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**DRAFT: AGENDA FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> WORKING PARTY ON BILLFISH**

**Updated: 02 July 2019**

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**Date:** 9–12 September 2019

**Location:** La Reunion, EU,France

**Venue:** TAMARUN Seminar venue

**Time:** 09:00 – 17:00 daily

**Chair:** Dr Rui Coelho (EU,Portugal); **Vice-Chair:** Dr Evgeny Romanov (EU,France)

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chairperson)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
  - IOTC-2019-WPB17-01a: Draft: Agenda for the 17<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Billfish
  - IOTC-2019-WPB17-01b: Draft: Annotated agenda for the 17<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Billfish
  - IOTC-2019-WPB17-02: Draft: List of documents for the 17<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Billfish
3. **THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS**
  - 3.1. Outcomes of the 21<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-03: Outcomes of the 21<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee
  - 3.2. Outcomes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-04: Outcomes of the 23<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission
  - 3.3. Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-05: Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish
  - 3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPB16 (IOTC Secretariat)
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-06\_Rev1: Progress made on the recommendations and requests of WPB16 and SC21 (IOTC Secretariat)
4. **NEW INFORMATION ON FISHERIES AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FOR BILLFISH**
  - 4.1. Review of the statistical data available for billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-07: Review of the statistical data and fishery trends for billfish species
  - 4.2. Review new information on fisheries and associated environmental data (general CPC papers)
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-09: Fishery in Iran and analysis of billfish landings made by industrial gillnet fishery during 2012–2018
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-10: Billfishes landings in Phuket Ports by foreign vessel, 2018
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-11: Bycatch in tuna drift gillnet fisheries off Pakistan (Arabian sea)
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-12: Catch Trends of Billfishes by Malaysian Tuna Longliners in the Indian Ocean
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-13: Size frequency distribution of billfish caught by Kenyan longliners in the Kenyan EEZ
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-27: Distribution, Abundance and some biological aspects of Bill fish species under the family Xiphiidae and Istiophoridae in Indian EEZ
  - 4.3. New information on sport fisheries (all)
5. **MARLINS (Priority species for 2019: Blue marlin)**

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- 5.1. Review new information on marlin biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
  - 5.2. Review of any biological data in support of retention and transshipment bans for specimen below a minimum size, as per recent IOTC Resolutions (all)
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-14: Length at maturity of four billfish species in the Indian Ocean based on Chinese longline observer data
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-15: Billfish size-at-maturity in the western Indian Ocean
  - 5.3. Review of new information on the status of marlins (all)
    - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-16: Standardized CPUE indices for blue marlin (*makaira nigricans*) caught by Indonesian tuna longline fishery in eastern Indian ocean
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-17: Standardized yields of the blue marlin (*makaira nigricans*) caught as bycatch of the Spanish surface longline fishery targeting swordfish (*xiphias gladius*) in the Indian ocean
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-18: CPUE standardization of blue marlin caught by Taiwanese large scale longline fishery in the Indian Ocean
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-19: Standardized CPUE of blue marlin (*Makaira mazara*) caught by Japanese longline fishery in the Indian Ocean: Analysis between 1994 and 2018
      - Stock assessments
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-20a: Continuity runs of the Andrade (2016) Bayesian state-space surplus production model assessment of Indian ocean blue marlin (*makaira nigricans*) stock using JABBA
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-20b: Stock assessment of blue marlin in the Indian Ocean using JABBA
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-21: Stock assessment of blue marlin in the Indian Ocean using Stock Synthesis
      - Selection of Stock Status indicators for marlins
  - 5.4. Development of management advice for marlins and update of marlin species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee, including discussion on current catch limits as per standing IOTC Resolutions (all)
- 6. INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH (Priority species for 2019)**
- 6.1. Review new information on marlin biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-22: Some observations on distribution, abundance and biology of Indo-Pacific sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*) along the coast of Pakistan
  - 6.2. Review of any biological data in support of retention and transshipment bans for specimen below a minimum size, as per recent IOTC Resolutions (all)
  - 6.3. Review of new information on the status of I.P. Sailfish (all)
    - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-23: Standardized yields of the sailfish (*istiophorus platypterus*) caught as bycatch of the Spanish surface longline fishery targeting swordfish (*xiphias gladius*) in the Indian ocean
      - Stock assessments
    - IOTC-2019-WPB17-24: Assessment of Indian Ocean Indo-Pacific sailfish using catch-only methods
      - Selection of Stock Status indicators for I.P. Sailfish
  - 6.4. Development of management advice for I.P. Sailfish and update of species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee, including discussion on current catch limits as per standing IOTC Resolutions (all)
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**7. SWORDFISH (new information for informing the 2020 scheduled assessment)**

- 7.1. Review of new information on swordfish biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
- 7.2. Review of new information and indicators on the status of swordfish (all)
  - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
  - IOTC-2019-WPB17-25: Sword fish catch rates in relation to Sea Surface Temperature and Chlorophyll-A concentration within EEZ Sri Lanka
  - IOTC-2019-WPB17-26: Standardization of the catch per unit effort for swordfish (*xiphias gladius*) for the South African longline fishery
  - Other indicators

**8. DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES (INCLUDING CLOSURES) FOR BILLFISH IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE****9. PROGRESS ON THE SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION****10. WPB PROGRAM OF WORK**

- 10.1. Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2020–2024) (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
  - IOTC-2019-WPB17-8: Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2019-2023) (IOTC Secretariat)
- 10.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPB meeting (Chairperson)

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

- 11.1. Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the WPB for the next biennium (IOTC Secretariat)
- 11.2. Date and place of the 18th and 19th Sessions of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 11.3. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson)