

12 December 2019

IOTC CIRCULAR 2019–55

Dear Madam / Sir

REGARDING THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON REFERENCE POINTS

During its 2019 Session, the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) noted that further work is required on understanding the determination of stock status relative to Reference Points, and agreed that a small working group should be formed to continue to work on this matter intersessionally in preparation for the TCMP in 2020.

A terms of reference for the ad-hoc working group was agreed at the meeting and is provided in the below attachment.

In response to Circular 2019-30 sent on the 12 July 2019, which invited participation in this working group, the Scientific Committee noted at its December 2019 session that *"to date, only 9 CPCs and 3 observers had committed to participating in this group and SUGGESTED that CPCs and relevant observers be contacted again to encourage more participation."*

The proposed work will be undertaken electronically. CPCs and accredited observers who have not already done so are again invited to nominate focal contacts to participate in this working group and send their contact details to iotc-secretariat@fao.org by the 31 January 2020. The Secretariat will compile the list of contacts and provide them to the TCMP Chairs for further communication.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this work.

Yours sincerely



Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Terms of reference

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom (OT), Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia, Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only

Attachment 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC REFERENCE POINT WORKING GROUP

An informal working group is established to consider and provide information to the TCMP on issues relating to the definition and presentation of stock status against conservation and management reference points, including but not limited to the following:

- the review of current (interim) reference points
- provide advice on possible revisions to Resolution 15/10 if required
- reporting stock status in relation to limit and target reference points
- suggestions on how to present stock status.

The working group, constituted preferentially by managers, scientists and relevant experts, will be convened by the Scientific Committee Chair and will conduct its work electronically. CPCs and accredited observers will provide focal contacts to the Chair .

The matters to be considered by the Working Group will be presented in a draft working paper to be discussed at the relevant species working parties, WPM and SC, who will provide advice to the Working Group. This advice and any further considerations from the Working Group will be reflected in a working paper tabled for discussion at TCMP. Outcomes from TCMP discussions will be reported to the Commission.