
ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 24TH WORKING PARTY ON BILLFISH**Updated: 1 September 2026**

Date: 9–12 September 2026**Location: Reunion****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)**

- IOTC-2026-WPB24-01a: Draft: Agenda for the 24th Working Party on Billfish
- IOTC-2026-WPB24-01b: Draft: Annotated agenda for the 24th Working Party on Billfish
- IOTC-2026-WPB24-02: Draft: List of documents for the 24th Working Party on Billfish

3. THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS

- 3.1. Outcomes of the 28th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-03: Outcomes of the 28th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
- 3.2. Outcomes of the 28th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-04: Outcomes of the 30th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
- 3.3. Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-05: Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
- 3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPB23 (IOTC Secretariat)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-06: Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPB23 and SC28 (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)
 - IOTC-2025-WPB23-07: Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for billfish species (IOTC Secretariat)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-10: Billfish fisheries in India with insights into the habitat preference and biology of Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) from the Western Indian EEZ (Pradeep H)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-11: Length frequency distributions of billfishes from Indonesian longline tuna fishery (Jatmiko I)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-13: Development of morphometric conversion equations for blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) and striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*) using observer-collected photographs from Sri Lankan multiday fisheries (Haputhanthri S)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-14: Preliminary length frequency characterization of Indo-Pacific sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*) from purse seine fishery in the Andaman Sea of Thailand (Thitipongtrakul W)
- 4.2. Climate change (all)

5. Swordfish

- 5.1. Review new information on swordfish biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-15: Updated sex-specific growth parameters for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in the tropical Indian Ocean for the 2026 IOTC stock assessment (Wang S)
- 5.2. Nominal and standardised CPUE indices swordfish (all)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-16: Standardized swordfish CPUE based on observer data from the French Réunion-based pelagic longline fishery in the South-West Indian Ocean (2007-2025) (Tellier C, Sabarros P)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-17: Standardization of swordfish CPUE from the Réunion longline fishery logbook data (Bonhommeau S)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-18: Updated standardized CPUE indices for swordfish caught by the Portuguese pelagic longline fleet in the Indian ocean, 2000–2024 (Coelho R, Rosa D, Lino P)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-19: Updated standardized catch rates of swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught by the Spanish surface longline fleet in the Indian Ocean during the 2001-2024 period (Fernández-Costa J, Ramos-Cartelle A)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-20: CPUE standardisation of swordfish caught by longline in South African waters (West W, da Silva C)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-22: Updated CPUE standardization for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in the Indian Ocean using a zero-inflated Bayesian hierarchical spatial model with Japanese longline fishery data (1994-2024) (Takahashi S, Kai M)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-23: CPUE standardization of swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught by Taiwanese large-scale longline fishery in the Indian Ocean (Lin C, Wang S, Xu W)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-24: Preliminary exploration of CPUE standardization of swordfish using IOTC catch effort dataset (Fu D)
- 5.3. Stock assessment of swordfish
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-25: Stock assessment of Indian Ocean swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) using Bayesian Surplus Production Models (JABBA): model development, validation, sensitivity and stock status (Coelho R)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-26: Stock assessment of swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in the Indian Ocean using the stochastic production model in continuous time (SPiCT) (Wang S)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-27: Indian Ocean Swordfish Stock Assessment 1950-2024 (Stock Synthesis) (Phillips G)
- 5.4. Review of exceptional circumstances of swordfish management procedure (Resolution 24/08)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-28: Consideration of exceptional circumstances for the Swordfish Management Procedure 2026 (Bromhead D, Preece A)
- 5.5. Development of management advice for swordfish 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. OTHER BILLFISHES (new information for informing future assessments)

- 6.1. Review of new information on other billfishes (marlins) biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-29: Development of billfish & swordfish species identification App (Fujino)
- 6.2. Resolution 18/05 Catch Limits
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-INF01: Status of marlins and sailfish catches- resolution 18/05 (IOTC Secretariat)
- 6.3. Preparation for stock assessments in 2027

7. WPB PROGRAM OF WORK

- 7.1. Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2027–2031) (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
 - IOTC-2026-WPB24-08: Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2027–2031) (IOTC Secretariat)
- 7.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPB meeting (Chairperson)

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1. Date and place of the 25th and 26th Sessions of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 8.2. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 24th Session of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson)