
PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPTT22

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 22 APRIL 2021

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 23rd WPTT(DP) with an update on the progress made in implementing those recommendations from the previous Working Party on Tropical Tunas (WPTT) 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 22nd Session of the WPTT, participants agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the IOTC Secretariat on a range of issues. The subsequent table developed and agreed to by the WPTT was provided to the SC for its endorsement at its December 2020 meeting.

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.

Recalling that the SC, at its 16th Session adopted a set of reporting terminology SC16.07 (para. 23), which was subsequently endorsed by the Commission at its 18th Session in 2014 (S18, para 10), to further improve the clarity of information sharing from, and among the science bodies, the following two term levels should be noted when interpreting the Reports and [Appendix I](#) to this paper:

Level 1: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:

RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION: Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

Level 2: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a CPC, the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:

REQUESTED: This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a Committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalise the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

In addition to the Recommendations endorsed by the SC at its 23rd Session, the SC also made several requests which, although are not passed to the Commission for its endorsement, are considered actions which the Scientific Committee has the mandate to issue. The revised recommendations are contained in [Appendix I](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPTT23(DP).

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPTT:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2021–WPTT23(DP)–06 which detailed the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the WPTT22, and the requests of the 23rd Session of the Scientific Committee (SC23), taking into consideration the recommendations from the SC and decisions of the Commission;
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary, the recommendations, and for these to be combined with any new recommendations arising from the WPTT23(DP), noting that these will be provided to the SC for its endorsement.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Progress made on the Recommendations and Requests of WPTT22

APPENDIX I

Progress made on the recommendations of WPTT20

WPTT22 Rec. No.		SC23 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC23
WPTT22.01 (para. 37)	<p><i>Stock Assessment Result</i></p> <p>The WPTT RECOMMENDED additional analyses and a workshop, to further progress CPUE standardization efforts, evaluate evidence related to CPUE catchability trends, and make specific recommendations for time series and assumptions to use in future assessments and Operating Model (OM) conditioning.</p>		
WPTT22.02 (para 159)	<p><i>Revision of the WPTT Program of Work (2021–2025)</i></p> <p>The WPTT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the WPTT Program of Work (2021–2025), as provided at Appendix IX.</p>	(paras. 156-157)	<p><i>Program of Work (2020–2024) and assessment schedule</i></p> <p>The SC NOTED IOTC–2020–SC23–08 which provided the SC with a proposed Program of Work for each of its working parties, including prioritisation of the elements requested by each working party.</p> <p>The SC NOTED the proposed Program of Work and priorities for the SC and each of the working parties and AGREED to a consolidated Program of Work as outlined in Appendix 35a-g and in accordance with the IOTC Strategic Science Plan 2020-2024. The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of each working party will ensure that the efforts of their respective working parties are focused on the core areas contained within the appendix, taking into account any new research priorities identified by the Commission at its next Session.</p>
WPTT22.03 (para 162)	<p><i>Date and place of the 23rd and 24th Sessions of the WPTT</i></p> <p>The WPTT NOTED that the global Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in international travel being almost impossible and with no clear end to the pandemic in sight, it was impossible to finalise arrangements for the meeting in 2021. The Secretariat will continue to liaise with CPCs to determine their interest in hosting these meetings in the future when this once again becomes feasible. The WPTT RECOMMENDED the SC consider late October 2021 as a preferred time period to hold the WPTT22 Assessment meeting in 2021 with a Data Preparatory meeting to be held in the first half of 2021 to prepare for the YFT assessment..</p>	(para 166)	<p>The SC REQUESTED that the schedule of Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2021 and 2022 provided at Appendix 37 be communicated by the IOTC SC Chairperson to the Commission for its endorsement.</p>

WPTT22 Rec. No.		SC23 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC23
WPTT22.04 (para. 164)	<p>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 22nd Session of the WPTT</p> <p>The WPTT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPTT22, provided at Appendix XI, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each of the three tropical tuna species under the IOTC mandate, and the combined Kobe plot for the three species assigned a stock status in 2020 (Figure 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) – Appendix VI ○ Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) – Appendix VII ○ Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) – Appendix VIII 	SC23.01 (para. 130)	<p>Tuna – Highly migratory species</p> <p>The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the management advice developed for each tropical and temperate tuna species as provided in the Executive Summary for each species, and the combined Kobe plot for the four species assigned a stock status in 2020 (Fig. 1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) – Appendix 8 ○ Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>) – Appendix 9 ○ Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>) – Appendix 10 ○ Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>) – Appendix 11

WPTT22 Report	WPTT22 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
Para. 11	<p>Update of Any New Data Available at the Secretariat for Tropical Tuna Species Since the Data Preparatory Meeting</p> <p>NOTING that the EU scientists are currently analysing and assessing the methodology used to process the EU purse seine fisheries data and that this activity requires some time as adjustments in the method are expected to have some impact on the historical time series, the WPTT REQUESTED the EU to present the progress and findings of the activity to the next sessions of the WPTT and/or WPDCS.</p>	Update: In progress. EU to provide updates.
Para. 45	<p>Selection of Stock Status Indicators for Skipjack</p> <p>The WPTT ADOPTED the management advice developed for skipjack tuna as provided in the draft resource stock status summary and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary for skipjack tuna with the latest 2019 catch data (if necessary), and for the summary to be provided to the SC as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration</p>	Update: Completed.
Para. 148	<p>Update on Management Strategy Evaluation Progress (YFT)</p> <p>The WPTT NOTED the importance of the longline CPUE indices for the OM and the need to adequately capture the uncertainty in the CPUE time series. The WPTT REQUESTED that the Joint CPUE Working Group provide recommendations on how to best capture the uncertainty in the longline CPUE series for the OMs and identifies a small number of alternate CPUE series that encompasses an appropriate range of uncertainty in relative abundance to be</p>	Update: Ongoing. CPUE group to provide updates.

	represented in Management Strategy Evaluation. The WPTT NOTED that these alternatives could include alternative analytical approaches such as targeting (cluster vs. hooks between floats), alternative regional scaling factors, and/or unaccounted catchability trend hypotheses.	
Para 159	Revision of the WPTT Program of Work (2021–2025) The WPTT REQUESTED that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the WPTT, in consultation with the IOTC Secretariat, develop Terms of Reference (TOR) for each of the high priority projects that are yet to be funded, for circulation to potential funding sources.	Update: Ongoing. Several priority projects have been endorsed by the SC and will be funded under EU grants and from the IOTC regular budget.