
ANNOTATED 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)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-01a: Agenda of the 20th Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Assessment Meeting)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-01b: Annotated agenda of the 20th Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Assessment Meeting)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-02: List of documents of the 20th Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Assessment Meeting)

3. THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS

3.1. Outcomes of the 28th Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-03: Outcomes of the 28th Session of the Scientific Committee

3.2. Outcomes of the 30th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-04: Outcomes of the 30th Session of the Commission

3.3. Review of the Conservation and Management Measures relevant to Ecosystems and Bycatch (IOTC Secretariat)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-05: Review of the Conservation and Management Measures relevant to Ecosystems and Bycatch

3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPEB21 (IOTC Secretariat)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-06: Progress on the recommendations of WPEB21

4. REVIEW OF THE DATA AVAILABLE AT THE SECRETARIAT FOR BYCATCH SPECIES AND BYCATCH DATA ESTIMATION APPROACHES (All)

4.1. Review of the data available at the Secretariat for bycatch species (All)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-07: Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for ecosystems and bycatch species (IOTC Secretariat)

4.2. Data re-estimation for bycatch species (all)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-30: Reconstructing Historical Catch Series for Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*) and Shortfin Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) in the Indian Ocean: Methodological Approaches and Uncertainty Quantification. (Rice J)

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)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-08: 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 (IOTC Secretariat)

5.2. Updated status of national fisheries and bycatch (CPCs)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-13: Shark Species Composition and Size Distribution in Indonesian Longline Fisheries Operating in the Indian Ocean. (T. Noegroho, I. Jatmiko, Y. Hanny R, P. Lestari, L. Sadiyah, F. Satria and P. Suadela)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-16: Update on bycatch management and ecosystem-based fisheries management in Madagascar fisheries (case of shark and ray in small-scale fisheries sector) (T. Andriamaharo Ny Aina)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-17: Bycatch Presence Recorded in Purse Seine Fishing Logbooks from the Andaman Sea of Thailand (N. Polchoke, A. Sangnarin, W. Thitipongtraku)

6. REVIEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO SHARKS (Chair)

6.1. Presentation of new information available on sharks (all)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-14: Estimation of shortfin mako shark discards from the South African Longline Fleet in the IOTC using the Bycatch Estimator tool. (C. da Silva and W. West)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-18: Exploratory assessment of growth, maturity and Length-Based Spawning Potential Ratio (LB-SPR) of priority shark species from Kenya's industrial longline fishery (B. K. Kiilu, K. Wachira, B. Fulanda, E. Kimani, G. Okemwa, Z. Ogari and E. Mueni)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-26: Conservation status and Life History of Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) in the Indian Ocean (Bell J., da Silva C., Murray J., McCully Phillips S., Roebuck E., Pierce S., Pillans R. and Ellis J.)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-36: Addressing Gaps in Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna* spp.) Conservation and Management in the Indian Ocean (Kiilu, B. and Ziegler, I.)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-27: An update for 2025-2026 on the development of IOTC BTH PRM Project (Evgeny R)

6.2. Collaboration with international organisations of interest to WPEB (all)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-27: Migratory sharks and rays in the Indian Ocean: chronology of the work of IOTC, CMS and the sharks MOU, potential synergies and emerging issues (CMS)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-31: Using fisheries data to support the identification of Important Shark and Ray Areas: opportunities for collaboration with Regional Fishery Bodies (Jabado, R. W. and Rohner, C. A.)

6.3. Shark research work plan review (all)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-32: Draft report of the Indian Ocean shark research plan workshop (Secretariat)

7. REVIEW OF NEW INFORMATION ON INDICATORS AND DATA-POOR ASSESSMENTS (all)

7.1. Review of indicators (all)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-19: Standardized CPUE of Silky Shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) from the Taiwanese Large-Scale Tuna Longline Fishery in the Indian Ocean, 2005–2025 (W. P. Tsai)

7.2. Data-poor assessments (all)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-12: Application of per-recruit and length-based data-limited assessment methods to pelagic sharks in the Indian Ocean (R. Coelho and D. Fu)

7.3. Update on MSE for blue shark (all)

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-15: Update on the progress made with the development of blue shark MSE (Edwards, C.)

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

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
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-20: First insights into the use of traplines in the Portuguese pelagic longline fleet in the Indian Ocean (R. Coelho, D. Rosa and P. G. Lino)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-21: Optimizing tori line performance through terminal towing configurations in tuna longline fisheries (Xuefang)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-22: Field application and evaluation of safe-release methods for sharks bycaught in tropical tuna purse-seine fisheries (Xuefang)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-35: Post-release survival of silky sharks in tropical tuna purse seine fisheries under best handling practices: insights from tagging and predictive modelling (Lopetegui-Eguren L., Grande M., Murua J., Cuevas N., Salgado A., Erauskin-Extramiana M., Onandia I., Mugerza A., Horrach L., Ruiz J., Murua H., and Arrizabalaga H.)

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

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-10: Future trajectories of the tropical Indian Ocean pelagic ecosystem under fisheries management and climate change scenarios (Amate R, Juan-Jordá José, Xavier C, Iker Z, Eider A)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-29: Indian Ocean Digital Atlas (Marsac F.)

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

9.1. All bycatch species (all)

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

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-INF01: Safe handling and live release best practices master document development (Secretariat)

9.2. Other sharks and rays

9.3. Mobulids (all)

- Review new information on mobulid biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- Review of indicators for Mobulids (all)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-34: Field guide to manta and devil rays of the world including species identification and best practice handling techniques (Stevens, G. Barros, N., Laglbauer, B., Dando, M., Fernando, D. and Notarbartolo di Sciara G.)

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)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-33: Cetacean Bycatch Mitigation Research in the Indian Ocean (Austin R., Kiszka J., Fernando D., Tanna A., Sitsabeshan S. and Stewart J.)

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)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-11: Assessing Seabird Interactions in the Sri Lankan Tuna Longline Fishery: An Integrated Analysis of Fishers' Perceptions, Observer Data, and Logbook Records (T. Balawardana)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-25: CCSBT seabird risk assessment approach (Peatman T. and Edwards C.)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-37: ACAP Guidelines to measure the sink rates of baited hooks in pelagic longline fisheries using Time-Depth Recorders (Jiménez S.)

Information papers:

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-INF02: CCSBT multi-year Seabird Strategy

9.6. Sea turtles

- Review new information on marine turtle biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-23: Sea turtle bycatch and mitigation in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia region (IOSEA)
- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-24: A review of technical and operational measures to mitigate bycatch of marine turtles in commercial fisheries (IOSEA)

10. WPEB PROGRAM OF WORK (RESEARCH AND PRIORITIES)

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

- IOTC-2026-WPEB22(AS)-09: WPEB Program of Work 2027-2031 (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)