ANNOTATED 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)
   - **IOTC-2026-SC29-01a:** Agenda of the 29th Session of the Scientific Committee
   - **IOTC-2026-SC29-01b:** Annotated agenda of the 29th Session of the Scientific Committee
   - **IOTC-2026-SC29-02:** List of documents of the 29th Session of the Scientific Committee

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.
     - **IOTC-2026-SC29-03**: Outcomes of 30th Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
   - 4.2 Previous decisions of the Commission
     - **IOTC-2026-SC29-04**: Previous decisions of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)

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
     - **IOTC-2026-SC29-06**: Report of the Secretariat - Activities in support of the IOTC science process in 2026 (IOTC Secretariat)

6. **NATIONAL REPORTS FROM CPCs** (CPCs)
   - **IOTC2026-SC29-NR01-31**: National Reports (2026) from each IOTC CPC

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
     - **IOTC-2026-SC29-06:** 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 (IOTC Secretariat)
     - 7.4.2 Other matters
     - **IOTC-2026-SC29-11 Ecological Prioritization and Spatial Management Options for Indian Ocean Fisheries and Associated Management (Ramanathan S)**

- **IOTC-2026-SC29-12 Using fisheries data to support the identification of Important Shark and Ray Areas: opportunities for collaboration with Regional Fishery Bodies (Jabado R)**
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-13 Cetaceans and IOTC fisheries (IWC)**

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
- **IOTC-2026-WGFAD08-R: Report of the 8th meeting of the Working Group on FADs**
- 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
- **IOTC-2026-WGEMS06-R: Report of the 6th Session of the IOTC Ad-hoc Working Group on the Development of Electronic Monitoring Programme Standards**
- 7.7.2 Other matters
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-14: IODA allows interactive exploration of Indian Ocean dynamics, patterns, and trends (Marsac F, Noel E)**

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
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES01**: Status of the Indian Ocean Albacore (ALB: *Thunnus alalunga*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES02**: Status of the Indian Ocean bigeye tuna (BET: *Thunnus obesus*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES03**: Status of the Indian Ocean skipjack tuna (SKJ: *Katsuwonus pelamis*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES04**: Status of the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna (YFT: *Thunnus albacares*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES05**: Report on biology, stock status and management of southern bluefin tuna: 2026 (from CCSBT)

8.2 Tuna and mackerel - Neritic species
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES06**: Status of the Indian Ocean bullet tuna (BLT: *Auxis rochei*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES07**: Status of the Indian Ocean frigate tuna (FRI: *Auxis thazard*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES08**: Status of the Indian Ocean kawakawa (KAW: *Euthynnus affinis*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES09**: Status of the Indian Ocean longtail tuna (LOT: *Thunnus tonggol*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES10**: Status of the Indian Ocean Indo-Pacific king mackerel (GUT: *Scomberomorus guttatus*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES11**: Status of the Indian Ocean narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (COM: *Scomberomorus commerson*) resource

8.3 Billfish
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES12:** Status of the Indian Ocean black marlin (BLM: *Istiompax indica*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES13:** Status of the Indian Ocean blue marlin (BUM: *Makaira nigricans*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES14:** Status of the Indian Ocean striped marlin (MLS: *Kajikia audax*) resource

- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES15:** Status of the Indian Ocean Indo-Pacific sailfish (SFA: *Istiophorus platypterus*) resource
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES16:** Status of the Indian Ocean swordfish (SWO: *Xiphias gladius*) resource

9. STATUS OF SHARKS, MARINE TURTLES, SEABIRDS AND MARINE MAMMALS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (Chairperson)

9.1 Sharks

- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES17:** Status of the Indian Ocean blue shark (BSH: *Prionace glauca*)
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES18:** Status of the Indian Ocean oceanic whitetip shark (OCS: *Carcharhinus longimanus*)
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES19:** Status of the Indian Ocean scalloped hammerhead shark (SPL: *Sphyrna lewini*)
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES20:** Status of the Indian Ocean shortfin mako shark (SMA: *Isurus oxyrinchus*)
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES21:** Status of the Indian Ocean silky shark (FAL: *Carcharhinus falciformis*)
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES22:** Status of the Indian Ocean bigeye thresher shark (BTH: *Alopias superciliosus*)
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES23:** Status of the Indian Ocean pelagic thresher shark (PTH: *Alopias pelagicus*)
- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES24:** Status of the Indian Ocean Porbeagle Shark (POR: *Lamna nasus*)

9.2 Marine turtles

- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES25:** Status of marine turtles in the Indian Ocean

9.3 Seabirds

- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES26:** Status of seabirds in the Indian Ocean

9.4 Marine mammals

- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES27:** Status of cetaceans in the Indian Ocean

9.5 Mobulids

- **IOTC-2026-SC29-ES28:** Status of mobulids in the Indian Ocean

10. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME (IOTC Secretariat)

10.1 Consideration of Resolution 25/06 On a regional observer scheme

- **IOTC-2026-SC29-07**: Update on the implementation of the regional observer scheme (IOTC Secretariat)

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

- **IOTC-2026-SC29-10:** Progress on SC28 recommendations (IOTC Secretariat)

11.2 Program of Work (2027-2031) and assessment schedule

11.2.1 Program of Work

- **IOTC-2026-SC29-08:** Revision of the program of work (2027-2031) for the IOTC science process (IOTC Secretariat)

11.2.2 Assessment schedule

11.2.3 Consultants

11.3 Schedule of meetings for 2027 and 2028

- **IOTC-2026-SC29-09:** Proposed schedule of Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2027 and 2028 (IOTC Secretariat)

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)