

---

## **DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 9TH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON TROPICAL TUNAS, 16-20 JULY 2007**

---

### **1. REVIEW OF THE DATA**

Review of the statistical data available for the tropical tuna species (Secretariat)

### **2. NEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY AND STOCK STRUCTURE OF TROPICAL TUNAS**

Review new information on the biology, stock structure of tropical tunas, their fisheries and associated environmental data

- Papers as provided by Members

### **3. REVIEW OF NEW INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF YELLOWFIN**

Data for input into stock assessments:

- Catch and effort
  - LL and other gears
  - How to treat [lack of] artisanal and other data in Stock assessment
- Catch at size
- Growth curves and age-length key
- Catch at age
- CPUE
  - Raw CPUE indices / Standardised CPUE indices (LL and other major gears)
  - factors influencing CPUE — such as change of targeting practices, environment and technology

Stock assessments

Selection of Stock Status indicators

### **4. REVIEW OF STOCK STATUS INDICATORS FOR SKIPJACK**

Review of data:

- Catch and effort
  - PS, gillnet and other gears
- Catch at size
- CPUE
  - Raw CPUE indices / Standardised CPUE indices
  - factors influencing CPUE — such as change of targeting practices, environment and technology

Selection of Stock Status indicators

### **5. REVIEW OF NEW INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF BIGEYE**

Update the stock status indicators for bigeye [Secretariat]

---

## **6. DEVELOP TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE STATUS OF THE STOCKS**

Yellowfin tuna

Skipjack tuna

## **7. EXAMINATION OF THE MANDATORY STATISTICAL DATA REQUIREMENTS**

*At its 11<sup>th</sup> Session, the Commission discussed a proposal on Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members that served to strengthen the obligation on members to provide fisheries statistics. While there was no consensus on some aspects of the proposal, there was agreement in principle that a revision of the mandatory data requirements was appropriate. The Commission requested that the Scientific Committee examine the proposed text and advise the Commission at its next session on which data are required for scientific purposes.*

## **8. MINIMUM DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LONGLINE FLEET**

*In 2006 the SC agreed that a standardised logbook for IOTC industrial purse seine and bait boat fleets would be advantageous and agreed on the minimum data requirements for these fleets. In 2007, the Commission agreed that with the proposal and adopted Resolution 07/03 Concerning the recording of catch by fishing vessels in the IOTC Area. In the same vein, the Commission requested the SC to provide a minimum data requirements for the longline fleet.*

## **9. RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITIES**

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Update: Regional Tuna Tagging Programme – Indian Ocean

---

### **Notes from the Scientific Committee in 2006**

The SC recommended that the priority matters for WPTT to address at its 2007 meeting should be:

- To undertake a revised stock assessment of yellowfin tuna.
- To review in depth the stock status indicators for skipjack tuna.
- To update the stock status indicators for bigeye

Feedback on Research important to the WPTT:

- Better understanding the interactions between tuna behaviour and FADs, and that this subject be further examined in the next meeting of the WPTT.
- Scientists are strongly encouraged to extend the collections of biological samples and data for all tuna species, especially yellowfin and bigeye.
- The differences between both longline indices of abundance, and the relative impact of the various factors introduced in the standardization procedure should be further explored.
- Development of integrated statistical assessment models.
- Examination of potential ecosystem and environmental indicators.
- Development of Management Strategy Evaluation systems and/or Operating Models of the tropical tuna fishery.
- Ongoing work to derive a robust CPUE index for the Taiwanese long line fleet.

Special participation:

The SC recommended that the WPTT examine the updated stock indicators for skipjack and stressed the need for the WP to work intersessionally to prepare these data prior to the meeting. Furthermore, noting the importance of the Maldives bait boat fisheries (which take around 20 % of the total catch of skipjack in the Indian Ocean), the SC stressed the need for an expert from Maldives to attend the next WPTT meeting and contribute the most recent statistics available for the analyses.

### **Notes from the Commission in 2007**

#### *Examination of the mandatory statistical data requirements*

The Commission discussed draft proposal IOTC-2007-S11-PropE-rev1 on Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members that served to strengthen the obligation on members to provide fisheries statistics. While there was no consensus on some aspects of the proposal, there was agreement in principle that a revision of the mandatory data requirements was appropriate. The Commission requested that the Scientific Committee examine the proposed text and advise the Commission at its next session on which data are required for scientific purposes. .

#### *Minimum data requirements for the longline fleet*

In 2006 the SC agreed that a standardised logbook for IOTC industrial purse seine and bait boat fleets would be advantageous and agreed on the minimum data requirements for these fleets. In 2007, the Commission agreed that with the proposal and adopted Resolution 07/03 *Concerning the recording of catch by fishing vessels in the IOTC Area*. In the same vein, the Commission requested the SC to provide a minimum data requirements for the longline fleet.