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**DRAFT: AGENDA FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup> WORKING PARTY ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH**

Updated: 10 February 2016

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**Date:** 12–16 September 2016

**Location:** Colombo, Sri Lanka (to be confirmed)

**Venue:** TBA

**Time:** 09:00 – 17:00 daily

**Chair:** Dr Rui Coelho (EU, Portugal); **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 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.2 Outcomes of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 WPEB11 (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)
  - 4.2. Regional Observer Scheme – Update (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).
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. **GILLNET FISHERIES: PROBLEMS AND NEEDS** (recommendations from the SC / decisions of the Commission)
  - 7.1. Regional review of the data available for gillnet fleets operating in the Indian Ocean (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 7.2. Update on training conducted for CPCs having gillnet fleets on species identification, bycatch mitigation and data collection methods (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 7.3. Development of plans of action for future training on species identification, bycatch mitigation and data collection for gillnet fleets and also to identify other potential sources of assistance (all)
8. **BLUE SHARK**
  - 8.1. Review new information on blue shark biology, stock structure, bycatch mitigation measures, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
  - 8.2. Review of new information on the status of blue shark (all)
    - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
    - Stock assessments (including data poor approaches): preparation for 2017 assessment
    - Selection of Stock Status indicators for blue shark

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- 8.3. Development of management advice for blue shark and update of blue shark Executive Summary for the consideration of the Scientific Committee (all)
- Consideration of options for alternative management measures for blue shark in the IOTC area of competence

**9. OTHERS SHARKS AND RAYS (Priority species: Oceanic whitetip shark)**

- 9.1. Review new information on other shark and ray biology, stock structure, bycatch mitigation measures, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
- 9.2. Review of mitigation measures contained in Resolution 13/06 for Oceanic whitetip shark
- 9.3. Review of new information on the status of other sharks (all)
- Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
  - Selection of Stock Status indicators for other sharks
- 9.4. Development of management advice on the status of other shark stocks and update of other shark species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee (all)
- Consideration of options for alternative management measures for other sharks in the IOTC area of competence

**10. OTHER BYCATCH AND BYPRODUCT SPECIES INTERACTIONS**

- 10.1. Review new information on other bycatch and byproduct, in terms of biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all)
- 10.2. Review of new information on the proposed retention of non-target species by various gears (all)
- 10.3. Marine turtles
- Review new information on marine turtle biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
  - Review of mitigation measures in Resolution 12/04 (all);
  - Development of management advice on the status of marine turtle species (all).
- 10.4. Seabirds
- Review new information on seabird biology, ecology, fisheries interactions and bycatch mitigation measures (all);
  - Review of mitigation measures in Resolution 12/06 (all);
  - Development of management advice on the status of seabird species (all).
- 10.5. Marine mammals
- 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).

**11. WPEB PROGRAM OF WORK**

- 11.1. Revision of the WPEB Program of Work 2017–2021 (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 11.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert/s at the next Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch meeting (Chairperson)

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

- 12.1. Update: Southern hemisphere stock status assessment of porbeagle shark (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 12.2. Update: Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) joint meeting of tRFMOs (Chairperson)
- 12.3. Date and place of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 12.4. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Chairperson)