
DRAFT: AGENDA FOR THE 22ND WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH: ASSESSMENT MEETING

Last updated: August 2026

Date: 14-18 September 2026

Location: Hotel Le Battant des Lames, Saint-Pierre, La Réunion

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 (La Réunion time, GMT+4)

Chair: Dr Charlene da Silva (South Africa)

Vice-Chair: Dr Philippe Sabarros (EU, France) and Dr Yanan Li (China)

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chair)
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chair)
- 3. THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS** (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.1. Outcomes of the 28th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.2. Outcomes of the 30th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.3. Review of the Conservation and Management Measures relevant to Ecosystems and Bycatch (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPEB21 (IOTC Secretariat)
- 4. REVIEW OF THE DATA AVAILABLE AT THE SECRETARIAT FOR BYCATCH SPECIES** (All)
 - 4.1. Review of data available at the Secretariat for bycatch species (all)
 - 4.2. Data re-estimation for bycatch species (all)
- 5. REVIEW OF NATIONAL BYCATCH ISSUES IN IOTC MANAGED FISHERIES AND NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION** (sharks; seabirds; marine turtles) (CPCs and IOTC Secretariat)
 - 5.1. Updated status of development and implementation of NPOA for seabirds and sharks, and the implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations (CPCs)
 - 5.2. Updated status of national fisheries and bycatch (CPCs)
- 6. REVIEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO SHARKS** (all)
 - 6.1. Presentation of new information available on sharks (all)
 - 6.2. Collaboration with international organisations of interest to WPEB (all)
 - 6.3. Shark research work plan review (all)
- 7. REVIEW OF NEW INFORMATION ON INDICATORS AND DATA-POOR ASSESSMENTS** (all)
 - 7.1. Review of indicators (all)
 - 7.2. Data-poor assessments (all)
 - 7.3. Update on MSE for blue shark (all)

8. NEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH SPECIES (all)

8.1. Review new information on the environment and ecosystem interactions and modelling, including climate change issues affecting pelagic ecosystems in the IOTC area of responsibility (all)

- Ecosystems and climate
- Impact of gears
- Mitigation devices/techniques

8.2. Assessment of the impacts of climate change on IOTC fisheries and bycatch species (all)

9. BYCATCH, SPECIES INTERACTIONS, AND ECOSYSTEM RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR OTHER SHARK SPECIES, MARINE MAMMALS, SEABIRDS, AND SEA TURTLES (all)

9.1. All bycatch species (all)

- Review of the minimum standards for safe handling and live release procedures (master document development) (all)

9.2. Other sharks and rays (all)

- Review existing data and information relating to the life history and conservation status of whale sharks (all)

9.3. Mobulids (all)

- Review new information on mobulid biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- Review of indicators for mobulids (all)

9.4. Marine mammals (all)

- Best practice guidelines for safe release and handling of cetaceans (all);
- Review new information on marine mammal biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- Development of management advice on the status of marine mammal species (all)

9.5. Seabirds (all)

- Review new information on seabird biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)
- Developing advice on best practices for branch weighting
- Development of draft work plan (all)

9.6. Sea turtles

- Review new information on marine turtle biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)

10. WPEB PROGRAM OF WORK (RESEARCH AND PRIORITIES) (all)

10.1. Revision of the WPEB Program of Work 2027-2031 (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)

10.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPEB meeting (Chairperson)

11. OTHER MATTERS (Chair)

11.1. Date and place of the 23rd and 24th Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chair)

11.2. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 22nd Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chairperson)