



REPORT FROM THE GLOBAL BLUE SHARK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION WORKSHOP

REBECCA SCOTT, THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Purpose, expectation and action intended (select one or more and include corresponding text)

Discussions (for information and open discussion):

The intent of this paper is to draw attention to the FAO workshop report and proceedings of the Workshop on Global Blue Shark MSE, which took place in October 2025. The outcomes from the workshop are relevant to IOTC member discussions given the ongoing MSE work for Indian Ocean blue shark.



A workshop on developing management strategy evaluations (MSE) for global blue shark stocks took place on October 14-16, 2025, in Rome, Italy. The three-day event was attended by 24 leading experts in MSE and blue shark science, representing all four regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) that manage fisheries that catch the species: IATTC in the eastern Pacific, WCPFC in the western and central Pacific, ICCAT in the Atlantic, and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) in the Indian Ocean. The workshop was timely, as both ICCAT and IOTC have begun initiatives to develop MSE-tested harvest strategies, also known as management procedures (MPs), for their respective blue shark stocks. This workshop offered a rare opportunity to bring together experts from across ocean basins to discuss shared knowledge and challenges and brainstorm solutions related to effective blue shark management. The second and third days of the workshop were hands-on technical sessions with the MSE modeling platform [openMSE](#), using stock assessment model files from 5 global blue shark stocks to build actual preliminary MSE operating models (OMs). Regional breakout groups produced an impressive breadth of MSE-related products, such as candidate archetypal MPs and [Slick](#) Shiny App objects for presenting MSE results. Technical products from the workshop, including regional breakout group presentations, are available on a [public GitHub repository](#). All products from the workshop were preliminary and hypothetical, as they have not been endorsed by their respective RFMOs. The progress made at this workshop has the potential to progress or inform MSE development efforts for blue shark across all relevant RFMOs. This workshop marked a significant, collaborative step towards robust, science-based global management of blue shark stocks, and the [formal FAO workshop report](#) has been provided as a WPM information paper.