

PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPTmT04

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 13 JULY 2014

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 5th WPTmT with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous Working Party on Temperate Tunas (WPTmT) 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 4th Session of the WPTmT, 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 WPTmT 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 WPTmT, and the fact that the SC, Commission and CPCs in general have struggled to implement some of the previous recommendations from the IOTC working parties, the Secretariat undertook a review and subsequent update of recommendations from the WPTmT04 meeting in an attempt to provide clearer delegation of responsibility for each recommendation as appropriate.

The revised recommendations are contained in [Appendix A](#) for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPTmT05.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPTmT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 4th Session of the WPTmT, and consider whether revised recommendations need to be sent to the SC for its consideration.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Progress made on the recommendations of WPTmT04.](#)

APPENDIX A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPTmT04

WPTmT04 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPTmT04	SC15 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC15 (2012)	Comments and proposal for WPTmT05 consideration
WPTmT04.01	<p>Review of the Data Available at the Secretariat for Temperate Tuna Species (para. 19): The WPTmT NOTED the main albacore data issues that are considered to negatively affect the quality of the statistics available at the IOTC Secretariat, by type of dataset and fishery, which are provided in Appendix VI, and RECOMMENDED that the CPCs listed in the Appendix, make efforts to remedy the data issues identified and to report back to the WPTmT at its next meeting.</p> <p><i>Progress: Updates included in paper IOTC–2014–WPTmT05-07</i></p>	SC15.60 (Para. 40)	The SC NOTED the main albacore data issues that are considered to negatively affect the quality of the statistics available at the IOTC Secretariat, by type of dataset and fishery, which are provided in Appendix VI of the WPTmT04 report (IOTC–2012–WPTmT04–R), and RECOMMENDED that the CPCs listed in the appendix, make efforts to remedy the data issues identified and to report back to the WPTmT at its next meeting.	Nil
WPTmT04.02	<p>(para. 21): The WPTmT NOTED that in recent years many foreign vessels have been unloading catches of albacore in Mauritius, representing around 60% of the total catch, and that Mauritius is making efforts to monitor albacore for catch and length data. The WPTmT RECOGNIZED the value of the biological information collected in Mauritius and RECOMMENDED that the IOTC-OFCF Project considers supporting Mauritius to collect this information.</p> <p><i>Progress: Nil. Mauritius is currently not on the plans for the 4th phase of the IOTC-OFCF Project. Alternative funding will need to be found if this task is to be undertaken.</i></p>	SC15.61 (Para. 44)	The SC NOTED that following a request by the Ministry of Fisheries of Mauritius, the IOTC-OFCF Project had provided assistance for an independent evaluation of data collection and reporting systems in Mauritius, in particular evaluation of catch, effort, and size data collection systems for albacore, as recommended by the SC in 2011. The SC THANKED Mauritius and the IOTC-OFCF Project for this initiative and RECOMMENDED that the Project considers extending support in the future to assist Mauritius to address the recommendations issuing from the evaluation, where possible.	Nil
WPTmT04.03	Indonesian longline fishery for albacore	Para. 45	NOTING the ongoing review of Indonesian catches of	Nil

	(para. 40): The WPTmT NOTED the ongoing review of catches of albacore carried out by the IOTC Secretariat in consultation with the DGCF of Indonesia. The WPTmT was informed that the current catch estimates of albacore for Indonesia were derived from reports of albacore imports into canning factories cooperating with the ISSF, and RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat and Indonesia continue cooperation to finalize the review and report final estimates of catches of albacore to the next meeting of the WPTmT. <i>Progress: Updates included in paper IOTC–2014–WPTmT05-07</i>		albacore being carried out by the IOTC Secretariat in consultation with the Directorate General of Capture Fisheries (DGCF) of Indonesia, and that current catch estimates for Indonesia are derived from reports of albacore imports into canning factories cooperating with the ISSF, the SC REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat and Indonesia continue cooperation to finalise the review and report final estimates of catches of albacore to the next meeting of the WPTmT.	
WPTmT04.04	(para. 42): Noting that Indonesian catches represent more than 40% of the total albacore catches in the Indian Ocean, determined from the revised catch history developed by the IOTC Secretariat, the WPTmT RECOMMENDED that Indonesia further strengthen sampling efforts on its coastal and off-shore fisheries in early 2013, where required, and liaise with the IOTC Secretariat in order to better determine the catches of albacore by the Indonesian longline fleet. <i>Progress: Updates included in paper IOTC–2014–WPTmT05-07</i>	Para. 42	NOTING that, to date, Indonesia has not provided catch-and-effort data for longliners under its flag, while size data are not available since 2009, the SC URGED Indonesia to further strengthen sampling efforts on its coastal and offshore fisheries in early 2013, in particular monitoring of frozen albacore, and continue cooperation with the IOTC Secretariat in order to better determine the catches of albacore by the Indonesian longline fleet.	Nil
WPTmT04.05	<i>Other new information and general discussion</i> (para. 50): The WPTmT NOTED that, in recent years, the catches of albacore reported for longliners flagged to China in the Indian Ocean have increased markedly, and as this may originate from a change in targeting by some vessels, it was RECOMMENDED that China explore the reasons for this shift and report back to the next meeting of the WPTmT. <i>Progress: China to provide update at WPTmT05.</i>	Para. 46	The SC NOTED that in recent years, the reported catches of albacore from longliners flagged to China fishing in the Indian Ocean have increased markedly and although this may originate from a change in targeting by some vessels, it may also be the consequence of some fishing companies over-reporting catches of albacore in the logbooks during those years. In this regard, the SC REQUESTED that China assess the reliability of statistics of albacore available since 2010 for its fleet and report findings to the next meeting of the WPTmT, including new estimates, where required, in particular in the south-west Indian Ocean where the specific composition of the catch appears unrealistic.	Nil

WPTmT04.06	<p>(para. 51): The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that as a matter of priority, India, Indonesia and Japan increase sampling coverage to attain at least the coverage levels recommended by the Commission, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • catches sampled or observed for at least 5% of the vessel activities, including collection of catch, effort and size data for IOTC species and main bycatch species; • implementation of logbook systems for offshore fisheries. <p>The information collected through the above activities should allow India, Indonesia and Japan to estimate catches by gear and species.</p> <p><i>Progress: Updates to be provided at WPTmT05 by Indonesia and Japan. No update from India.</i></p>	Para. 47	<p>The SC REQUESTED that as a matter of priority, India, Indonesia and Japan increase sampling coverage to attain at least the coverage levels recommended by the Commission, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • catches sampled or observed for at least 5% of the vessel activities, including collection of catch, effort and size data for IOTC species and main bycatch species; • implementation of logbook systems for offshore fisheries. <p>The information collected through the above activities should allow India, Indonesia and Japan to estimate catches by gear and species.</p>	Nil
WPTmT04.07	<p>Effect of piracy on temperate tuna catches (para. 55): The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that given the potential impacts of piracy on the albacore fishery through the relocation of longliners into traditional albacore fishing grounds, specific analysis should be carried out and presented at the next WPTmT meeting by the CPCs most affected by these activities, including Japan, Rep. of Korea and Taiwan,China.</p> <p><i>Progress: Discussed and agreed prior to WPTmT05. Update to be provided by Stock Assessment scientists at WPTmT05.</i></p>	Sect. 8 of SC Report	Sect. 8 of SC Report, para 197 to 205	To be decided at WPTmT05
WPTmT04.08	<p>CPUE discussion summary (para. 71): NOTING that a set of ‘core areas’ which are likely to be robust to frequent fluctuations of external factors, may be more informative than using all of the data available, especially when other species were being targeted, the WPTmT RECOMMENDED that ‘core areas’ be identified and agreed to by the WPTmT so as to facilitate and</p>	SC15.93 (Para. 188)	NOTING that a set of ‘core areas’ which are likely to be robust to frequent fluctuations of external factors, may be more informative than using all of the data available, especially when other species were being targeted, the SC RECOMMENDED that ‘core areas’ be identified and agreed to by each working party so as to facilitate and monitor population abundance trends across all fleets. This should be carried out	Nil

	<p>monitor population abundance trends across all fleets. This should be carried out intersessionally and presented at the Scientific Committee's proposed longline CPUE workshop, to be held in the second quarter of 2013. The authors of the three CPUE papers presented during the WPTmT agreed to lead this work, in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat.</p> <p><i>Progress: Update to be provided by Stock Assessment scientists at WPTmT05.</i></p>		intersessionally and presented at the proposed longline CPUE workshop, to be held in the second quarter of 2013.	
WPTmT04.09	<p>Stock assessments (para. 78): The WPTmT AGREED that there is value in undertaking a number of different modelling approaches to facilitate comparison, and RECOMMENDED that spatially structured integrated models, which are capable of more detailed representation of complicated population and fishery dynamics, and integrate several sources of data and biological research that cannot be considered in the simpler production models, be carried out for the next WPTmT, as data and resources permit.</p> <p><i>Progress: Agreed by SC.</i></p>	SC15.64 (Para. 52)	The SC AGREED that there is value in undertaking a number of different modelling approaches to facilitate comparison, and RECOMMENDED that spatially structured integrated models, which are capable of more detailed representation of complicated population and fishery dynamics, and integrate several sources of data and biological research that cannot be considered in the simpler production models, be carried out for the next WPTmT, as data and resources permit.	Nil
WPTmT04.10	<p>Selection of Stock Status indicators (para. 102): In deciding upon the most appropriate way to present the integrated stock assessment results to the Scientific Committee, the WPTmT AGREED that the output of the ASPM model were most likely to numerically and graphically represent the current status of albacore in the Indian Ocean. However, the WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee note that this does not represent an endorsement of the ASPM model over the other models used in 2012, as there are still substantial problems with the ASPM model, and the WPTmT considers all of the models to be equally informative of stock status.</p> <p><i>Progress: Noted by SC.</i></p>	Nil	Noted	Nil

WPTmT04.11	<p>Parameters for future analyses: CPUE standardization and stock assessments (para. 104): Noting that the areas used in the various CPUE standardisations undertaken in 2012 were very different from one analysis to another, the WPTmT AGREED that there is a need to define core area(s) for the CPUE standardisation of albacore and RECOMMENDED that scientists from CPCs with longline fisheries for albacore, work together to explore their data and defined such core areas, well in advance of the next WPTmT meeting in 2013.</p> <p><i>Progress: Update to be provided by Stock Assessment scientists at WPTmT05.</i></p>	Para. 52	<p>NOTING that the areas used in the various CPUE standardisations undertaken in 2012 were very different from one analysis to another, and that there is a need to define core area(s) for the CPUE standardisation of albacore, the SC REQUESTED that scientists from CPCs with longline fisheries for albacore, work together to explore their data and defined such core areas, well in advance of the next WPTmT meeting.</p>	
WPTmT04.12	<p>(para. 106): It was noted that the current time frames for data exchange do not allow enough time to conduct thorough stock assessment analyses properly, and this could have a detrimental effect on the quality of advice provided by the WPTmT. Thus, the WPTmT RECOMMENDED that data exchanges should be made as early as possible, but no later than 45 days prior to a working party meeting, so that CPUE analysis can be provided to the IOTC Secretariat no later than 30 days before a working party meeting.</p> <p><i>Progress: Complied with in 2014 by most.</i></p>	Nil	Previously adopted by the SC.	Nil
WPTmT04.13	<p>Indian Ocean albacore management advice (para. 108): The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee note the management advice developed for albacore, as provided in the draft resource stock status summary (Appendix VII).</p> <p><i>Progress: Noted by SC.</i></p>	Nil	Noted	To be decided at WPTmT05

WPTmT04.14	<p>CPUE standardisation</p> <p>(para. 111): The WPTmT also ENCOURAGED data to be used in stock assessments, including CPUE standardisations, be made available not less than three months before each meeting by CPCs and where possible, data summaries no later than two months prior to each meeting, from the IOTC Secretariat; and RECOMMENDED that data to be used in stock assessments, including CPUE standardisations be made available not less than 30 days before each meeting by CPCs.</p> <p><i>Progress: Applied in 2014.</i></p>	Nil	Previously adopted by the SC.	Nil
WPTmT04.15	<p>Stock structure</p> <p>(para. 115): Noting that at present very little is known about the population structure and migratory range of albacore in the Indian Ocean, other than the possible connectivity with the southern Atlantic, the WPTmT RECOMMENDED that research aimed at determining albacore stock structure, migratory range and movement rates in the Indian Ocean be considered a high priority research project by the Scientific Committee in 2013.</p> <p><i>Progress: Work underway. Update to be provided by IFREMER at WPTmT05.</i></p>	Para. 54, 55	<p>NOTING that the results of the Project may be of great assistance to the work of the WPTmT, the SC REQUESTED that all applicable CPCs cooperate with the research scientists undertaking the study. It was also considered important to carry out tagging studies on albacore as a complement to any genetic study.</p> <p>The SC REQUESTED that the WPTmT assess the feasibility of implementing a tagging Project in the future and present results to the next meeting of the SC, NOTING that such a project would require the support of ICCAT as the southern stocks of albacore could be shared across the boundaries of the IOTC and ICCAT.</p>	To be decided at WPTmT05
WPTmT04.16	<p>Spawning</p> <p>(para. 116): Noting that there are difficulties faced by some CPCs in collecting gonad samples from albacore, as a result of fish generally being frozen whole after being gutted, the WPTmT RECOMMENDED that CPCs collect gonad samples from albacore to confirm the spawning time and location of the spawning area that are presently hypothesized for albacore, over the coming year and to report findings at the next WPTmT in 2013.</p> <p><i>Progress: Incorporated into Program of Work. Updates to be provided by China at WPTmT05.</i></p>	Nil.	Incorporated into Workplan.	Nil

WPTmT04.17	<p><i>Additional core topics for research</i> (para. 118): The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee add the following core topic areas as priorities for research over the coming year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size data analyses • Growth rates and ageing studies • Stock status indicators – exploration of indicators from available data • Collaborate with SPC-OFP to examine their current simulation approach to determine priority research areas. <p><i>Progress: Incorporated into Program of Work.</i></p>	Nil	Incorporated into workplan	To be decided at WPTmT05
WPTmT04.18	<p><i>Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPTmT meeting</i> (para. 123): The WPTmT RECOMMENDED the following core areas of expertise and priority areas for contribution that need to be enhanced for the next meeting of the WPTmT in 2013, should an Invited Expert be necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise: experience with CPUE analysis and standardisation for albacore. • Priority areas for contribution: stock assessment for albacore. <p><i>Progress: Consultant hired for WPTmT with these priorities and expertise.</i></p>	Nil	Nil	To be decided at WPTmT05
WPTmT04.19	<p><i>Election of a Vice-Chairperson of the WPTmT for the next Biennium</i> (para. 125): The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee note the new Vice-Chair (Mr. Takayuki Matsumoto) of the WPTmT for the next <i>biennium</i>.</p> <p><i>Progress: Approved by SC.</i></p>	Para. 109	Endorsed by the SC	Nil

WPTmT04.20	<p><i>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the Fourth Session of the WPTmT</i></p> <p>(para. 126): The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPTmT04, provided at Appendix IV.</p> <p><i>Progress: Considered by SC.</i></p>	Nil	Nil	Nil
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