

PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF WPB13 AND SC18

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PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 14th WPB with an update on the progress made in implementing those recommendations from the previous Working Party on Billfish (WPB) 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 13th Session of the WPB, 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 WPB was provided to the SC for its endorsement at its November 2015 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 18th 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 WPB14.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPB **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations and requests of the 13th Session of the WPB, and consider whether revised recommendations need to be sent to the SC for its consideration.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: [Progress made on the Recommendations and Requests of WPB13](#)

APPENDIX I

Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPB13 and SC18

WPB13 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPB13	SC18 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC18	Progress/Comments
WPB13.01	<p>Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)</p> <p>(para. 11): The WPB RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), for the administration of the Meeting Participation Fund be modified so that applications are due not later than 60 days (current deadline is 45 days), and that the full <u>Draft</u> paper be submitted no later than 45 days (current deadline is 15 days) before the start of the relevant meeting, so that the Selection Panel may review the full paper rather than just the abstract, and provide guidance on areas for improvement, as well as the suitability of the application to receive funding using the IOTC MPF. The earlier submission dates would also assist with Visa application procedures for candidates.</p>	SC18.24 Para. 98	<p>Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)</p> <p>The SC RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), for the administration of the Meeting Participation Fund be modified so that applications are due not later than 60 days, and that the full <u>Draft</u> paper be submitted no later than 45 days before the start of the relevant meeting. The aim is to allow the Selection Panel to review the full paper rather than just the abstract, and provide guidance on areas for improvement, as well as the suitability of the application to receive funding using the IOTC MPF. The earlier submission dates would also assist with Visa application procedures for candidates.</p>	<p>Update: [Ongoing]</p> <p>The Commission AGREED that the MPF budget remains important and therefore provisions according to the estimated needs will be integrated into the budget (para. 39).</p> <p>The 19th Session of the Commission has allocated \$150,000 for both science and non-science meetings for 2016 and indicative for 2017 (para. 106).</p> <p>SCAF13-10 (Para. 40) The SCAF RECOMMENDED that a document on the financial status of the MPF, including past expenditures and future projections, be made available for future Sessions.</p>
WPB13.02	<p>Billfish species identification</p> <p>(para. 16): NOTING that the Commission has approved US\$30,000 for the printing of the species identification cards in 2016, as confirmed by the IOTC Secretariat at the 19th Session of the Commission, the WPB RECOMMENDED that the billfish species identification cards already translated into languages other than English and French, be printed in the first quarter of 2016 for dissemination.</p>	SC18 Para. 103	<p>IOTC species Identification guides – general</p> <p>NOTING that the Commission has approved US\$30,000 for the printing of the species identification cards in 2016, as confirmed by the IOTC Secretariat at the 19th Session of the Commission, the SC REQUESTED that the species identification cards already translated into languages other than English and French, be printed in the first quarter of 2016 for dissemination.</p>	<p>Update: [Ongoing]</p> <p>Billfish ID guides have now been printed in Bahasa Indonesian and Urdu. Translation has also been completed for Farsi and will soon be printed by WWF-Pakistan in addition to Arabic. Translations are also underway for Swahili.</p>
WPB13.03	<p>(para.20): The WPB reiterated the RECOMMENDATION that the IOTC Secretariat ensure that hard copies of the identification cards continue to be printed as many CPCs scientific observers, both on board and port, still do not have smart phone technology / hardware access and need to have hard copies. At this point in time, electronic formats, including ‘applications or</p>	SC18 Para. 104	<p>The SC REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat should ensure that hard copies of the identification cards continue to be printed as many CPCs scientific observers, both on board and port, still do not have smart phone technology / hardware access and need to have hard copies. At this point in time, electronic formats, including ‘applications or apps’ are only suitable for larger scale vessels, and even in the</p>	

	apps' are only suitable for larger scale vessels, and even in the case of EU purse seine vessels, the use of hard copies is relied upon due to on board fish processing and handling conditions, as well as weather conditions. Electronic versions may be developed as complementary tools.		case of EU purse seine vessels, the use of hard copies is relied upon due to on board fish processing and handling conditions, as well as weather conditions. Electronic versions may be developed as complementary tools.	
WPB13.04	<p>Sports fishery data collection</p> <p>(para. 21): The WPB RECOMMENDED that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson continue to work in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat and the African Billfish Foundation to find a suitable funding source and lead investigator to undertake the project outlined in Appendix VI. The aim of the project is to enhance data recovery from sports and other recreational fisheries in the western Indian Ocean region. The Chairperson shall circulate the concept note to potential funding bodies on behalf of the WPB. A similar concept note could be developed for other regions in the IOTC area of competence at a later date</p>	<p>SC18 Para. 35</p> <p>SC18 Para. 36</p>	<p>Sports fishery data collection</p> <p>The SC NOTED that the current state of data collection for most recreational fisheries for marlin in the Indian Ocean is limited, although several key NGOs, including the African Billfish Foundation (ABF) have been working with sports fishers for many years to encourage a willingness to collect sports fishery data.</p> <p>The SC RECOMMENDED that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson continue to work in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat and the African Billfish Foundation to find a suitable funding source and lead investigator to undertake the project outlined in the Report of the WPB13. The aim of the project is to enhance data recovery from sports and other recreational fisheries in the western Indian Ocean region, from which alternative abundance indices could be developed for marlins and I.P. sailfish. The Chairperson shall circulate the concept note to potential funding bodies on behalf of the WPB. A similar concept note could be developed for other regions in the IOTC area of competence at a later date.</p>	<p>Update: [Ongoing]</p> <p>Due to delays in confirming funding, the project is scheduled to commence in early September – with the initial results of the data collection expected in 2014. Countries selected for the pilot project include Kenya, Mauritius, La Reunion and Seychelles. The African Billfish Foundation have been hired for the consultancy (in addition to a second independent consultant), and will be closely involved in all stages of the project delivery.</p>
WPB13.05	<p>Observer data</p> <p>(para. 74): NOTING that training of observers and crew is long-term and necessarily meticulous work that should be done on a recurrent way in order to optimise the efficiency of observers, the WPB RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat increases its effort in training observers, including species identification.</p>	<p>SC18 Para. 138</p> <p>SC18 Para. 139</p> <p>SC18 Para. 142</p>	<p>Observer data</p> <p>NOTING that training of observers and crew is long-term and necessarily meticulous work that should be done in a recurrent way in order to optimise the efficiency of observers, the SC RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat increases its effort in training observers, including species identification. This would only be possible if the Commission were to increase staffing at the IOTC Secretariat and allocate specific funding for the Regional Observer Scheme implementation.</p> <p>The SC NOTED that Thailand is currently receiving support from the IOTC Secretariat in the initiation of their national observer scheme and that observers are due to be deployed in 2016 following the training.</p> <p>NOTING the upcoming projects planned to support the</p>	<p>Update: [Ongoing]</p> <p>Resolution 16/04 On the implementation of a pilot project for the Regional Observer Scheme was adopted by the S20.</p> <p>Update – Thailand: [Ongoing]</p> <p>No tuna vessel is active in the IOTC area this year, so Thailand is planning to deploy observers in 2017.</p>

		SC18 Para. 143	<p>ROS (including the development of an electronic reporting system, and a proposal for an electronic monitoring system), the SC AGREED that funding from the IOTC regular budget should be allocated to support these activities over the next few years. The IOTC Secretariat has been tasked by the Commission to develop a proposal and budget for its consideration.</p> <p>The SC AGREED that capacity building activities continue to be supported via the Commission's annual budget, to improve the lack of compliance with the implementation of observer schemes by CPCs for their fleets and lack of reporting to the IOTC Secretariat as per the provisions contained within Resolution 11/04 <i>on a Regional Observer Scheme</i>.</p>	
WPB13.06	WPB Program of work (para. 148): The WPB RECOMMENDED that the reporting deadline for stock assessment inputs (index of abundance, catch reconstructions, size data, etc.) be moved from 30 days to 60 days prior to the meeting in which the species is to be assessed.	SC18 Para. 165	WPB Program of work The SC RECOMMENDED that the reporting deadline for stock assessment inputs (index of abundance, catch reconstructions, size data, etc.) be 45 days prior to the meeting in which the species is to be assessed.	Update: [Completed] - Approved by S20. The Program of Work for 2016–2020, as adopted by the Scientific Committee is available for download from the IOTC website: http://iotc.org/science/wp/working-party-billfish-wpb
WPB13.07	(para. 149): The WPB RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider and endorse the WPB Program of Work (2016–2020), as provided at Appendix XII.	SC18 Para. 165	The SC NOTED that some participants expressed concern about meeting the earlier deadline, though it was explained that the provision of the datasets 15 days earlier was aimed at ensuring the necessary inputs to stock assessments are provided with sufficient time to allow stock assessment scientists sufficient time to undertake a rigorous analysis.	
		SC18 Para. 153	The SC NOTED the proposed Program of Work and priorities for the Scientific Committee and each of the Working Parties and AGREED to a consolidated Program of Work as outlined in Appendix XXXIV. The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of each working party shall ensure that the efforts of their working party 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.	
WPB13.08	Hiring of a consultant to assist the WPB with data poor stock assessment approaches (para. 154): The WPB RECOMMENDED that a consultant be hired to develop CPUE series for billfish species in coastal gillnet and fisheries other than industrial	SC18 Para. 157	Hiring of a consultant to assist the WPB with data poor stock assessment approaches NOTING the highly beneficial and relevant work done by IOTC stock assessment consultants in 2015 and in previous years, the SC RECOMMENDED that the	Update: [Ongoing] Current provisions (as per table 5) are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 units (at a unit price of 450 USD) for <i>Billfish data poor stock</i>

<p>WPB13.09</p>	<p>longline. This activity should be a high priority within the Scientific Committee’s Program of Work. Terms of Reference will be provided to the SC’s consideration in 2015. An indicative budget is provided at Table 18.</p> <p>(para. 155): The WPB RECOMMENDED that a consultant be hired to carry out workshops on data poor techniques for assessment including CPUE estimations for billfish species. This activity should be a high priority within the Scientific Committee’s Program of Work. Terms of Reference will be provided to the SC’s consideration in 2015. An indicative budget is provided at Table 19.</p>		<p>engagement of consultants be continued for each coming year based on the Program of Work. Consultants will be hired to supplement the skill set available within the IOTC Secretariat and CPCs. The draft budget provided in Table 5, shall be incorporated into the overall IOTC Science budget for the consideration of the Commission.</p>	<p>assessment, including the development of CPUE series for coastal gillnet and fisheries other than industrial longline, yielding a total (by year) of 11,250 USD for 2017 and 2018;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 unit (at a unit price of 5,000 USD) for <i>Billfish data poor stock assessment (travel)</i>, yielding a total (by year) of 5,000 USD for 2017 and 2108.
<p>WPB13.11</p>	<p>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 13th Session of the Working Party on Billfish</p> <p>(para. 166): The WPB RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPB13, provided at Appendix XIII, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each of the five billfish species under the IOTC mandate, and the combined Kobe plot for the five species assigned a stock status in 2015 (Fig. 10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) – Appendix VII ○ Black marlin (<i>Makaira indica</i>) – Appendix VIII ○ Blue marlin (<i>Makaira nigricans</i>) – Appendix IX ○ Striped marlin (<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>) – Appendix X ○ Indo-Pacific sailfish (<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>) – Appendix XI 		<p>Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 13th Session of the Working Party on Billfish</p> <p>The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the management advice developed for each billfish species under the IOTC mandate, as provided in the Executive Summary for each species, and the combined Kobe plot for the three species assigned a stock status in 2015 (Fig. 5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) – Appendix XII ○ Black marlin (<i>Makaira indica</i>) – Appendix XIII ○ Blue marlin (<i>Makaira nigricans</i>) – Appendix XIV ○ Striped marlin (<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>) – Appendix XV ○ Indo-Pacific sailfish (<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>) – Appendix XVI 	<p>Update: Ongoing</p> <p>The Commission NOTED the latest stock status and management advice for each of the 16 species under the IOTC mandate, as well as seven shark species/groups directly impacted by vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species, contained in the stock status</p>

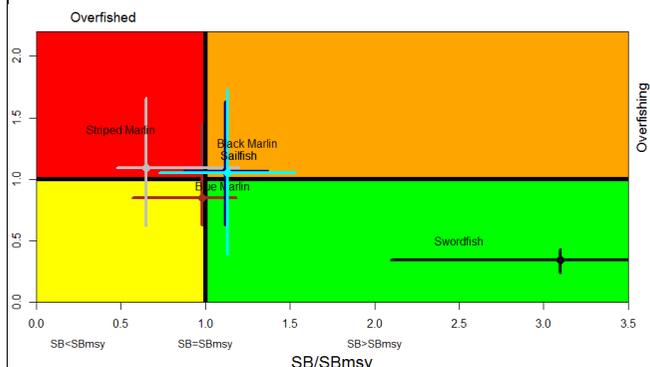


Fig. 5. Combined Kobe plot for swordfish (black: 2014), black marlin (light blue: 2014), blue marlin (brown: 2013),

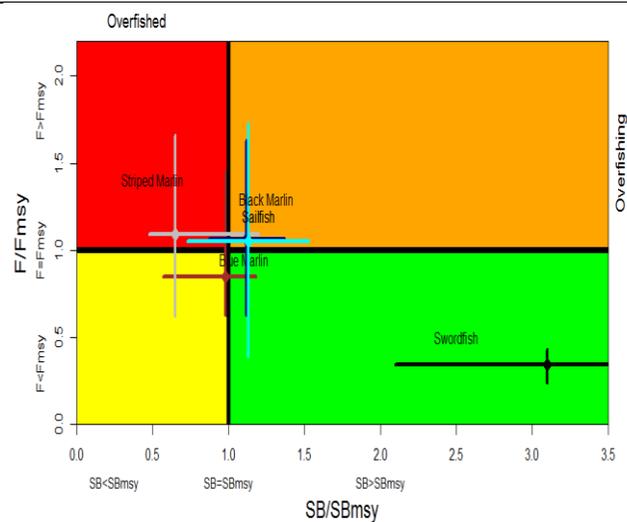


Fig. 10. Combined Kobe plot for swordfish (black), black marlin (light blue), blue marlin (brown), striped marlin (grey) and I.P. sailfish (navy blue) showing the 2013, 2014 and 2015 (most recent stock assessments) estimates of current stock size (SB or B, species assessment dependent) and current fishing mortality (F) in relation to optimal spawning stock size and optimal fishing mortality. Cross bars illustrate the range of uncertainty from the model runs.

striped marlin (grey: 2015) and Indo-Pacific sailfish (black: 2015) showing the estimates of current stock size (SB or B, species assessment dependent) and current fishing mortality (F) in relation to the interim target spawning stock size and interim target fishing mortality. Cross bars illustrate the range of uncertainty from the model runs.

WPB13 Report	WPB13 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
Para. 5	<p>The WPB NOTED that in 2014, the SC made a number of requests in relation to the WPB12 report (noting that updates on Recommendations of the SC17 are dealt with under Agenda item 3.4). Those requests and the associated responses from the WPB13 are provided below for reference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational and sports fisheries for marlins and IP sailfish in the Indian Ocean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>NOTING that in 2011, the Chair of the WPB, in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat, participating billfish foundations and other interested parties, commenced a process to facilitate the acquisition of catch-and-effort and size data from sport fisheries, by developing and</i> 	<p>Update: IOTC Secretariat [Ongoing] – Funding has been confirmed by the EU DG-Mare Science Grant to the IOTC Secretariat, with work due to commence in September 2016. The ABF has been hired as one of the consultants for the project.</p>

	<p><i>disseminating reporting forms to Sport Fishing Centres in the region, the SC REQUESTED that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the WPB, work in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat and the African Billfish Foundation to find a suitable funding source and lead investigator to undertake the project outlined in Appendix VI of the WPB12 Report. The aim of the project is to enhance data recovery from sports and other recreational fisheries in the western Indian Ocean region. The IOTC Secretariat shall circulate the concept note to potential funding bodies on behalf of the WPB. A similar concept note could be developed for other regions in the IOTC area of competence at a later date. (SC17. Para. 35)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response: Substantial effort was directed to finding suitable funding sources for this important work in 2014/15, however to date, all organisations approached have declined the request. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier approach for providing stock status advice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The SC CONSIDERED the proposal from the WPB to adopt a process to determine if a ‘Tier’ approach to providing stock status advice will likely enable the IOTC working parties to better communicate the levels of uncertainty present in the indicators used for monitoring the condition/status of IOTC stocks by categorising the types of assessments conducted, for the development of management advice/actions. Initial details of how a ‘Tier’ approach may be constructed are provided in Appendix XII of the WPB12 Report. The SC REQUESTED that the Chair of the WPM shall liaise with interested scientists to develop a revised proposal that includes the experience of other bodies, such as ICES, for consideration at the next SC meeting. (SC17. Para. 128) ○ Response: The IOTC Working Party on Methods will discuss this at its 6th Session to be held in October 2015. 	<p>Update: WPM Chairperson [update pending] –</p> <p>From the WMP06 report:</p> <p>Para 46. The WPM AGREED that it was not clear if the Scientific Committee suggestion shared this objective, and REQUESTED that the Scientific Committee clarifies what the motivations and objectives of such a system would be.</p> <p>Para 49. The WPM AGREED that the advantages and disadvantages of a tiered system be examined, and that the expected benefits of its implementation be considered carefully before progressing further.</p>
Para. 18	<p>Billfish species identification</p> <p>The WPB REQUESTED the IOTC Secretariat to assist in translation of Billfish ID card into Malay-Bahasa, Sinhalese and Portuguese languages as a priority, NOTING with thanks, the offer from WWF Mozambique and IPMA (Portugal) to help in translating the cards into Portuguese.</p>	<p>Update: WWFMOZ [update pending] –</p> <p>Update: IPMA [update pending] –</p> <p>Update: [Ongoing] DFAR/NARA are currently working on translations into Sinhalese (and Tamil)</p>
Para. 19	<p>Billfish species identification</p> <p>The WPB REQUESTED CPCs provide feedback on the usefulness of the printed card in improving species identification for all billfish catches in reported statistics, at each WPB meeting.</p>	<p>Update: CPCs [update pending] –</p>

<p>Para. 23</p>	<p>Review of the statistical data available for billfish</p> <p>The WPB NOTED the main billfish 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 V, and REQUESTED that the CPCs listed in the Appendix, make efforts to remedy the data issues identified and to report back to the WPB at its next meeting.</p>	<p>Update: CPCs [update pending] –</p>
<p>Para. 26</p>	<p>Review of the statistical data available for billfish</p> <p>NOTING that the high variability of striped marlin reported catches (in particular periods with extremely high catches followed by low catches) remained unexplained, the WPB REQUESTED that the main fleets reporting catches of striped marlin (Japan, Taiwan,China and Rep. of Korea) investigate the variability observed and report findings to the next WPB meeting focusing on striped marlin.</p>	<p>Update: Japan [update pending] – to be provided in 2017 (expected stock assessments for Striped marlin)</p> <p>Update: Taiwan,China [update pending] –</p> <p>Update: Rep. of Korea [update pending] –</p>
<p>Para. 27</p>	<p>Review of the statistical data available for billfish</p> <p>The WPB REQUESTED the IOTC Secretariat to provide total catches for each billfish species by area (NE, NW, SE, SW, OT) as this information should be available every year, not only assessment years.</p>	<p>Update: IOTC Secretariat [Ongoing]</p> <p>Nominal catches for all species are reported to IOTC by Indian Ocean area (East / West). Allocating these catches to the proposed areas will necessarily require an estimation process either based on the mappings of fleet / gear vs. area (as it was done for the MLS stock assessment dataset for WPB13) or by estimating the area proportions through catch and effort data, interpolating gaps within the catch and effort data by using the information available for a given fleet – in the closest time periods. Scientist should decide which of the two methods is more suitable for the purpose and the IOTC data section will update the process accordingly. Further discussions are expected during the WPB14.</p>
<p>Para. 30</p>	<p>Malaysian billfish fishery</p> <p>NOTING the absence of observers onboard fishing vessels, which leads to misidentification of marlins to the species level in this study, the WPB REQUESTED Malaysia to engage with the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) training workshops. The IOTC ROS workshop series will commence in Oman this October with additional workshops planned in 2016 for the eastern Indian Ocean CPCs.</p>	<p>Update: Malaysia [update pending] –</p>
<p>Para. 35</p>	<p>Maldives billfish fishery</p> <p>NOTING the pending implementation of logbooks for reef fish fisheries, expected in early 2016 the WPB REQUESTED that the Maldives provide an update on its implementation at the next WPB meeting.</p>	<p>Update: Maldives [update pending] –</p>
<p>Para. 38</p>	<p>I.R. Iran billfish fishery</p> <p>The WPB NOTED that the new data reported by I.R. Iran highlighted the</p>	<p>Update: I.R. Iran [update pending] –</p>

	importance of those fisheries statistics that could be used in the future for billfish assessment. However, the lack of catch-and-effort data for the Iranian driftnet fishery compromise estimates of total catch, as the species composition of marlins would vary depending on the areas and times fished. Thus, the WPB REQUESTED that the I.R. Iran make every possible effort to assess the areas and times fished by its fishery and to report this information to the next meeting of the WPB, noting that this is already a mandatory reporting requirement under Resolution 15/02.	
Para. 39	<i>I.R. Iran billfish fishery</i> The WPB REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat assist I.R. Iran to assess if separate reporting on I.P. sailfish in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea is possible, and I.R. Iran report at the next WPB.	Update: I.R. Iran [update pending] –
Para. 47	<i>ObServe: Database and operational software</i> The WPB AGREED that ObServe is useful tool to store and manage tuna fisheries data collected by observers on board both purse seine and longline vessels and REQUESTED that IRD presents this tool to the IOTC Secretariat.	Update: IRD [update pending] –
Para. 51	<i>Kenyan sports fishery</i> The WPB ACKNOWLEDGED the analysis on the Kenya long-term sport fisheries dataset and REQUESTED that Kenya continues investigating this dataset for consideration at the next WPB meeting.	Update: Kenya [update pending] –
Para. 52	<i>Kenyan sports fishery</i> The WPB REQUESTED that the catch and effort data for the sports fishery in Kenya from 1987–2010 be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat to assist in future assessments for sports fish species.	Update: Kenya [update pending] –
Para. 53	<i>African Billfish Foundation</i> RECALLING the excellent efforts being undertaken by the African Billfish Foundation to develop a tag and recapture database in Kenya and Tanzania, the WPB REQUESTED that the African Billfish Foundation continue its important work, particularly in the areas of collaborative research aimed at obtaining more information on movements of billfishes, via both conventional and archival tagging programs that will allow the collection of information on both horizontal and vertical movements as well as on population dynamics.	Update: ABF [update pending] –
Para. 63	<i>Review of new information on the status of swordfish - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices</i> NOTING that swordfish was not a priority species in 2015 (it will be assessed in 2017 as per the Program of Work (see Appendix XII), no updated CPUE indices	Update: Taiwan,China [update pending] – Update: Sri Lanka [update pending] –

	<p>were submitted for consideration by the WPB in 2015. However, the WPB REQUESTED that key CPCs (Taiwan,China, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Japan and EU,Portugal, EU,Spain) provide updated CPUE indices annually as indicators of stock status between stock assessment years.</p>	<p>Update: Indonesia [update pending] –</p> <p>Update: Japan [update pending] –</p> <p>Update: EU Portugal [update pending] –</p> <p>Update: EU Spain [update pending] –</p>
Para. 66	<p><i>Development of management advice for swordfish & update of swordfish Executive Summary for the consideration of the Scientific Committee</i></p> <p>The WPB ADOPTED the management advice developed for swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>), as provided in the draft resource stock status summary and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary for swordfish with the latest 2014 catch data, and for the summary to be provided to the SC as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) – Appendix VII 	<p>Update: [Completed] - The IOTC Secretariat updated the draft Executive Summaries for the Consideration of the SC. The SC18 ADOPTED a new Executive Summary for this stock, available for download from the IOTC website: http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-well-other-species-impacted-iotc</p>
Para 70	<p><i>Striped marlin genetic population structure</i></p> <p>The WPB REQUESTED the IOTC Secretariat to seek additional information on the project and to compare it with the current IOTC Stock Structure Project, so that the two projects may complement each other.</p>	<p>Update: IOTC Secretariat [update pending] –</p>
Para. 109	<p><i>Development of management advice for marlins and update of marlin species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee</i></p> <p>The WPB ADOPTED the management advice developed for each marlin species as provided in the draft resource stock status summaries and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summaries for each marlin species with the latest 2014 catch data (if necessary), and for the summaries to be provided to the Scientific Committee as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black marlin (<i>Makaira indica</i>) – Appendix VIII • Blue marlin (<i>Makaira nigricans</i>) – Appendix IX • Striped marlin (<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>) – Appendix X 	<p>Update: [Completed] - The IOTC Secretariat updated the draft Executive Summaries for the Consideration of the SC. The SC18 ADOPTED a new Executive Summary for this stock, available for download from the IOTC website: http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-well-other-species-impacted-iotc</p>
Para. 111	<p><i>I.P. sailfish biology: Indonesia longline</i></p> <p>The WPB NOTED that CPUE time series from the Indonesian longline fleet might produce an important contribution to the stock assessment of I.P. sailfish and REQUESTED Indonesian scientists to bring standardised CPUE data for the next</p>	<p>Update: Indonesia [update pending] –</p>

	WPB meeting. If assistance is required, then a formal request to the IOTC Secretariat should be made.	
Para. 140	<p>Selection of Stock Status indicators for I.P. sailfish</p> <p>The WPB REQUESTED that the Chairperson contact scientists from the U.A.E. to obtain the latest information from the I.P. sailfish fishery in the Gulf, as the most recent information submitted to the WPB some time ago suggested that the fishery may be collapsing or have collapsed. Any new information received should be submitted to the next WPB meeting as part of a general review of I.P. sailfish fisheries in the Indian Ocean.</p>	Update: WPB Chair [update pending] –
Para. 141	<p>Development of management advice for I.P. sailfish and update of I.P. sailfish species Executive Summary for the consideration of the Scientific Committee</p> <p>The WPB ADOPTED the management advice developed for Indo-Pacific sailfish (<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>), as provided in the draft resource stock status summary and REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat update the draft stock status summary for Indo-Pacific sailfish with the latest 2014 catch data (if appropriate), and for the summary to be provided to the Scientific Committee as part of the draft Executive Summary, for its consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indo-Pacific sailfish (<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>) – Appendix XI 	Update: [Completed] - The IOTC Secretariat updated the draft Executive Summaries for the Consideration of the SC. The SC18 ADOPTED a new Executive Summary for this stock, available for download from the IOTC website: http://iotc.org/science/status-summary-species-tuna-and-tuna-species-under-iotc-mandate-well-other-species-impacted-iotc
Para. 143	<p>DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES (INCLUDING CLOSURES) FOR BILLFISH IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE</p> <p>NOTING that the Commission has requested the Scientific Committee and its subsidiary bodies to propose alternative management measures for billfish species, the WPB REQUESTED that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, in consultation with the IOTC Secretariat and others, discuss and present alternative management measures at the next WPB for those species that are overfished and/or subject to overfishing.</p>	Update: WPB Chair [update pending] – Update: IOTC Secretariat [update pending] – Update: Others [update pending] –
Para. 143	<p>Revision of the WPB Program of work (2016–2020)</p> <p>The WPB REQUESTED that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the WPB, in consultation with the IOTC Secretariat, develop Terms of Reference (TOR) to determine connectivity, movement rates and mortality for billfish stocks in the Indian Ocean using satellite tagging. As this is already a priority area of work, determined by the Scientific Committee and endorsed by the Commission, the TORs should then be circulated to potential funding sources.</p>	Update: Chairperson [update pending] – Update: IOTC Secretariat [update pending] –
Para. 149	<p>Date and place of the 14th and 15th Sessions of the Working Party on Billfish</p> <p>The WPB AGREED on the importance of having IOTC working party meetings within key CPCs catching species of relevance to the working party, in this case on</p>	Update: [Ongoing] Sri Lanka – originally identified as the host CPC for the WPB1 - did not confirm the offer and the WPB14 will be hosted by Seychelles, although not included in the list of CPCs

<p>billfish. Following a discussion on who would host the 14th and 15th Sessions of the WPB in 2016 and 2017 respectively, the WPB REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat liaise with Sri Lanka to determine if they would be able to host the 14th Session, and Kenya and Indonesia if they would host the 15th Session. The WPB should continue to be held in conjunction with the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch. The meeting locations will be communicated by the IOTC Secretariat to the SC for its consideration at its next session to be held in November 2015 (Table 20).</p>	<p>whose fleets take a substantial proportion of the total billfish catch (as requested by the WPB13). Location of the WPB15 has yet to be decided and will take into account the original request.</p>
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