
DRAFT: AGENDA FOR THE 15TH WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH

Updated: 17th May 2019

Date: 3 - 7 September 2019

Location: La Saline Les Bains, REUNION ISLAND

Venue: TAMARUN, 8 rue des Argonautes, La saline Les Bains, La Reunion

Time: 09:00 – 17:00 daily

Chair: Dr Sylvain Bonhommeau (EU, France); **Vice-Chair:** Dr Reza Shahifar (I.R. Iran) & Dr Ross Wanless (South Africa)

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chairperson)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
3. **THE IOTC PROCESS: OUTCOMES, UPDATES AND PROGRESS**
 - 3.1 Outcomes of the 21st Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.2 Outcomes of the 23rd Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.3 Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to Ecosystems and Bycatch (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 3.4 Progress on the recommendations of WPEB14 (IOTC Secretariat)
4. **REVIEW OF DATA AVAILABLE ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH**
 - 4.1. Review of the statistical data available for ecosystems and bycatch species (IOTC Secretariat)
5. **REVIEW OF NATIONAL BYCATCH ISSUES IN IOTC MANAGED FISHERIES AND NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION** (sharks; seabirds; marine turtles) (CPCs and IOTC Secretariat)
 - 5.1. Review of applications for 'not applicable' NPOA status (IOTC Secretariat)
 - 5.2. Updated status of development and implementation of National Plans of Action for seabirds and sharks, and the implementation of the FAO guidelines to reduce marine turtle mortality in fishing operations (CPCs).
 - 5.3. Species identification tools
6. **NEW INFORMATION ON BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RELATING TO ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH SPECIES**
 - 6.1. Review new information on environment and ecosystem interactions and modelling, including climate change issues affecting pelagic ecosystems in the IOTC area of responsibility (all)
7. **INDICATORS FOR OCEANIC WHITETIP AND SHORTFIN MAKO SHARKS AND STOCK ASSESSMENT OF SILKY SHARK**
 - 7.1. Review new information on shark and ray biology, stock structure, bycatch mitigation measures, fisheries and associated environmental data (all);
 - 7.2. Review of new information on the status of sharks (all);
 - 7.3. Potential methods for data-limited stock assessment
 - 7.4. Review of the indicators for the oceanic whitetip shark
 - 7.5. Review of the indicators for the shortfin mako shark
 - 7.6. Review of the proposed stock assessment of silky shark
 - 7.7. Recommendations and executive summary for silky shark

8. ECOSYSTEM MODELING AND REPORT CARDS (recommendations from the SC / decisions of the Commission)

- 8.1. Report of the “Identification of regions in the IOTC convention area to inform the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management” Workshop..

9. BYCATCH, SPECIES INTERACTIONS, AND ECOSYSTEM RISK ASSESSMENTS

- 9.1. Review new information on other bycatch and by-product, in terms of biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)
- 9.2. Seabirds
- Review new information on seabird biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- 9.3. Marine turtles (all)
- Review new information on marine turtle biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
- 9.4. Marine mammals (all)
- Review new information on marine mammal biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
 - Development of management advice on the status of marine mammal species (all).
 - Report on the IWC meeting on bycatch

10. WPEB PROGRAM OF WORK

- 10.1. Revision of the WPEB Program of Work 2020–2024 (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 10.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert/s at the next Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch meeting (Chairperson)

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1. Update: Progress on work promoting the regional observer scheme of IOTC (IOTC Secretariat)
- 11.2. Date and place of the 16th and 17th Sessions of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 11.3. Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the next biennium (IOTC Secretariat)
- 11.4. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 15th Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chairperson)