AGENDA FOR THE 29TH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Last updated: 5 November 2026

Date: 30 November - 4 December 2026

Location: San Sabastian, Spain

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 daily

Chair: Dr Sylvain Bonhommeau (EU.France)

Vice-Chairs: Dr Jiangfeng Zhu (China), Dr Charlene da Silva (South Africa)

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (Chairperson)

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)

3. **ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS** (Chairperson)

4. **DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE** (IOTC Secretariat)
   - 4.1 Outcomes of the 30th Session of the Commission.
   - 4.2 Previous decisions of the Commission

5. **SCIENCE RELATED ACTIVITES OF THE IOTC SECRETARIAT IN 2026** (IOTC Secretariat)
   - 5.1 Report of the Secretariat – Activities in support of the IOTC science process in 2026

6. **NATIONAL REPORTS FROM CPCs** (CPCs)

7. **REPORTS OF THE 2026 IOTC WORKING PARTY MEETINGS**
   - 7.1 IOTC-2026-WPTmT10-R Report of the 10th Session of the Working Party on Temperate Tunas
     - 7.1.1 Albacore tuna stock assessment
   - 7.2 IOTC-2026-WPNT16-R Report of the 16th Session of the Working Party on Neritic Tunas
   - 7.3 IOTC-2026-WPB24-R Report of the 24th Session of the Working Party on Billfish
     - 7.3.1 Swordfish stock assessment
     - 7.3.2 Revision of catch levels of Marlins under Resolution 18/05
   - 7.4 IOTC-2026-WPEB22-R Report of the 22nd Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch
     - 7.4.1 Status of development and implementation of national plans of action for seabirds and sharks, and implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations
     - 7.4.2 Other matters
   - 7.5 IOTC-2026-WPTT28-R Report of the 28th Session of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas
     - 7.5.1 Skipjack tuna stock assessment
     - 7.5.2 Update on the WGFAD08
     - 7.5.3 Other matters
   - 7.6 IOTC-2026-WPM17-R Report of the 17th Session of the Working Party on Methods
     - 7.6.1 Update on TCMP10
     - 7.6.2 Management Strategy Evaluation Progress
     - 7.6.3 Bigeye tuna MP (Resolution 22/03)
     - 7.6.4 Skipjack tuna MP (Resolution 24/07)
     - 7.6.5 Swordfish tuna MP (Resolution 24/08)
   - 7.7 IOTC-2026-WPDCS22-R Report of the 22nd Session of the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics
     - 7.7.1 Update on WGEMS06
     - 7.7.2 Other matters

7.8 Summary discussion of matters common to Working Parties (capacity building activities; connecting science and management, etc.)
- 7.8.1 Data collection and capacity building
- 7.8.2 Invited Expert(s) at the WP meetings
- 7.8.3 Meeting participation fund
- 7.8.4 IOTC species identification guides: Tuna and tuna-like species
- 7.8.5 Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the SC and its subsidiary bodies

8. STATUS OF TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE RESOURCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (Chairperson)
- 8.1 Tuna – Highly migratory species
- 8.2 Tuna and mackerel – Neritic species
- 8.3 Billfish

9. STATUS OF SHARKS, MARINE TURTLES, SEABIRDS AND MARINE MAMMALS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (Chairperson)
- 9.1 Sharks
- 9.2 Marine turtles
- 9.3 Seabirds
- 9.4 Marine mammals

10. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME (IOTC Secretariat)
- 10.1 Consideration of Resolution 25/06 On a regional observer scheme

11. PROGRAM OF WORK AND SCHEDULE OF WORKING PARTY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS (IOTC Secretariat and Chairperson**)**
- 11.1 Progress on previous Recommendations from WPs and SC
- 11.2 Program of Work (2027–2031) and assessment schedule
  - 11.2.1 Program of Work
  - 11.2.2 Assessment schedule
  - 11.2.3 Consultants
- 11.3 Schedule of meetings for 2027 and 2028
  - 11.3.1 Data preparatory meetings
  - 11.3.2 Final meeting schedule

12 OTHER BUSINESS (Chairperson)

13 REVIEW OF THE DRAFT, AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 29th SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (Chairperson)