

PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPNT01

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT AND CHAIR, 4 NOVEMBER, 2012

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT) meeting which were endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC), and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants as appropriate given any progress.

BACKGROUND

At the First Session of the WPNT, participants agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the Secretariat on a range of issues. The subsequent table developed and agreed to by the WPNT was provided to the SC for its endorsement.

DISCUSSION

The Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee include the following seven core tasks, which are to be supported by the various Working Parties.

- a) recommend policies and procedures for the collection, processing, dissemination and analysis of fishery data;
- b) facilitate the exchange and critical review among scientists of information on research and operation of fisheries of relevance to the Commission;
- c) develop and coordinate cooperative research programmes involving Members of the Commission in support of fisheries management;
- d) assess and report to the Commission on the status of stocks of relevance to the Commission and the likely effects of further fishing and of different fishing patterns and intensities;
- e) formulate and report to the sub-commission, as appropriate, on recommendations concerning conservation, fisheries management and research, including consensus, majority and minority views;
- f) consider any matter referred to by the Commission;
- g) carry out other technical activities of relevance to the Commission.

Noting the core tasks of the SC, and hence the WPNT, and the fact that the SC, Commission and CPCs in general have struggled to implement previous recommendations from the IOTC working parties, the Chair and Secretariat undertook a review and subsequent revision of recommendations from the WPNT01 meeting in an attempt to provide clearer direction and delegation of responsibility for each recommendation as appropriate.

The revised recommendations are contained in [Appendix A](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPNT.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPNT:

- 1) **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the First Session of the WPNT, and consider the proposed draft revisions to those recommendations yet to be completed.
- 2) **AGREE** to the revised recommendations, and for these to be combined with any new recommendations arising from WPNT02, noting that these will be provided to the SC for their endorsement.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Progress made on the recommendations of WPNT01.](#)

APPENDIX A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPNT01

#	Recommendation from WPNT01	Adopted by SC14	Revise at WPTT 14	Proposed revision for consideration at WPNT01	Due date
1	<p>Review of data available for neritic tuna species</p> <p>WPNT01.01 (para. 11): The WPNT NOTED the main neritic tuna data issues that are considered to negatively affect the quality of the statistics available at the IOTC, by type of dataset and fishery, which are provided in Appendix V, and RECOMMENDED that the CPCs listed in the Appendix, make efforts to remedy the data issues identified and to report back to the WPNT at its next meeting.</p> <p><i>Progress: Participants to provide updates at the WPNT02 meeting</i></p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
2	<p>WPNT01.02 (para. 13): Noting that the nominal catch (NC) data provided at the WPNT01 meeting was found to conflict with the NC data history provided by Malaysia to the IOTC Secretariat, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that Malaysia liaise with the IOTC Secretariat in order to verify and provide a revised catch history which will replace the data currently held by the IOTC Secretariat before the next WPNT meeting in 2012.</p> <p><i>Progress: no progress</i></p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
3	<p>WPNT01.03 (para. 15): Noting that substantial data sets, i.e. catch and length frequencies, have been collected in India and that several studies analysing these data sets have already been undertaken, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that this data be reported to the IOTC Secretariat as per the requirements adopted by all IOTC Members through Resolution 10/02 mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties.</p> <p><i>Progress: no progress</i></p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
4	<p>WPNT01.04 (para. 16): Noting that the paper presented by Indian scientists did not contain information on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) and Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>S. guttatus</i>) which are covered under the mandate of the WPNT, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that fishery information on these mackerel species caught in Indian fisheries be presented at the next meeting of the WPNT.</p> <p><i>Progress: Data on <u>S. guttatus</u> will be presented at WPNT02. No data on Spanish mackerel.</i></p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
5	<p>WPNT01.05 (para. 26): The WPNT AGREED that there appears to be large datasets available on</p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	

	<p>neritic tuna species caught by fleets of the coastal countries, in particular from India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, however most of this information has not been provided to the IOTC Secretariat. As such, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that these countries, as well as other CPCs, provide these data sets for neritic tunas, noting that this is already a mandatory requirement as per the IOTC Resolution 10/02 adopted by the IOTC Members, as this would allow a better assessment of the status of these stocks.</p> <p><i>Progress: Maldives has provided more detailed NC and CE data for neritic tuna species for the period 2004–2011</i></p>				
6	<p>Review of information on the status of longtail tuna</p> <p>WPNT01.06 (para. 64): Noting that some countries have collected large data sets over long time periods, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that this data, as well as data from other countries, be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat as per the requirements adopted by its members in Resolution 10/02. This would allow the WPNT to develop stock status indicators or a more comprehensive stock assessment of longtail tuna in the future.</p> <p><i>Progress: no progress</i></p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
7	<p>Review of information on the status of narrow-barred Spanish mackerel</p> <p>WPNT01.07 (para. 76): Noting that some countries have collected large data sets over long time periods, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that this data, as well as data from other CPCs, be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat as per the requirements adopted by its members in Resolution 10/02. This would allow the WPNT to develop stock status indicators or a more comprehensive stock assessment for narrow-barred Spanish mackerel in the future.</p> <p><i>Progress: no progress</i></p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
8	<p>Review of information on the status of other neritic tuna species</p> <p>WPNT01.08 (para. 81): Noting that some countries have collected large data sets over long time periods, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that this data, as well as data for other CPCs, be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat as per the requirements adopted by its members in Resolution 10/02. This would allow the WPNT to develop stock status indicators or a more comprehensive stock assessments of other neritic tuna species in the future.</p> <p><i>Progress: Maldives has provided some data for the period 2004-2011 (see 5)</i></p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
9	<p>Development of technical advice on the status of the stocks</p> <p>WPNT01.09 (para. 86): The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee note the management advice developed for each neritic tuna species as provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each neritic tuna species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) – Appendix VI o narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>) – Appendix VII o bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – Appendix VIII o frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – Appendix IX 	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – Appendix X o Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) – Appendix XI <p><i>Progress: Endorsed by the SC.</i></p>				
10	<p>Research recommendations and priorities</p> <p>WPNT01.10 (para. 89): Noting that at present very little is known about the population structure and migratory range of most neritic tunas in the Indian Ocean, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee develop a research plan that includes two separate research lines; i) genetic research to determine the connectivity of neritic tunas throughout their distributions, and ii) tagging research to better understand the movement dynamics, possible spawning locations, and post-release mortality of neritic tunas from various fisheries in the Indian Ocean. These should be considered high priority research projects for 2012 and 2013.</p> <p><i>Progress: No research plan was developed by the SC, however, the SC recognized the need for such a plan on the lines identified by the WPNT. Research plan will need to be drafted by participants at the WPNT02 meeting.</i></p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
11	<p>WPNT01.11 (para. 90): The WPNT RECOMMENDED that quantitative biological studies are required to determine maturity-at-age and fecundity-at-age relationships, and age and growth for all neritic tunas throughout their range.</p> <p><i>Progress: Documents to be presented at the WPNT02</i></p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
12	<p>WPNT01.12 (para. 92): The WPNT RECOMMENDED that where feasible, support should be provided by the IOTC Secretariat and other CPCs, to aid in the development of standardised CPUE series for each neritic tuna species.</p> <p><i>Progress: The IOTC Secretariat is currently developing a series of training programs to be delivered to interested CPCs in 2013. The IOTC Secretariat will detail the intended workshops at the WPNT02 meeting for comment by participants. However, CPCs will have to provide data (NC, CE, SF...) for such workshops.</i></p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
13	<p>WPNT01.13 (para. 94): The WPNT AGREED that there was an urgent need to carry out stock assessments for neritic tunas in the Indian Ocean, however at present the data held at the IOTC Secretariat would be insufficient to undertake this task. As such, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider recommending that the Commission consider allocating appropriate funds to further increase the capacity of coastal states to collect, report and analyse catch data on neritic tunas.</p> <p><i>Progress: The Commission has allocated US\$80,000 for this and other similar projects in 2013. See 12 above. However, no funds were specifically allocated to improve data collection programs.</i></p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
14	<p>WPNT01.14 (para. 96): The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee note the list of priority research topics for neritic tunas as provided in Table 2.</p> <p><i>Progress: SC Noted.</i></p>	Yes	No	–	–
15	<p>WPNT01.15 (para. 99): The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Commission consider providing funds for IOTC scientists to develop stock status indicators and possibly stock assessments for</p>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	

	neritic tunas, with narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, kawakawa and longtail tuna as priority species. <i>Progress: No additional funds allocated by the Commission.</i>				
16	Other business WPNT01.16 (para. 103): The WPNT RECOMMENDED the following core areas of expertise and priority areas for contribution that need to be enhanced for the next meeting of the WPNT in 2012, by an Invited Expert: • Expertise: stock structure/connectivity; including from regions other than the Indian Ocean. • Priority areas for contribution: narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, kawakawa and longtail tuna biology, ecology and fisheries. <i>Progress: Endorsed by the SC. Two Invited Experts attending the WPNT02 meeting</i>	Yes	Yes	To be developed at WPNT02	
17	WPNT01.17 (para. 105): Following a discussion on who would host the Second Session of the WPNT, the WPNT RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat liaise with Malaysia to determine if it would be feasible to hold the next meeting of the WPNT in Kuala Lumpur or Penang in 2012. The exact dates and meeting location will be confirmed and communicated by the IOTC Secretariat to the Scientific Committee for its consideration at its next session to be held in December 2011. <i>Progress: Completed</i>	Yes	No	–	–
18	WPNT01.18 (para. 106): The WPNT NOTED that the Meeting Participation Fund set up by the Commission in 2010 (Resolution 10/05) allowed the participation of most of the participants to this meeting, as neritic tunas are an important resource for coastal countries of the Indian Ocean, and RECOMMENDED that this fund be maintained in the future. <i>Progress: Completed. The Commission topped up the MPF to US\$200,000 for 2012. As a result, 8 participants attending the WPNT02 meeting were funding under this fund.</i>	Yes	Yes	NOTING that the Meeting Participation Fund set up by the Commission in 2010 (Resolution 10/05), permitted the participation of most of the participants to the First and Second Sessions of the WPNT, and that neritic tunas are an important resource for coastal countries of the Indian Ocean, the WPNT strongly RECOMMENDED that this fund be maintained in the future and where possible be used to fund two participants from each CPS to the WPNT.	–
19	WPNT01.19 (para. 109): The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee note the new Chair, Dr. Prathibha Rohit (India) and Vice-Chair, Mr. Farhad Kaymaram (I.R. Iran), of the WPNT for the next biennium. <i>Progress: Noted.</i>	Yes	No	–	–
20	WPNT01.20 (para. 110): The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPNT01, provided at Appendix XII. <i>Progress: Noted and endorsed.</i>	Yes	No	–	–