

20 September 2007

## IOTC CIRCULAR 20/07

### **SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE IOTC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

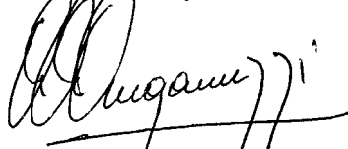
The IOTC Scientific Committee will meet in Victoria, Seychelles on 5-9 November 2007. Please find a draft agenda attached, your comments are welcome.

The meeting is to be held in Room 1 at the International Conference Centre in Victoria starting at 9 am. Travel and accommodation information is available on the IOTC website ([www.iotc.org](http://www.iotc.org)).

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that official credentials are required for the participation of all the delegations at the Session. Guidelines concerning the format of the credentials are attached.

Please also note that, delegates from Member Parties and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties are expected to report on their tuna fisheries, statistical systems and research programmes, as well as on measures taken to implement Scientific Committee recommendations. Guidelines for the completion of the National Reports are available on the IOTC website and are attached to this letter for your convenience.

Yours sincerely



Alejandro Anganuzzi  
Executive Secretary

#### **Attachments:**

- Draft Agenda of the Scientific Committee- 10<sup>th</sup> Session
- Information on Scientific Committee credentials
- Guidelines for the preparation of National Reports to IOTC Scientific Committee

#### **Distribution:**

##### **Members**

Australia *J. Kalish*  
Belize *A. Mouzouropoulos*  
China *Z. Liling*  
Comoros *A. Soilih*  
Eritrea *A. Ghebretinsae*  
EC *J. Spencer*  
France *P. Brunhes*

Guinea *I. Sylla*  
India *V. Somvanshi*  
Indonesia *S. Suseno*  
Iran *A. Mojahedi*  
Japan *K. Katsuyama*  
Kenya *H. Ndiema*  
Korea *I. Rah*

Madagascar *M. Andriamisez*  
Malaysia *F. Rahman*  
Mauritius *M. Munbodh*  
Oman *A. Al-Hosni*  
Pakistan *S. Hussain*  
Philippines *B. Tabios Jr*  
Seychelles *F. Racombo*

Sri Lanka *G. Piyasena*  
Sudan *K. Latif*  
Tanzania *G. Nanyaro*  
Thailand *W. Jantrarotai*  
United Kingdom *T. Humphries*  
Vanuatu *M. Amos*

##### **IOTC Chairperson**

*R. Payet*

##### **Cooperating non contracting parties**

Senegal *S. Ndaw*

South Africa *T. Akkers*

Uruguay *D. Gilardoni*

##### **Others**

2006 Scientific Committee participants; CCSBT, FAO, IATTC, ICCAT, SWIOFC, WCPFC

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## DRAFT AGENDA OF THE IOTC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE – 10TH SESSION

19 September 2007

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1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION**
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**
3. **ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**

The Third Session of the Commission decided that its subsidiary bodies would be open to the participation of observers from Member parties of FAO, from international organisations and from non-governmental organisations which had attended previous meetings or were admitted to attend Commission Sessions.

4. **UPDATE ON COMMISSION AND SECRETARIATS ACTIVITIES**

The Secretariat will report on the outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission and its own activities during the year 2007 and its proposal for activities in 2008 regarding, acquisition, processing and dissemination of information regarding tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean.

5. **DATA COLLECTION AND STATISTICS**

5.1 Status of the IOTC Databases

6. **PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS**

Delegates from Member Parties and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties will report on their tuna fisheries, statistical systems and research programmes, as well as on measures taken to implement Scientific Committee recommendations. *You can find the guidelines for the completion of the National Reports at <http://www.iotc.org/English/meetings/sc/sccurrent.php>. Please, keep in mind that a formal written report is not strictly necessary, a verbal report and a short summary with the essential information to include is sufficient. Also, to assist in the preparation of the report, please bring with you an electronic copy of the short summary of your National report.*

7. **STATUS OF TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE RESOURCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN**

The Scientific Committee is invited to bring to the attention of the Commission any actions that might need to be taken, arising from the recommendations of these Working Parties considering these resources. Management Advice and/or Executive Summaries should be adopted by the Scientific Committee prior to transmission to the Commission. The latest Executive Summaries are contained in IOTC-2006-SC-R.

*In 2007, the WPEB put forward Executive Summaries for seven species of sharks (IOTC-2007-WPEB-R) to the SC for adoption.*

### 7.1 Tropical Tunas (IOTC-2007-WPTT-R)

- 7.1.1 Executive Summary of the status of the yellowfin tuna resource (stock assessment updated in 2007).
- 7.1.2 Executive Summary of the status of the bigeye tuna resource.
- 7.1.3 Executive Summary of the status of the skipjack tuna resource.

## 7.2 Billfish (IOTC-2006-WPB-R)

7.2.1 Executive Summary of the status of the swordfish resource

## 7.3 Other species

7.3.1 Executive Summary of the status of the albacore tuna resource (IOTC-2006-SC-R).

7.3.2 Executive Summary of the status of the neritic tuna resources (IOTC-2006-SC-R).

7.3.3 Proposed Executive Summaries of the status of the shark resources (IOTC-2007-WPEB-R).

7.3.4 Report on biology, stock status and management of southern bluefin tuna (from CCSBT)

## 8. STATUS OF SPECIES TAKEN AS BYCATCH IN INDIAN OCEAN TUNA FISHERIES

The Scientific Committee is invited to bring to the attention of the Commission any actions that might need to be taken, arising from the recommendations of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch.

8.1 Report of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (IOTC-2007-WPEB-R)

## 9. PRESENTATION ON THE RECENT WORKSHOP ON PREDATION IN THE TUNA LONGLINE FISHERIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (JULY 2007 IN SEYCHELLES) – INCLUDING THE OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

## 10. ACTIVITIES IN RELATION WITH THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA TAGGING PROGRAMME (IOTTP)

10.1 RTTP-IO (the large-scale project)

10.2 Report on recent activities related to the IOTTP (small-scale projects)

## 11. EXAMINATION OF THE MANDATORY STATISTICAL DATA REQUIREMENTS

At its 11th 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.

*In 2007, the WPTT examined the document and made a range of technical-based recommendations for the Scientific Committees deliberations (IOTC-2007-WPTT-R)*

## 12. 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.

*In 2007, the WPTT briefly discussed several matters relating to this item but no conclusions or recommendations were put forward to the SC.*

## 13. SCHEDULE OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS IN 2007-2008

The Scientific Committee is requested to advise the Commission on a schedule of Working Party meetings for 2007-08. The current working parties include: Tropical Tunas, Billfish, Temperate Tunas, Neritic Tunas, Ecosystems and Bycatch, Methods.

14. **OTHER MATTERS**

- 14.1 Report from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee of the South West Indian Ocean Commission (from the Sc Chair Dr Magnus Ngoile).
- 14.2 Updated information on the process towards an independent IOTC
- 14.3 Implications of Kobe meeting recommendations on the IOTC
- 14.4 Request for executive summaries for istiophorids
- 14.5 Time and place for the next session of the Scientific Committee.

15. **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

To all prospective IOTC Scientific Committee participants

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE IOTC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE – THE NEED FOR CREDENTIALS**

Rule X.3 of the IOTC rules of procedure states *The scientific committee shall be constituted of scientists; each Member of the Commission shall have the right to appoint a representative and an alternate, if needed, both with suitable scientific qualifications, who may be accompanied by experts and advisors.*

Pursuant to rule X.3 I would like to receive a letter signed by the appropriate Authority indicating who will attend the meeting and in what role.

The letter could be drafted as follows:

" [Upon instructions of ....] I wish to inform you that (*name of IOTC Member*) will participate in the Ninth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Scientific Committee and will be represented by the following delegation (or by M...if the delegation is constituted by only one person...):

- M.... (title) Head of delegation
- M... (title) Alternate
- M.....(title) Expert
- M.....(title) Advisor

M...., Head of delegation or, in his absence, the alternate or any other member of the Delegation designated by him/her, is authorised to fully take part in the proceedings of the Scientific Committee and take, on behalf of (*name of IOTC Member*), any action required in relation with this Session.

Signature of appropriate Authority

The document can be mailed/emailed/faxed or hand delivered to the Secretariat prior to the start of the meeting.

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## Guidelines for the preparation of National Reports to IOTC Scientific Committee

At its Fourth Session, the Scientific Committee agreed to request from its Members and Cooperating Non-Member Parties, that National Reports be prepared and presented regularly at its Sessions.

The National Reports will be listed as Information Documents presented to the Scientific Committee and each delegation will be asked to briefly introduce its Report during the Session. The Report should include information for the most recent complete year and the four previous years, if possible. Recent developments in each fishery for tropical tunas (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye) should be highlighted, and where important, fisheries for small tunas and billfish as well as any available information concerning by-catch from tuna fisheries.

In general, the National Report should include information on:

### 1. General Fishery Statistics:

- a. Catch by species, for each gear type.
- b. Fleet structure.
- c. Available information on the catches of non-target, associated and dependent (NTAD) species.
- d. Description of recent changes in the national data collection and processing systems.

This section is intended to provide a summary of the main features of the tuna fisheries for the reporting party. As such, it does not replace the need for submission of data according to the IOTC Mandatory Data Requirements listed in IOTC Resolution 01/05.

### 2. Report on the implementation of recommendations of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee has produced a number of recommendations concerning collection of information and research on the relevant resources. A summary of the general recommendations will be listed in the IOTC website.

### 3. National Research Programs currently in place.

The reporting party is invited to describe current scientific research taking place in institutions under its responsibility. The emphasis should be placed on describing the activities rather than the results of the scientific research, which would be more appropriately reported in the species Working Parties.

### 4. Any other relevant information.