
PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPTmT02

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 23 AUGUST 2011

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from previous Working Party on Temperate Tunas (WPTmT) meetings, and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants.

BACKGROUND

At the Second Session of the Working Party on Temperate Tunas, 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 also contained specific responsibilities for those who were expected to undertake the tasks recommended, without any deadlines.

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) to 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 Scientific Committee, Commission and CPCs in general have struggled to implement previous recommendations from the WPTmT, the Secretariat undertook a review and subsequent revision of recommendations from the WPTmT02 meeting in an attempt to provide clearer direction and delegation of responsibility for each recommendation.

The revised recommendations are contained in Attachment A for the consideration and potential endorsement by the WPTmT.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Working Party on Temperate Tunas **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Second Session of the WPTmT, and consider the proposed draft revisions to those recommendations yet to be completed.

That the Working Party on Temperate Tunas **AGREE** to the revised recommendations, and for these to be combined with any new recommendations arising from WPTmT03, noting that these will be provided to the Scientific Committee for their endorsement.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Progress made on the recommendations of WPTmT02.

ATTACHMENT A:

PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPTmT02

#	Recommendation	Revise (Y/ N)	Revision of recommendation	Responsibility	Due date
1	<p>India report catches for its commercial longline fleet.</p> <p><i>Progress: India reported highly incomplete catches for its commercial longline fishery in 2010. Levels of monitoring of Indian longliners remain extremely low in spite of the continuous increase of the number of longliners recorded since the mid-nineties.</i></p>	Y	<p>The WPTmT recommends that as a matter of priority, India provide catch-and-effort data and size data for temperate tuna, in particular from its commercial longline fleet, as soon as possible, noting that this is already a mandatory reporting requirement.</p>	India, Indonesia, Japan	2012
2	<p>Indonesia increase sampling coverage on by-catch unloaded by fresh-tuna and deep-freezing longliners operating under its flag.</p> <p><i>Progress: Levels of coverage remain unchanged. The IOTC-OFCF Project is planning to visit Indonesia during the first quarter of 2012 to follow-up on these issues.</i></p>	Y	<p>The WPTmT recommends that the IOTC-OFCF Project assist Indonesia to strengthen sampling efforts on its coastal and off-shore fisheries in early 2012, where required.</p> <p>The WPTmT recommends 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>	Indonesia	2012
3	<p>Indonesia and Malaysia collect catch and effort information for their fresh tuna and/or deep-freezing longline fleets, including those not based in Indonesia.</p> <p><i>Progress: To date none of these countries has reported catch-and-effort data to the IOTC as per the required standards. The catches of vessels unloaded in foreign ports remain poorly monitored.</i></p>	Y	<p>The WPTmT recommends that as a matter of priority, Indonesia, Malaysia and Taiwan,China provide catch-and-effort data and size data for temperate tuna, in particular for their fresh tuna and/or deep-freezing longline fleets, as soon as possible, noting that this is already a mandatory reporting requirement. Reporting should also include data from their vessels operating from other CPCs.</p> <p>The WPTmT recommends that Taiwan,China analyse</p>	Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan,China	2012

			the size samples collected from their longline fisheries for albacore in order to verify if the length frequencies derived from such samples are representative of their fisheries. In particular Japan to compare length frequency distributions derived from samples collected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by fishermen on commercial vessels • by observers on commercial vessels • by scientists on research and training vessels. 		
4	Taiwan,China collect and provide catch and effort data for their fresh tuna longline fleets. <i>Progress: Catch-and-effort data has been made available for the period 2007-2010, however, levels of coverage remain low.</i>	Y	Combine with 3 above.	Taiwan,China	
5	Countries having industrial fleets ensure that log book coverage is appropriate to produce acceptable levels of precision in their catch and effort statistics. <i>Progress: Unknown</i>	Y	The WPTmT recommends that the WPDCS monitor that Members are ensuring that logbook coverage is appropriate to produce acceptable levels of precision (CV to be initially set at less than 20%) in their catch and effort statistics for temperate tuna species. The WPTmT recommends that the main fleets catching albacore (Japan, Taiwan,China and Indonesia) collect biological information on albacore caught in their fisheries, preferably through observer programmes, and provide this information (including the raw data) to the Secretariat in 2012.	WPDCS	End 2011
6	Countries having industrial fleets implement or increase coverage of existing Vessel Monitoring Systems in order to be able to validate data collected through logbooks. <i>Progress: Unknown</i>	N	–	–	–
7	Countries having industrial fleets provide information on the activities of vessels presumed to be from non-reporting fleets. <i>Progress: Unknown</i>	N	–	–	–
8	Thailand and Iran collect and provide size data for their industrial purse seine fleets. <i>Progress: Thailand and Iran have not reported size data for albacore. The fishing grounds exploited by Iran and fishing method used make it unlikely that catches of albacore are significant for this fleet. There are no longer purse seiners operating under the flag of Thailand in the Indian Ocean.</i>	N	–	–	–
9	Taiwan,China collect and provide size data from their fresh tuna longliners.	Y	Combine with 3 above.	–	–

	<i>Progress: To date, Taiwan, China has not reported size data for albacore for its fresh-tuna longline fleet.</i>				
10	Indonesia and Malaysia collect and provide size data for their longline vessels based in other countries. <i>Progress: None of these countries has provided the information requested.</i>	Y	Combine with 3 above.	–	–
11	China, Philippines, Seychelles and South Korea provide size data from their longline fleets. <i>Progress: China, Seychelles and the Republic of Korea have provided size data for their longline fleets in recent years. To date, the Philippines have not provided size data for its longline fishery.</i>	Y	The WPTmT recommends that as a matter of priority, the Philippines provide size data for temperate tuna, noting that this is already a mandatory reporting requirement.	Philippines	2012
12	Japan increase size sampling coverage from its longline fleet. <i>Progress: Japan has increased size sampling coverage in recent years thanks to the implementation of the IOTC ROP. However, size data coverage is still below IOTC requirements (e.g. 0.6 albacore specimens measured by metric ton of catch in 2009).</i>	Y	Combine with 1 above.	–	–
13	Countries catching significant amounts of temperate tunas review their existing sampling schemes to ascertain that the data collected are representative of their fisheries. <i>Progress: Unknown</i>	Y	Combine with 5 above.	–	–
14	Conversion relationships: Countries catching significant amounts of albacore provide the basic data that would be used to establish length-weight keys, non-standard measurements-fork length keys, processed weight-live weight keys and length-age keys for these species. <i>Progress: The Secretariat has not received any new datasets concerning the above.</i>	Y	Combine with 5 above.		
15	Countries collect biological information on albacore caught in their fisheries, preferably through observer programmes, and provide this information (including the raw data) to the Secretariat. <i>Progress: The Secretariat has not received any new datasets concerning the above.</i>	Y	Combine with 5 above.	–	–
16	Countries conduct studies on growth of albacore in the Indian Ocean. <i>Progress: nil</i>	N	–	–	–
17	That the Secretariat should maintain a database of tuna prices so these data can be readily available to scientists include in their analyses and assist them interpret tuna targeting and catch rates. <i>Progress: The Secretariat had compiled some information concerning prices of albacore and other species in some countries in the past. However, the</i>	N	–	–	–

	<i>Secretariat does not have the resources to maintain such a database.</i>				
18	That genetics work be conducted to better understand the stock structure of Atlantic and Indian ocean albacore. <i>Progress: nil to the Secretariat's knowledge.</i>	Y	Noting that at present very little is known about the population structure of albacore in the Indian Ocean, other than the possible connectivity with the southern Atlantic, the WPTmT recommended that the Scientific Committee agree to add the determination of albacore stock structure in the Indian Ocean as a high priority research project at its 2011 annual meeting.	Scientific Committee	End 2011
19	That [the above genetics work] be augmented by tagging albacore to better understand the movement of albacore and the degree of mixing between oceans. <i>Progress: nil</i>	N	Combine with 18 above.	–	–
20	That gonads be collected and examined to confirm the spawning time and location of the spawning area that are presently hypothesized for albacore. <i>Progress: nil</i>	N	–	–	–
21	That IOTC scientist collaborate more with ICCAT scientists to improve understanding of the stocks. <i>Progress: ICCAT was contacted prior to the WPTmT in an attempt to bring one of their stock assessment scientists to the WPTmT03 without success. However, ICCAT was receptive to the option of holding a joint albacore working group in 2012.</i>	Y	The WPTmT recommends that the next session of the WPTmT be held in conjunction with the ICCAT southern Atlantic albacore stock assessment working group to facilitate greater collaboration and participation.	Secretariat	2012 WPTmT
22	That the following matters be taken into account in the next CPUE analysis: (a) area should be more representative of the fishery (b) processing to be conducted from individual sets instead of aggregated data (c) examination of the effects of targeting practices on albacore, bigeye, swordfish and southern bluefin (d) incorporation of oceanographic information and environmental factors such as SST, temperature at depths and Chlorophyll content (e) examination of hook per basket (f) take into account the changes in the fleet characteristics over time. <i>Progress: The secretariat communicated this recommendation to the authors of the CPUE papers/analyses for the WPTmT03 meeting. It was requested that responses to this recommendation be included in the STD CPUE working papers to be presented to the meeting.</i>	N	Revised recommendation to be developed at WPTmT03.	–	–