
PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPM03

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 15 SEPTEMBER 2011

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous Working Party on Methods (WPM) meeting, and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants.

BACKGROUND

At the Third Session of the Working Party on Methods, 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 WPM also contained specific responsibilities for those who were expected to undertake the tasks recommended, as well as a series of deadlines.

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) to carry out other technical activities of relevance to the Commission.

Noting the core tasks of the SC, and hence the WPM, and the fact that the Scientific Committee, Commission and CPCs in general have struggled to implement previous recommendations from the WPM, the Secretariat undertook a review and subsequent revision of recommendations from the WPM03 meeting in an attempt to provide clearer direction and delegation of responsibility for each recommendation.

The revised recommendations are contained in Attachment A for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPM.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Working Party on Methods:

- 1) **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Third Session of the WPM, 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 WPM04, noting that these will be provided to the Scientific Committee for their endorsement.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Progress made on the recommendations of WPM03.

ATTACHMENT A:

PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPM03

#	Recommendation	Year Issued	Revise (Y/ N)	Revision of recommendation	Responsibility	Due date
1	<p>That an international working group be organized in 2009 to bring together scientists working in the Atlantic, Indian, Eastern and Western Pacific oceans in order to examine the issues of potential biases in the current purse seine sampling programmes and where necessary identify ways to improve the multispecies sampling schemes and understand the implications for analyses of the data collected. (Paragraph 14)</p> <p><i>Progress: The WCPFC has been undertaking research to determine potential bias in grab versus spill sampling (provided as IOTC-2011-WPM04-INF03 and INF04 papers). IRD has started research into the issue (E. Chassot, pers. com.) and will aim to communicate this work to the next WPTT and WPM meetings in 2012.</i></p>	2008	Y	The WPM recommends that the Chair work with relevant scientists from the WCPFC to ensure that research on identifying potential bias in the purse seine sampling programs currently being undertaken by the WCPFC, be presented to the next WPM or WPTT meeting.	Chair	WPM or WPTT meetings (2012)
2	<p>The WPM recommended that IOTC work on methods should be carried out in conjunction with other tuna commissions. The possibility of establishing some channels of communication among interested parties on the various tuna commissions should be explored by both the chairman and the Secretariat. (Paragraph 15)</p> <p><i>Progress: Since 2008, the WPM has not met, however some of the activities previously discussed at the WPM have been dealt with at the WPTT. Where funds have permitted scientific support from organisations outside the IOTC have been invited to attend. Several IOTC WP participants were involved with the ISSF meeting on stock recruit steepness and natural mortality in 2011.</i></p>	2008	Y	To be developed at WPM04		
3	<p>That work needs to undertaken to examine the efficiency of sampling programmes, understand the effect of sample size, and obtain variance estimates for samples (which are required for some assessment models). A suggestion was made for this matter to be tackled in co-operation with researchers in other oceans, possibly using the opportunities for collaboration the Kobe agreement provides. (Paragraph 16)</p> <p><i>Progress: The most recent KOBE meeting did not address this issue directly. However previous KOBE meetings have encouraged a level of cooperation among RFMOs.</i></p>	2008	Y	To be developed at WPM04		

4	<p>The WPM joined the WPTT and the WPEB in strongly recommending that IOTC Recommendation 05/07 Concerning a management standard for the tuna fishing vessels, to deploy if appropriate, scientific observers on-board the vessels according to the Commission's Resolution (Appendix I-ii), become binding on members. (Paragraph 18)</p> <p><i>Progress: Since 2008, the Commission has adopted several resolutions to address this recommendation, including, but not limited to the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resolution 10/10 concerning Market Related Measures</i> • <i>Resolution 10/11 on Port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing</i> • <i>Resolution 11/04 on a regional observer scheme.</i> 	2008	N	-	-	-
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