

PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPTmT05

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 01 JULY 2016

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 6th 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 5th 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 WPTmT06.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPTmT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 5th 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 WPTmT05.](#)

APPENDIX A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPTmT05

WPTmT05 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPTmT05	SC17 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC17 (2014)	Progress / Comments
WPTmT05.01	<p>Review of the data available at the Secretariat for Temperate Tuna Species (para. 28) NOTING that in recent years many foreign vessels have been unloading catches of albacore in Mauritius, representing around 60% of the total albacore catch, the WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the Chair of the WPTmT contact Mauritius and indicate that they should be in attendance at all WPTmT meetings, given the high proportion of total albacore catch being landed in Mauritius, and that they should present information on its efforts to monitor albacore landings for catch and size (length) data, and to provide summaries of that data.</p>	SC15 (Para. 32)	The NOTED that in recent years many foreign vessels have been unloading catches of albacore in Mauritius, representing around 60% of the total albacore catch, the SC REQUESTED that the Chair of the WPTmT and the Chair of the SC contact Mauritius and indicate that they should be in attendance at all WPTmT meetings, given the high proportion of total albacore catch being landed in Mauritius, and that they should present information on its efforts to monitor albacore landings for catch and size (length) data, and to provide summaries of that data.	Nil.
WPTmT05.02	(para. 29) The WPTmT RECOGNISED the value of the biological information for albacore being collected in Mauritius by port samplers and RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat provide additional support to Mauritius on how to collect and report this information. This should occur as soon as possible, but at the latest in 2015.	SC15 (Para. 33)	The SC RECOGNISED the value of the biological information for albacore being collected in Mauritius by port samplers and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat provide additional support to Mauritius on how to collect and report this information. This should occur as soon as possible in 2015.	<i>Progress: The IOTC Secretariat is proposing a mission to Mauritius in August 2016 (TBC) to assess the status of current length frequency and biological data collected, and provide additional technical assistance in terms of the collection and reporting of data, as required.</i>
WPTmT05.03	Albacore management strategy evaluation (MSE) process	SC15 (Paras.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SC NOTED that a lot of progress was made 	Nil.

	<p>(para. 113) The WPTmT RECALLED para. 3 of Resolution 13/10 which states:</p> <p><i>“The IOTC Scientific Committee shall assess, as soon as possible and more particularly through the management strategy evaluation process (MSE) process, the robustness and the performance of the interim reference points, specified under paragraph 1 and other reference points based on the guidelines of International agreements taking into account: i) the nature of these reference points – target or limits, ii) the best scientific knowledge on population dynamics and on life-history parameters, iii) the fisheries exploiting them, and iv) the various sources uncertainty.”</i></p> <p>and RECOMMENDED that the current MSE work being undertaken on albacore, be expanded to include the assessment of not only the interim target and limit reference points contained in Table 1 of Resolution 13/10, but also other target and limit reference points.</p>	100-106)	<p>towards management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the Indian Ocean albacore fishery. This work was primarily led by the WPM Chair and the informal MSE working group. An operating model (OM) was presented with some hypothetical Management Procedures (MP) to suggest alternative control rules could be evaluated using the approach developed by WPM for the Commission. Further refinements of the OM and MP's need to be conducted before final models would be evaluated by the Commission in 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SC NOTED that Resolution 13/10 <i>On interim target and limit reference points and a decision framework</i>, requires that the SC assess and further review the interim reference points and advise the Commission of its findings. • The SC NOTED the difficulties with accurately estimating the MSY-based interim reference points within Resolution 13/10 in cases where there is uncertainty in our knowledge of stock dynamics. • The SC RECOMMENDED the Commission consider an alternative approach to identify biomass limit reference points, such as those based on biomass depletion levels, when the MSY-based reference points are difficult to estimate. In cases where MSY-based reference points can be robustly estimated, limit reference points may be based around MSY. • The SC RECOMMENDED that in cases where MSY-based reference points cannot be robustly estimated, biomass limit reference points be set at 20% of unfished levels ($B_{LIM} = 0.2B_0$) • NOTING that the interim target reference points contained in Resolution 13/10 are also MSY-based and subject to the same difficulties with robust estimation, the SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission consider that stock biomass depletion 	
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			<p>levels equivalent to B_{MSY} are expected to lie in the range of 30% to 40% of unfished levels ($0.3B_0$ to $0.4B_0$), when MSY-based levels cannot be accurately estimated. The Commission may wish to consider a value of $0.4B_0$ or higher, if a precautionary buffer against reaching a biomass limit is desirable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTING that the approach described in para. 105 is similar to what is currently taking place in other RFMOs such as WCPFC, the SC RECOMMENDED that the use of this type of reference point is adopted by the Commission. In considering target reference points, guidance will be required from the Commission on tolerable risks of exceeding limit reference points. 	
WPTmT05.04	<p><i>Revision of the WPTmT Program of Work</i></p> <p>(para. 119) The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the WPTmT Program of Work (2015–19), as provided at Appendix VII.</p>	Nil	Nil	<i>Progress: Considered by the SC. High priority activities Incorporated into the SC work plan.</i>
WPTmT05.05	<p><i>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 5th Session of the WPTmT</i></p> <p>(para. 127) The WPTmT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPTmT05, provided at Appendix VIII, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for albacore (Appendix VI).</p>	Nil	Nil	<i>Progress: Considered by SC.</i>