
PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF WPNT08 AND SC21

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PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 9th WPNT with an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations developed by the previous Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT) 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 8th Session of the WPNT, participants also agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the IOTC Secretariat on a range of issues. This paper provides a summary of the progress made on this list of requests so that the working party can evaluate progress made and to agree on the next steps to be taken for each issue.

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 21th 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 WPNT08.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPNT **NOTE** the progress made in implementing the recommendations and requests of the 8th Session of the WPNT, 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 WPNT08.



APPENDIX I

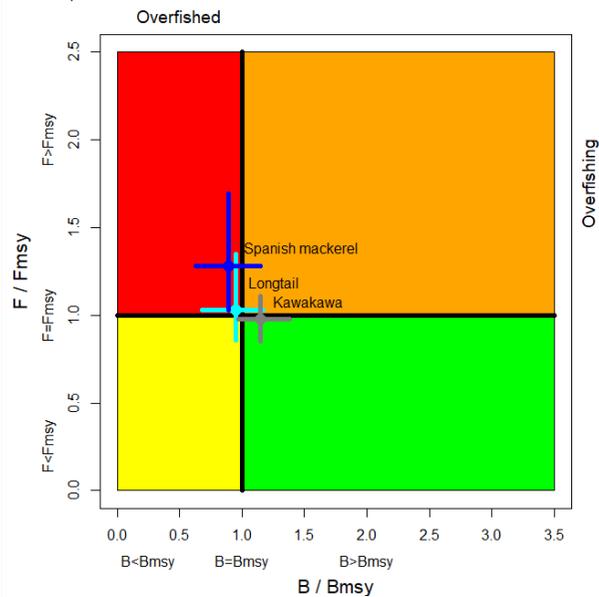
Progress made on the Recommendations and Requests of WPNT08 and SC21

WPNT08 Rec. No.	Recommendation from WPNT06	SC21 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC21	Progress/Comments
WPNT08.01	The WPNT NOTED that compliance with data reporting obligations is particularly low for neritic tuna species, despite the importance of scientific data for stock assessment, and REQUESTED CPCs do their best to collect data and comply with data reporting requirements adopted by the IOTC. The WPNT further NOTED that these issues have been noted for several years with little progress made intersessionally. While there are ongoing initiatives to tackle many of these issues, very little progress has been made and therefore the WPNT strongly RECOMMENDED that the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics take up these issues and address them in that forum	SC21 Para. 32	The SC noted that compliance with data reporting obligations is particularly low for neritic tuna species, despite the importance of scientific data for stock assessment, and REQUESTED CPCs do their best to collect data and comply with data reporting requirements adopted by the IOTC. The SC further noted that these issues have been noted for several years with little progress made intersessionally. While there are ongoing initiatives to tackle many of these issues, very little progress has been made and therefore the SC strongly REQUESTED that the WPDCS take up these issues and address them in that forum	Update: [Ongoing] At its 23 rd session, The Commission again NOTED that neritic tuna are vital resources to the coastal States and REITERATED its concerns made in recent years that the current nature and extent of management measures applying to the neritic species is much less than that being applied to other IOTC species. The Commission EXPRESSED further concern about the overall lack of information on neritic tunas, and again strongly ENCOURAGED the coastal States to improve data collection and reporting, and develop measures to underpin sustainable management of IOTC neritic species.
WPNT08.02	(Para. 75) The WPNT NOTED the low number of participants from CPCs at the current workshop (six excluding the Chair and Vice-Chair) partly due to the technical and specialised focus of the meeting, and RECOMMENDED that future capacity building actions and specialised workshops are conducted back-to-back with the regular Working Party meetings so that each CPC can send their most appropriate scientists to the WPs / Workshops	SC21 Para. 42	Noting the low number of participants from CPCs at the 2018 WPNT meeting (six excluding the Chair and Vice-Chair), the SC RECOMMENDED that future capacity building actions and specialised workshops are conducted back-to-back with the regular Working Party meetings so that each CPC can send their most appropriate scientists to the meetings and workshops	Update: [Ongoing] At the 2019 WPNT meeting, a data limited assessment workshop is scheduled to be held during the first two days of the regular WPNT meeting.

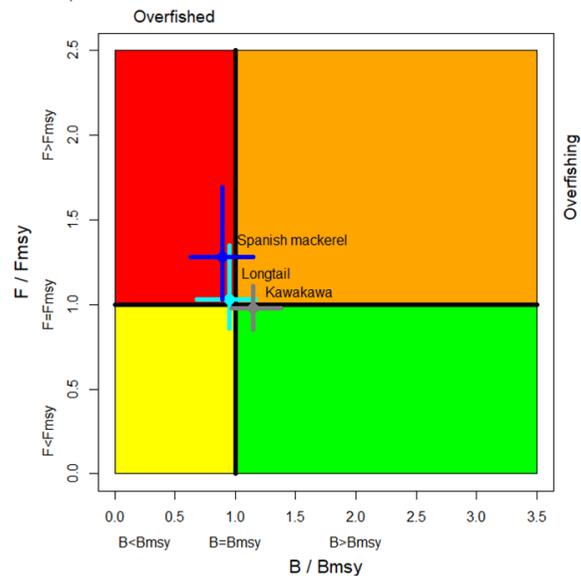
WPNT08.03	(Para. 77) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Commission allocates funding for a consultancy to support the CPCs identified in Appendix VI with CPUE standardisation for the priority species identified.	SC21 Para. 39	The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission allocates funding for a consultancy to support the CPCs identified in Appendix VI of the report of the 8 th session of the Working Party on Neritic Tunas (IOTC–2018–WPNT08–R[E]) with CPUE standardisation for the priority species identified	Update: [ongoing] A Data Support mission was conducted by the IOTC Secretariat in June 2019 to collaborate with SHILAT in assessing the feasibility of datasets for standardization of a CPUE series for gillnet fisheries. The results will be reported to WPNT09.
WPNT08.04	(Para. 79) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC consider and endorse the WPNT Program of Work (2019–2023), as provided in Appendix VI.	SC21 Para. 40	The SC AGREED that a cycle of assessments (e.g. every three years) and other intermediate meetings for data preparation and capacity building in non-assessment years would ensure momentum is maintained.	Update: [completed] – The SC ENDORSED the WPNT Program of Work (2019–2023).
WPNT08.05	(Para. 82) The WPNT NOTED that Sri Lanka expressed interest in potentially hosting the 9 th Session of the WPNT and RECOMMENDED the SC consider as preferred dates of either the last week of June or the first week of July 2019. The WPNT further NOTED that Kenya have expressed interest in potentially hosting the 10 th Session of the WPNT in 2020 with dates yet to be agreed.			Update: [ongoing] Due to the recent security issues in Sri Lanka, the WPNT meeting was rescheduled to be hosted in Seychelles.
WPNT08.06	(Para. 83) The WPNT participants were unanimous in their thanks for the support for their participation in the meeting due to the MPF and RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee also consider the WPNT09 as a high priority meeting for MPF			Update – [completed]
WPNT08.07	(Para. 84) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the SC and Commission note the following: (1) The participation of developing coastal state scientists to the WPNT has been consistently high following the adoption and implementation of the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund adopted by the Commission in 2010 (Resolution 10/05 <i>On</i>	SC21 Para. 41	The SC NOTED that the technical nature of the 2018 WPNT meeting may have deterred some CPCs from attending. Furthermore, the SC noted that a number of interested CPCs could not attend the WPNT in 2018 due to overlaps with other meetings, as well as cultural and religious events, and urged the Secretariat to consider these meetings and events when planning future	Update: [ongoing]

	<p><i>the establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for developing IOTC Members and Non-Contracting Cooperating Parties</i>), now incorporated into the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), as well as though the hosting of the WPNT in developing coastal State Contracting Parties (Members) of the Commission (<u>Table 8</u>).</p> <p>(2) The continued success of the WPNT, at least in the short term, appears heavily reliant on the provision of support via the MPF which was established primarily for the purposes of supporting scientists to attend and contribute to the work of the Scientific Committee and its Working Parties.</p> <p>(3) The MPF should be utilised so as to ensure that all developing Contracting Parties of the Commission are able to attend the WPNT meeting, as neritic tunas are very important resources for many of the coastal countries of the Indian Ocean.</p>		WPNT meetings in order to encourage higher participation	
WPNT08.8	<p>(Para. 85) The WPNT RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPNT08, provided at Appendix XIII, as well as the management advice provided in the draft resource stock status summary for each of the six neritic tuna (and mackerel) species under the IOTC mandate, and the combined Kobe plot for the species assigned a stock status in 2018 (Error! Reference source not found.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – <u>Appendix VII</u> • Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – <u>Appendix VIII</u> • Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – <u>Appendix IX</u> 	SC21 Para. 199	<p>The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note the management advice developed for each neritic tuna (and mackerel) 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 2018 (Fig. 5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) – <u>Appendix 17</u> ○ Frigate tuna (<i>Auxis thazard</i>) – <u>Appendix 18</u> ○ Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) – <u>Appendix 19</u> ○ Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) – <u>Appendix 20</u> 	<p>Update: [completed]</p> <p>The advice on stock status as provided by the SC was NOTED by the Commission.</p>

- Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) – [Appendix X](#)
- Indo-Pacific king mackerel (*Scomberomorus guttatus*) – [Appendix XI](#)
- Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) – [Appendix XII](#)



- Indo-Pacific king mackerel (*Scomberomorus guttatus*) – [Appendix 21](#)
- Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) – [Appendix 22](#)



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WPNT08 Report	WPNT08 REQUESTS	Update/Progress
Para. 11	The WPNT REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat continue to annually prepare a paper on the progress of the recommendations arising from the previous WPNT, incorporating the final recommendations adopted by the Scientific Committee and endorsed by the Commission	Update: The IOTC Secretariat has prepared document “IOTC-2019-WPNT09-06” for WPNT09 to address the progress of the recommendations and requests from the previous WPNT meeting.
Para. 14	The WPNT NOTED that revisions to Pakistan’s historical catches, submitted to IOTC by the Government of Pakistan in 2017, will only be uploaded into the IOTC database when the estimation methodology is clarified, as the sharp increase in catches reported since 2015 may affect future stock assessment results for neritic and tropical tunas. The WPNT REQUESTED that the IOTC Secretariat liaise with the Government of Pakistan to appraise the revised catch series and resolve current inconsistencies between the officially reported catches and IOTC best scientific catch estimates for Pakistan as a matter of priority	Update: [ongoing] The IOTC Secretariat conducted a data compliance and support mission to Pakistan in December 2018 which included discussions on the revised historical catches submitted by Pakistan. The IOTC Secretariat proposed a joint-paper, in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan and WWF-Pakistan, to be presented to the WPDCS meeting in 2019 to present an evaluation of the revised catch series.
Para. 17	The WPNT NOTED that data-related issues are a combination of both a lack of availability of data as well as issues with data reporting and that both of these challenges need to be addressed. The WPNT REQUESTED that CPC scientists presenting information at Working Party meetings ensure that this data has been submitted to the IOTC Secretariat prior to the meeting	Update [Ongoing]: The IOTC Secretariat will provide an update to status of the IOTC datasets to the WPNT during the presentation accompanying paper IOTC-2019-WPNT09-07.
Para. 18	NOTING that despite access to the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF), the attendance of CPC scientists from developing coastal states at the 8th session of the WPNT was particularly low, and also the absence of representatives from some of the main CPCs important for catches of neritic tunas, such as India, Malaysia, I.R. Iran and Pakistan. The WPNT REQUESTED the IOTC Executive Secretary liaise with these nations at a high level and engage Managers and Head Delegates to the Commission directly to encourage the participation of their national scientists in the Working Party meetings and facilitate improvements in the submission of the mandatory IOTC datasets	Update: [Ongoing]:

Para. 22	The WPNT NOTED that compliance with data reporting obligations is particularly low for neritic tuna species, despite the importance of scientific data for stock assessment, and REQUESTED CPCs do their best to collect data and comply with data reporting requirements adopted by the IOTC	Update [Ongoing]: At its 23rd session, the Commission EXPRESSED further concern about the overall lack of information on neritic tunas, and again strongly ENCOURAGED the coastal States to improve data collection and reporting and develop measures to underpin sustainable management of IOTC neritic species. In particular the IOTC Secretariat acknowledged the efforts made by I.R. Iran since 2018 to increase their level of reporting for geo-referenced data according to Resolution 15/02
Para. 23	The WPNT REQUESTED that data on neritic tunas, including catch, effort, and size frequency data, are submitted to the IOTC Secretariat as per the requirements adopted by IOTC Members in Resolution 15/02. This would allow the WPNT to develop additional or more refined stock status indicators for use in undertaking stock assessments on the neritic tuna species under the IOTC mandate	Update: [Ongoing]: The IOTC Secretariat has prepared document IOTC–2019–WPNT09–07 for WPNT09 to summarise data on neritic tunas, including catch, effort, and size frequency data.
Para. 25	The WPNT further NOTED the distribution of catches of neritic species are not equal across CPCs but that the largest fisheries are concentrated in Indonesia, I.R. Iran, India, and Pakistan (which together account for over 75% of the total catches of neritic species in recent years), and REQUESTED that support for data reporting from these countries is prioritised by the IOTC Secretariat to improve the reporting of mandatory datasets	Update: [Ongoing]: Following a data compliance and support mission to I.R. Iran in November 2017, a revised procedure for the reporting of geo-referenced catch-and-effort data has been implemented with support from the IOTC Secretariat. Data for the 2007-2017 has been successfully received and incorporated within the IOTC database and made available for the WPNT09 as part of the regular data sets.
Para. 27	The WPNT ACKNOWLEDGED that for many CPCs port sampling is still the main method of data collection for the inshore fisheries catching neritic tunas and may, at present, be the best source of data for CPUE standardisation until logbooks and observer schemes become more established. Given the lack of guidance on how port sampling information should be collected, the WPNT REQUESTED that participants bring their port sampling data collection templates to the next Working Party meeting for the group to review and provide advice on, and further REQUESTED the IOTC Secretariat source some example templates from fisheries with more developed port sampling data collection systems for comparison	Update: The IOTC Secretariat has prepared document IOTC–2019–WPNT09–14 that summarises the data support mission to I.R. Iran in June 2019. The report provides a brief introduction of the Iranian port sampling data collection systems.
Para. 48	The WPNT REQUESTED clarification as to the proportion of total catch represented by the sampling scheme outlined in the paper. Although it appears that many vessels were sampled, it was acknowledged that this represents a fairly low proportion of the entire catch. This should be taken into consideration when scaling this information up to represent the entire catch series. The WPNT further REQUESTED that this be taken into	Update: Kenya [update pending]

	account when designing future sampling schemes for these species	
Para. 64	The WPNT REQUESTED clarification regarding the high proportion of small tuna provided for the coastal purse seine fleet, NOTING that these purse seine vessels generally target small pelagic species and that IOTC species are generally caught incidentally. This results in predominantly smaller tuna being captured and thus reported	Update: Thailand [update pending]
Para. 67	The WPNT NOTED the reconstructed catch series of neritic tunas for the Pakistan fleet based on the crew-based observer scheme and REQUESTED WWF-Pakistan provide details regarding the methods used to make these substantial revisions	Update: This issue will be addressed as part of the IOTC Secretariat’s review of the revised historical catches, and crew-based data collection, to be presented to the WPDCS in 2019.
Para. 69	The WPNT NOTED that Pakistan has stated that gillnet fisheries only operate within the country’s EEZ. This presentation provided would seem to indicate that this is not always the case. As such the WPNT REQUESTED that Pakistan be contacted to clarify this issue	Update: This issue will be addressed as part of the IOTC Secretariat’s review of the revised historical catches, and crew-based data collection, to be presented to the WPDCS in 2019.