.

Data Management Tasks

Progress has been made on the harmonisation of IOTC reference data with CWP code lists, including for vessel-related applications supporting both the IOTC vessel registries and Port State Measures. Complementary activities included updating the IOTC Data Reporting Guidelines, improving IOTC Reporting Forms and their description for programmatic submissions, and expanding the suite of automated Data Validators to enhance data accuracy at the point of receipt.

Data dissemination efforts focused on improving both accessibility and long-term preservation of IOTC reference materials and datasets. All IOTC code lists are now accessible through the IOTC Reference Data Catalogue, an associated R package (iotc-data-reference-codelists), and a versioned Zenodo record (10.5281/zenodo.15743874). Public-domain fisheries datasets have been released through GitHub-based R libraries, with work underway to make them available via Zenodo as well. As part of the ongoing transition to FAO infrastructure, the Secretariat also migrated the online Shiny applications providing interactive access to fishery datasets and catch-limit simulations to the FAO shinyapps.io cloud platform.

The Secretariat also supported updates to the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) with assistance from several consultants. This work included updating reporting forms (10.5281/zenodo.17090245) and their description (see ROS datasets) in line with the SC recommendations, revising and improving the ROS database, and aligning data fields with the IOTC Reference Data Catalogue. Documentation, standards, and materials for the scheme are being reorganized and harmonised with further updates planned for different user groups.

Data Requests from Scientific Meetings

With the aim of improving the quality and availability of data for stock assessments of IOTC species, several scientific working parties have made specific requests to the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS) to provide or enhance particular datasets. In many cases, this requires the Data Section to liaise directly with CPCs to obtain the necessary information. In some circumstances, the Data Section has had to initiate targeted projects or develop special data-request formats to fulfill these needs. However, not all CPCs are willing or able to provide the requested information.

In addition to requests from the Working Parties, the Scientific Committee (SC) also submits follow-up data requests to the WPDCS. During the latest SC session, and from subsequent Working Party meetings, a total of 15 data-related requests were made, including two originating directly from the SC (**Table 1**). These requests are presented in detail in Appendix II.

Table 1. Number of data requests made to the WPDCS in 2025

Scientific Meetings	Number of requests
SC27 (December 2024)	2
WGEMS05 (May 2025)	3
WPEB21 (September 2025)	1
WPFAD07 (June 2025)	2
WPM16 (October 2025)	2
WPNT15 (July 2025)	4
WPTT27 (October 2025)	3

Progress Made on Recommendations from WPDCS20

During the 20th session of the WPDCS, five recommendations were submitted to the SC, categorized under several themes, in addition to the recommendations included in the Programme of Work and the final report of the meeting. The progress made on these recommendations is further reviewed, and, where appropriate, alternative recommendations are proposed for participants to consider and endorse. The progress on each recommendation is presented in Appendix III.

Appendix I: Main Activities related of the Data Section carried out in 2025

Tab. A1: Summary of data section activities held in late 2024 and 2025

Category	Country / CPC	Dates	Executing agencies	Mode
Technical Assistance Mission	Madagascar Antananarivo Mahajanga	23-27 Mar 2025	Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Économie Bleue (MPEB)	In-country
	Indonesia Jakarta	22-23 May 2025	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	In-country
	Kenya Mombasa	23-27 Jun 2025	Kenya Fisheries Service (KeFS)	In-country
	India Kochi	4 Oct 2025	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) Fishery Survey of India (FSI) Department of Fisheries (DOF) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)	In-country
Capacity Building Workshop	Indonesia Jakarta	26-30 May 2025	Australia, Bangladesh, China, EU-Spain, I.R. Iran, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Malaysia, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Tanzania	In-country
Species Identification Workshop	Sri Lanka Negombo and Colombo	9-13 December 2024	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA)	In-country
	India Kochi	29 Sept-3 Oct 2025	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) Fishery Survey of India (FSI) Department of Fisheries (DOF) Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, I.R. Iran, Oman, Philippines, Thailand, South Africa	In-country

Category	Country / CPC	Dates	Executing agencies	Mode
Technical meeting	Oman	19 Jun 2025	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR)	Online
	Oman	24 Sep 2025	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR)	Online
	Mozambique	18 Jul 2025	National Fisheries Administration (NFA)	Online
	Indonesia	24 Jul, 25 Sep 2025	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	Online
External Meeting	European Union	23-24 Sep 2025	European Commission	Online
	FIRMS	26-30 Jun 2025	FAO Fisheries Division (NFISI)	Online
	CWP	2-4 Jul 2025	FAO Fisheries Fisheries Division (NFISS)	Online

Appendix II: Data-Related Requests from Other Meetings

Tab. A2: Data-related requests to the 20th Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS20)

Meeting	Para	Description
SC27 (December 2024)	145	The SC REQUESTED the WPDCS to undertake an online intersessional review in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat to check and where necessary amend field definitions and reporting requirements to ensure that they appropriately recognise (where necessary) the potential use of additional ROS data collection tools (e.g., EM and port sampling) and are otherwise also clear and easy to understand for observers
	190	The SC REQUESTED that the Secretariat updated the ROS forms for data collection and reporting and aligned them accordingly with the final ROS fields agreed by the WPDCS
WGEMS05 (May 2025)	6	The WGEMS NOTED that the group has not yet undertaken the intersessional review to check the field definitions as they were awaiting the endorsement of these new data fields by the Commission. The WGEMS AGREED that now that these have been endorsed, this work will be undertaken ahead of the WPDCS later this year
	22	The WGEMS QUERIED when the technology would be considered practical for commercial application, NOTING the importance of developing experimental training datasets to ground-truth predictions. The WPEB NOTED that significant work remains to ensure the validity of the results, and SUGGESTED that this working group, along with the WPDCS, could be the right forum to discuss relevant criteria. However, the WGEMS AGREED that extra caution is required, especially if the results may be used for compliance purposes. The WGEMS also NOTED the suggestion of using a 10% tolerance margin of error, as prescribed in EU regulations, as a potential threshold for the criteria
	36	The WGEMS RECOMMENDED that the WPDCS consider and endorse the WGEMS Programme of Work (2026–2030), as provided in Appendix IV
WPFAD07 (June 2025)	13	The WGFAD AGREED on the value of developing a data validation tool for Form 3DA and implementing automated procedures for data checks and feedback to CPCs. The WGFAD ENCOURAGED the Secretariat to report on progress at the WPDCS or at the next WGFAD meeting
	42	The WGFAD NOTED that a joint project with CSIRO on data collection estimated that approximately 80% of the catch from purse seine fisheries in Indonesia may be derived from AFADs, and that collecting and reporting the operational data required under Resolution 23/01 would be extremely difficult. The WGFAD ENCOURAGED CPCs to express their challenges and constraints at the next session of the WPDCS.
WPNT15 (July 2025)	4	The WPNT NOTED that in previous meetings the group had recommended the SC to urge CPCs to collect and report more length frequency data but NOTED that this data really need to be representative of the fleets, regions etc. in order to be helpful for stock assessments. The WPNT further NOTED that CPCs should all have different methods and standards for collecting these data including general guidelines on how sampling should be done using information in logbooks and from port sampling and observers. The WPNT ENCOURAGED CPCs to present their size data along with information on their sampling standards so that the WPNT and WPDCS can make recommendations on how these could be improved.
	5	The WPNT NOTED that Resolution 15/01 provides simple general guidance on the minimum standards for sampling but this is not comprehensive so the WPNT REQUESTED the WPDCS to develop standards for collecting these data so they are standardised across all CPCs.
	34	To address the issue relating to effort units, the WPNT REQUESTED the WPDCS to review the effort data available at the Secretariat and, where appropriate, to provide recommendations to the SC on standardised effort units to be considered in future data reporting requirements.

Meeting	Para	Description
	55	The WPNT NOTED that the study used the effort unit of kg/vessel/month. The WPNT NOTED that many CPCs use different units for effort which makes it difficult to compare across different CPCs and years or develop a single CPUE series across the whole region. The WPNT therefore REQUESTED that the WPDCS develop standards on the best effort units to be applied to each gear type
WPEB21 (September 2025)	35	The Commission ACKNOWLEDGED that Indonesia has completed the work undertaken to re-estimate the tuna catches from Indonesian fisheries. The revised catches have been endorsed by the WPDCS and SC. The Commission NOTED that given the importance of Indonesia's fisheries and their large volume of tuna catches, this catch reconstruction work is important to the scientific work of this Commission. The Commission also REQUESTED Indonesia to work with the Secretariat and to ensure that the estimation methodologies are automated. The Commission also NOTED the need for other fishing fleets such as Oman, which the Commission has raised concerns regarding the reported catch data, to initiate and undergo a similar process to reconstruct the catch data.
WPTT27 (October 2025)	17	The WPTT REQUESTED the WPDCS to evaluate Somalia's 2024 reported catch and provide guidance on constructing an early catch history so this data can be incorporated into future assessments
	214	The WPTT ENCOURAGED the participants to review the draft 3LG form available online and contribute to its revision, with the aim of adopting a final version in the next Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS21)
	104	The WPTT NOTED that the total catch of bigeye tuna in 2024 (86,974 t) was greater than the adopted TAC for 2024 (80,583 t) and that this was an exceptional circumstance. To better evaluate the relative impact of differences between catch and the agreed TAC, the WPTT REQUESTED that the difference be reported as a percentage in future considerations of exceptional circumstances. The WPTT also NOTED that the comparison between catch and the agreed TAC should take into account the impact of the catch reported by Somalia for 2024, which is pending review by the WPDCS
WPM16 (October 2025)	34	The WPM also NOTED that preliminary analyses of historical species composition data using the new T3R procedure yielded results similar to those obtained with the T3 procedure. The transition to the new T3R procedure is planned for 2025, and over time, it will be applied retrospectively to historical data (with the intention to cover the past 5–10 years). The WPM REQUESTED that a comparison of the two approaches for estimating species composition from historical data be conducted and presented at the WPDCS meetings
	45-46	The WPM NOTED paper IOTC–2025–WPM16–09, which presented a preliminary study of length frequency analysis of skipjack tuna in Indonesia, with the following summary provided by the authors. The WPM THANKED the author for the study and REQUESTED the paper to be presented to the upcoming WPDCS meeting, as the paper is more relevant to their work

Appendix III: Progress on WPDCS20 Recommendations

Tab. A3: Recommendations from the 20th IOTC Working Party on Data collection and Statistics (WPDCS20) to the 27th Scientific Committee (SC27), and responses and follow-up by the 29th session of the Commission (S29)

Type	WPDCS	Recommendation	SC	Response / follow-up by the Scientific Committee	COM	Response / Follow-up by the Commission	Main topic	Progress
Data reporting (to the IOTC Secretariat)	WPDCS20.01 (16)	NOTING a lack of clarity and inconsistencies in certain CMMs, the WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the following revisions for submission to the Commission: • Res. 15/01. Annex 2 should be revised to align with the provisions of Res. 15/02, which mandates data collection and reporting at the species level, regardless of the fishing gear used • Res. 15/02. The spatial resolution of geo-referenced catch, effort, and size frequency data for coastal fisheries should be clearly defined and aligned, i.e., size-frequency data shall be provided using an alternative geographical area if it better represents the fishery concerned • Res. 19/07. The content, format, and timeline for datasets to be collected and reported by the chartering CPC should be clearly specified • Res. 24/02. The reporting of buoy purchases to the IOTC and their incorporation into the compliance assessment	SC27 (132)	Updates: NOTING a lack of clarity and inconsistencies in the aforementioned CMMs, The SC requested CPC to take into considerations these points when proposing potential revisions of these CMMs		Update: None		

Type	WPDCS	Recommendation	SC	Response / follow-up by the Scientific Committee	COM	Response / Follow-up by the Commission	Main topic	Progress
		procedure should be clearly specified • Res. 24/04 o The spatio-temporal resolution of reported observer data should be aligned with the IOTC observer reporting templates and standards, as originally established in 21/04 o The timeliness for reporting fisheries observer reports and data collected through the ROS should be harmonised with those for the main IOTC datasets. Specifically, each CPC shall submit observer data collected during a year to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the following year. For longline fisheries, final data shall be submitted no later than 30 December						
Environmental data (to SC)	WPDCS20.02 (21)	The WPDCS ACKNOWLEDGED the benefits of a climate-ocean web portal for the IOTC Area of Competence and RECOMMENDED the development and implementation of the online digital Indian Ocean Atlas in 2025.current differences between revised official national catch statistics and scientific best estimates used for supporting the IOTC science process and decision-making	SC27 (140)	Update: The SC NOTED the project initiated by France-OT to develop an online digital ocean atlas covering the IOTC Area of Competence, which was also presented at the 2024 sessions of the WPEB and WPTT. The atlas aims to support the objectives of Resolution 24/01 by serving as a tool to assess the impacts of climate change on IOTC fisheries. The SC AGREED on the significant value of this digital atlas in supporting the Commission's work and ACKNOWLEDGED that the project will be		Update: None		SC ENDORSING the proposed general methodology, NOTED that there still are issues in some of the species-specific reconstructed historical time series

Type	WPDCS	Recommendation	SC	Response / follow-up by the Scientific Committee	COM	Response / Follow-up by the Commission	Main topic	Progress
				developed over six months by an expert team. Additionally, the SC THANKED Sri Lanka for its commitment to hosting the web portal and ensuring the long-term operation and maintenance of the atlas (see document IOTC-2024-SC27-INF04)				
National statistical systems	WPDCS20.3 (103)	The WPDCS ENDORSED the methodology and results used to re-estimate Indonesia's historical catches for the period 1950–2022 and RECOMMENDED that the SC also endorse them	SC27 (137)	Update: The SC CONGRATULATED Indonesia for its efforts to address the requests made at the 26th session of the SC, resulting in a revised catch time series covering the period 1950-2022. The SC NOTED that the WPDCS has ENDORSED the methodology and results used to re-estimate Indonesia's historical catches for the period 1950–2022 and AGREED to endorse them as well	S29 (para. 42)	Update: The Commission ACKNOWLEDGED that Indonesia has completed the work undertaken to re-estimate the tuna catches from Indonesian fisheries. The revised catches have been endorsed by the WPDCS and SC. The Commission NOTED that given the importance of Indonesia's fisheries and their large volume of tuna catches, this catch reconstruction work is important to the scientific work of this Commission. The Commission also REQUESTED Indonesia to work with the Secretariat and to ensure that the estimation methodologies are automated. The Commission also NOTED the need for other fishing fleets such as Oman, which the Commission has raised concerns regarding the reported catch data, to initiate and undergo a similar process to reconstruct the catch data	WPDCS RECOMMENDED a scoping study into how ocean-climate information could be developed and made available by the IOTC and how this information would be presented to the SC and its working parties	SC ENDORSED the implementation of a scoping study to further develop all presented indicators, possibly though an online atlas, and devise the most effective ways to present these to the SC and its Working Parties.

Type	WPDCS	Recommendation	SC	Response / follow-up by the Scientific Committee	COM	Response / Follow-up by the Commission	Main topic	Progress
Regional observer programmes (ROS)	WPDCS20.04 (132)	The WPDCS RECOMMENDED: • That the SC ENDORSE the following revised lists of ROS minimum data fields (including their stated collection and reporting requirement) for purse seine, longline, and pole and line (include associated “general” fields) provided as an XLSX spreadsheet available here: IOTC-2024-SC27-DATA01. • That the SC ENDORSE the revised collection and reporting requirement categories as follows: ○ Mandatory – mandatory for collection and reporting ○ Optional – optional for collection and reporting • That the SC ENDORSE the revised ROS data fields (and associated collection and reporting requirements) as a living document, for which CPCs can, if necessary, in future years, bring forward proposals for amendments or improvements, to the WPDCS and SC for review. • That the SC ADVISE the Commission to take actions for all CPCs to ensure that the Record of Authorised Vessels	SC27 (145)	Update: The SC REQUESTED the WPDCS to undertake an online intersessional review in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat to check and where necessary amend field definitions and reporting requirements to ensure that they appropriately recognise (where necessary) the potential use of additional ROS data collection tools (e.g., EM and port sampling) and are otherwise also clear and easy to understand for observers		Update: The basis of this resolution was Proposal M which provided revisions to Resolution 24/04	The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that an intersessional working group is organised to convey interested WPDCS and WGEMS participants and review ROS data fields collection and reporting status	the SC ENDORSED the request of setting up an intersessional working group

Type	WPDCS	Recommendation	SC	Response / follow-up by the Scientific Committee	COM	Response / Follow-up by the Commission	Main topic	Progress
		(RAV) details are completely accurate and up to date.						
	WPDCS20.05 (140)	The WPDCS DISCUSSED and REVISED the summary on best practices guidelines for safe handling and release of small cetaceans and RECOMMENDED the SC to advise the Commission to consider these guidelines when developing conservation measures for cetaceans	SC27 (141)	Update: The SC NOTED that the WPDCS had discussed and reviewed the summary on best practice guidelines for safe handling and release of small cetaceans and the SC RECOMMENDED the Commission to consider these guidelines when developing conservation measures for cetaceans		Update: None		
WPDCS programme of work	WPDCS20.06 (171)	The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the WPDCS Programme of Work (2025-2029), as detailed in Appendix V	SC27 (196)	Update: The SC AGREED on the consolidated table of priorities across all working parties (Table 3), as developed by each working party Chairperson, and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairpersons and vice-Chairpersons of the SC and relevant working parties, develop ToRs for the specific projects to be carried out		Update: None		
Report adoption	WPDCS20.07 (174)	The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPDCS20, as detailed in Appendix VI	SC27 (214)	Update: The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from SC26, provided at Appendix 39	S29 (para. 37)	Update: The Commission ENDORSED the Scientific Committee's 2023 list of recommendations as its own		