
PROGRESS MADE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WPDCS09

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 11 NOVEMBER 2014

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS09), which were endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC), and to provide alternative recommendations for the consideration and potential endorsement by participants.

BACKGROUND

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.

Process:

- 1) **WPDCS** – At the 9th Session of the WPDCS held in 2013, participants agreed on a series of actions to be taken by participants, CPCs, and the Secretariat on a range of issues;
- 2) **SC** – The recommendations were considered by the SC in December 2013. At the SC16 meeting, the recommendations of the WPDCS09 were either rejected or revised and then adopted as those of the SC;
- 3) **Commission** – The refined recommendations were then passed to the Commission for its consideration and possible endorsement.

DISCUSSION

Noting the core tasks of the SC, and hence the WPDCS, participants are reminded that any recommendations developed during a Session, must be carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e. a specific CPC of the IOTC, the Secretariat, another subsidiary body of the Commission or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time from for delivery of the action (i.e. by the next working party meeting, or other date).

The Secretariat has undertaken a review of the recommendations arising from the previous WPDCS meeting and compared them against those endorsed by the SC [Appendix A](#). Any subsequent actions taken by the Commission at the most recent meeting have also been added to the Appendix. In cases where a

recommendation is yet to be fulfilled, a proposal for consideration at the WPDCS meeting has been provided.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPDCS:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2014–WPDCS10–04 which detailed the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the WPDCS09, taking into consideration the recommendations from the SC and decisions of the Commission;
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary, the recommendations, and for these to be combined with any new recommendations arising from the WPDCS10, noting that these will be provided to the SC for their endorsement.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Progress made on the recommendations of WPDCS09



APPENDIX A

Progress made on the recommendations of WPDCS09

WPDCS099 Rec. No.		SC16 Rec. No.	Recommendation adopted by the SC16	Endorsed at S18	Commission response / suggestions for consideration at WPDCS10
WPDCS09.01 (para. 14):	<p>Resolution 10/02 Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC's).</p> <p>The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Scientific Committee considers to propose the following amendments to IOTC Resolution 10/02 to the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding the following definitions in order to clarify the type of fisheries, area and species covered by Resolution 10/02: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Longline fisheries: Fisheries undertaken by vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels that use longline gear. ○ Surface fisheries: All fisheries undertaken by vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels other than longline fisheries; in particular purse seine, pole-and-line, and gillnet fisheries. ○ Coastal fisheries: Fisheries other than longline or surface, as defined above, also called artisanal fisheries. ○ IOTC Area of Competence: as described in Annex A of the IOTC Agreement. ○ Species: refers to all species under the IOTC mandate as described in Annex B of the IOTC Agreement, and the most commonly caught elasmobranch species, as defined 	SC16.4 (para. 98)	<p>Resolution 10/02 Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC's).</p> <p>The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission amends IOTC Resolution 10/02 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding the following definitions in order to clarify the type of fisheries, area and species covered by Resolution 10/02: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Longline fisheries: Fisheries undertaken by vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels that use longline gear. ○ Surface fisheries: All fisheries undertaken by vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels other than longline fisheries; in particular purse seine, pole-and-line, and gillnet fisheries. ○ Coastal fisheries: Fisheries other than longline or surface, as defined above, also called artisanal fisheries. ○ IOTC Area of Competence: as described in Annex A of the IOTC Agreement. ○ Species: refers to all species under the IOTC mandate as described in Annex B of the IOTC Agreement, and the most commonly caught elasmobranch species, as defined by the Commission in IOTC Resolution 13/03 or any subsequent revisions of this Resolution. ○ Support vessels: Any types of vessels 		<p><i>Update: The Commission postponed consideration of this measure to a future meeting due to the need to harmonize requirements in this resolution with those adopted in the FAD Management Plan Resolution</i></p>



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	<p>by the Commission in IOTC Resolution 13/03 or any subsequent revisions of this Resolution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support vessels: Any types of vessels that operate in support of the fishing activities of purse seine vessels. • Specify the requirements for Nominal Catch data, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Changing the term Nominal by Total; ○ Change the time-period resolution of Total catch data from Year to Quarter, in order to be able to assess the seasonality of fisheries that do not report catch-and-effort data; ○ Request separate reports for retained catches (in live weight) and discards (in live weight or number), as per the above resolution. • Specify the requirements for Catch and effort data, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surface fisheries: Extend the requirements to report catch and effort data by type of fishing mode to other fisheries that use FADs, drifting or anchored; and ensure that the effort units reported are consistent with those requested in Resolution 13/03 or any subsequent revisions to such Resolution; ○ Coastal fisheries: Specify the time-period to be used to report this information, preferably Month. • Specify that Size Frequency data shall 		<p>that operate in support of the fishing activities of purse seine vessels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify the requirements for Nominal Catch data, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Changing the term Nominal by Total; ○ Change the time-period resolution of Total catch data from Year to Quarter, in order to be able to assess the seasonality of fisheries that do not report catch-and-effort data; ○ Request separate reports for retained catches (in live weight) and discards (in live weight or number), as per the above resolution. • Specify the requirements for Catch and effort data, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surface fisheries: Extend the requirements to report catch and effort data by type of fishing mode to other fisheries that use FADs, drifting or anchored; and ensure that the effort units reported are consistent with those requested in Resolution 13/03 or any subsequent revisions to such Resolution; ○ Coastal fisheries: Specify the time-period to be used to report this information, preferably Month. • Specify that Size Frequency data shall be reported according to the procedures described in the IOTC Guidelines for the Reporting of Fisheries Statistics (instead of those set out by the IOTC Scientific Committee). • Specify the requirements for data on supply vessels, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change the term Supply to Support 		



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	<p>be reported according to the procedures described in the IOTC Guidelines for the Reporting of Fisheries Statistics (instead of those set out by the IOTC Scientific Committee).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify the requirements for data on supply vessels, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change the term Supply to Support (Support Vessels); ○ Indicate that data on the activities of support vessels shall be reported by the flag country of the vessels that receive the assistance of the support vessel (and not by the flag country or other parties); ○ Request the name of the purse seiners that receive assistance from each support vessel; • Specify the data requirements for Fish Aggregating Devices, as requested in IOTC Resolution 13/08, which contains provisions calling for IOTC CPCs to collect more detailed information on FADs. 		<p>(Support Vessels);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indicate that data on the activities of support vessels shall be reported by the flag country of the vessels that receive the assistance of the support vessel (and not by the flag country or other parties); ○ Request the name of the purse seiners that receive assistance from each support vessel; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall Resolution 13/08 which contains provisions for CPCs to collect more detailed information on Fish Aggregating Devices 		
<p>WPDCS09.02 (para. 15):</p>	<p>Resolution 11/04 On a regional observer scheme.</p> <p>The WPDCS NOTED that using <i>Number of Trips</i> as unit of effort to measure coverage by observers may not be appropriate, in particular in the case of longline vessels, for which fishing trips can extend for more than one year and are usually not fully covered by scientific observers. For this reason the WPDCS AGREED that the use of alternative units of effort may be appropriate to assess coverage, and RECOMMENDED that the total number of</p>	<p>SC16.45 (para. 99)</p>	<p>Resolution 11/04 On a regional observer scheme</p> <p>The SC NOTED that the number of trips covered by observers over the total number of trips estimated for longliners have been used to estimate levels of coverage on longline fleets, further noting the difficulties that some countries have to use the number of sets/operations covered by observers over the total number of sets/operations by their fleets, as requested by the Commission. Using the number of trips as unit of effort to measure coverage by observers may not be appropriate as longline fishing trips can extend</p>		<p><i>Update: To be discussed at the WPDCS. Japan indicated that using numbers of days-at-sea to measure coverage for its longline fleet is not appropriate noting that effort as numbers of sets/fishing operations should be maintained. Numbers of hooks set and fishing days are the units of effort requested in IOTC Resolution 10/02, for longliners and purse seiners respectively.</i></p>



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	days-at-sea covered by observers <i>versus</i> the total number of days-at-sea for each fleet over a year is used instead of the number of trips.		for more than one year and are usually not fully covered by scientific observers. For this reason, and acknowledging the difficulties that some countries have to estimate the total number of sets/operations for their fleets, the use of alternative units of effort may be appropriate to assess coverage, the SC RECOMMENDED that the total number of days-at-sea covered by observers versus the total number of days-at-sea for each fleet over a year is used instead of the number of sets/operations.		
WPDCS09.03 (para. 23):	Availability of IOTC statistics for 2012 In this regard the WPDCS was informed that some coastal countries in the IOTC region, such as Iran, use the Lunar (Hijri) Calendar instead of the Gregorian Calendar, which poses difficulties to report data before the deadline, as they have four months instead of six to prepare all information, following the end of the Lunar year. The WPDCS NOTED this issue and RECOMMENDED that the countries concerned bring this matter to the attention of the Commission, where required.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WPDCS09.04 (para. 25):	General discussion on data issues The WPDCS NOTED that India had reported very incomplete catches and effort, and no size data, for its commercial longline fleet, in particular for years before 2011, further NOTING that over 60 longliners from India had operated in the Indian Ocean during 2006-07. The WPDCS recalled the recommendation from the WPTT that scientists from Taiwan,China assist India in the estimation of catches of IOTC species and sharks for this fleet, NOTING that the majority of those vessels used the flag of	SC16.46 (para. 101)	General discussion on data issues The SC NOTED that India had reported very incomplete catches and effort, and no size data, for its commercial longline fleet. Over 60 longliners from India had operated in the Indian Ocean during 2006-07. The SC RECALLED the recommendation from the WPTT that scientists from Taiwan,China assist India in the estimation of catches of IOTC species and sharks for this fleet, with the majority of those vessels used the flag of Taiwan,China in the past. The SC thanked the scientists from Taiwan,China for offering		Update: India informed that it did not require external assistance to estimate catches for this component. To date India has not provided the review requested by the IOTC Scientific Committee.



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	Taiwan,China in the past. The WPDCS thanked the scientists from Taiwan,China for offering assistance and RECOMMENDED that India reports a revised time-series of catch and effort for its longline fleet, where required, as soon as the review is finalized.		assistance and RECOMMENDED that India reports a revised time-series of catch and effort for its longline fleet, where required, as soon as the review is finalised.		
WPDCS09.05 (para. 29):	The WPDCS NOTED that, to date, Iran has not reported catch and effort data to the IOTC Secretariat as per the IOTC Requirements; and RECALLED a recommendation from the WPEB that Iran strengthen its monitoring of catches of sharks from both the logbook and observer programmes. The WPDCS NOTED that Iran is setting procedures in its databases that will make it possible to report catch and effort data for its fisheries as per the IOTC standards in the future; The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that Iran finalizes this work and reports the available series of catch and effort data for its fisheries as a matter of priority.	SC16.47 (para. 102)	NOTING that to date, I.R. Iran has not reported catch and effort data to the IOTC Secretariat as per the IOTC Requirements; that the WPEB had previously recommended that I.R. Iran strengthen its monitoring of catches of sharks from both the logbook and observer programmes; and that I.R. Iran is setting procedures in its databases that will make it possible to report catch and effort data for its fisheries as per the IOTC standards in the future; the SC RECOMMENDED that I.R. Iran finalises this work and reports the available series of catch and effort data for its fisheries as a matter of priority.		<i>Update: To date Iran has not reported catch and effort as per the IOTC requirements for its industrial purse seine and gillnet fleets.</i>
WPDCS09.06 (para. 31):	The WPDCS NOTED the difficulties that some countries have to report data to the IOTC as per the required standards, NOTING that this lack of reporting originates in some cases from an insufficient understanding of the IOTC Requirements. In this regard the WPDCS NOTED that the IOTC Secretariat will receive financial support from the EU-funded IOC-SmartFish Project for the organization of a regional Workshop to understand the IOTC Data Requirements and RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat considers funding scientists and statistical officers from non IOC countries to the Workshop, in particular from Iran, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.	N/A	N/A	N/A	<i>Update: In March 2014 the IOTC Secretariat organized a Regional Workshop to Support Compliance with IOTC Requirements for the Collection and Reporting of Fisheries Data to the IOTC; with financial support from the COI-SmartFish Project, the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystems Project and the IOTC. 29 experts from 13 countries participated to the Workshop (refer to IOTC–2014–WPDCS10–07)</i>
WPDCS09.07	Review of length frequency data from longline	N/A	N/A	N/A	<i>Update: Following a letter from the Chair of the IOTC</i>



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(para. 41):	<p><i>fleets and likely impacts on the assessments</i></p> <p>The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that joint work on the documentation of procedures for the collection, processing and reporting of size frequency data continues, based on a template produced by the IOTC Secretariat, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full description of the type of sampling platforms used (e.g. commercial boats, research boats, training boats, etc.), and collecting sources (e.g. fishermen, researchers, scientific observers, etc.) • Full description of the sampling protocols used, on each (e.g. full enumeration of every set, every other set, first 30 fish from each set sampled for size, etc.), by type of sampling platform and collecting source. • Type of measurements collected (e.g. gilled-and-gutted weight, fork length, etc.) and measurement tools used (calliper, measuring board, measuring tape, scale, etc.) by type of sampling platform, collecting source, and species. • Type of time-area stratification used for each species (e.g. quarter and defined area) and procedures used for the estimation of sampled weights in each stratum, including all equations used for the conversion of non-standard measurements into standard measurements, by species (e.g. deterministic conversion using a single length weight equation for all areas and time periods, etc.). • Description of any other procedures which involve the use of length frequency data (e.g. estimation of 				<p><i>WPDCS Japan indicated that they do not plan to present further results on this area. To date, Taiwan, China has not replied to the letter.</i></p>



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	weights from the numbers reported in logbooks and substitution scheme in the case that lengths are not available in areas where there are catches and effort recorded, etc.).				
WPDCS09.08 (para. 54):	<p>Pilot Project</p> <p>The WPDCS THANKED the IOTC Secretariat for this information, and RECOMMENDED that the Commission considers funding of future activities under the Regional Observer Scheme, by allocating specific funds to the implementation of capacity building activities in developing coastal countries of the IOTC Region.</p>	SC16.65 (para. 177)	The SC RECOMMENDED that as a priority, the IOTC Secretariat should immediately commence work with CPCs that are yet to develop and implement a Regional Observer Scheme that would meet the requirements contained in Resolution 11/04, and provide an update at the next session of the WPEB.	N/A	The new Fishery Officer (Science) is spending approximately 50% of her time working on the ROS.
WPDCS09.09 (para. 59):	<p>Recommendations to improve the quality of the statistics at the IOTC</p> <p>The WPDCS RECALLED the recommendation from the IOTC Scientific Committee that the Maldives estimate the quantity of bigeye tuna being caught by its fisheries, in particular those operating around anchored FADs. The WPDCS NOTED that Maldives is working with the IOTC Secretariat in the estimation of ratios of catch yellowfin tuna:bigeye tuna for its fisheries, and RECOMMENDED that Maldives finalizes this work as soon as possible and reports a new series of catch to the IOTC and the results of this analysis to the next Meeting of the WPDCS and WPTT.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WPDCS09.10 (para. 67):	<p>Review of non-standard to standard measurement equations available for IOTC species</p> <p>The WPDCS AGREED on the need to select a set of official equations to be used in the</p>	N/A	The IOTC SC agreed to defer consideration of this matter to the Working Parties dealing with the species concerned.	N/A	<i>Update: The IOTC Secretariat provided the sets of equations that it currently use for the consideration of each IOTC Working Party.</i>



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	<p>preparation of input files for the assessments of stocks of IOTC species and sharks, or other procedures used on those assessments. The WPDCS AGREED that it may be more appropriate that the sets of equations to be used for each stock are selected by the Working Parties responsible for the assessments of those stocks and RECOMMENDED that document IOTC-2013-WPDCS09-13 Rev_1 is forwarded to the Working Parties concerned for further consideration. The WPDCS further REQUESTED the IOTC Secretariat to publish the official set of equations and the basic data used to derive those equations. The WPDCS further RECOMMENDED that, where possible, the Working Parties contemplate the use of keys to convert from non-standard measurements to standard measurements over deterministic methods.</p>				
<p>WPDCS09.11 (para. 68):</p>	<p>Status and use of the data reported in Observer Trip Reports</p> <p>The WPDCS RECALLED the recommendation from the IOTC Scientific Committee that the observer trip report is submitted in an electronic format and RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat creates a template, preferably using MS Excel, to facilitate reporting of this information, and makes it available through the IOTC Web Page.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><i>Update: Presented to the WPEB10 and will also be presented to the WPDCS10</i></p>
<p>WPDCS09.12 (para. 69):</p>	<p>IOTC Data Summary</p> <p>The WPDCS NOTED the plans from the IOTC Secretariat to resume publication of the IOTC Data Summary in electronic form, including work on the set-up of online querying facilities in the IOTC Web Site, which will allow Web</p>	<p>SC16.48 (para. 110)</p>	<p>IOTC Data Summary</p> <p>The SC NOTED the plans from the IOTC Secretariat to resume publication of the IOTC Data Summary in electronic form, including work on the set-up of an online querying facility in the IOTC Web Site, which will allow site users to</p>	<p>N/A/</p>	<p><i>Update: In 2014 the IOTC Secretariat hired the services of an IT Consultant to design online querying tools in the IOTC Web Page. Procedures for querying of Nominal Catch and Fishing Craft Statistics will be available by the end of 2014-early 2015 and procedures for catch-and-effort data in 2015.</i></p>



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	Site users to filter nominal catch and catch-and-effort data using a range of criteria and visualize the output in table or graphic format, including different types of charts, figures, and maps. The WPDCS AGREED that this work will facilitate the use of information in the IOTC Databases by the general public, and RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat carries out this work during 2014 and presents the new system to the next meeting of the WPDCS.		filter nominal catch and catch-and-effort data using a range of criteria and visualise the output in table or graphic format, including different types of charts, figures and maps. The work will facilitate the use of information in the IOTC Databases by the general public. The SC RECOMMENDED that the IOTC Secretariat carries out this work during 2014 and presents the new system to the next meeting of the WPDCS for suggested improvements.		
WPDCS09.13 (para. 72):	<i>Election of a Chairperson of the WPDCS for the next biennium</i> The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee note the new Chairperson, Dr Emmanuel Chassot (EU-France), of the WPDCS for the next <i>biennium</i> .	SC16.63 (para. 149)	Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Working Parties The SC RECOMMENDED that the Commission note and endorse the Chairs and Vice-Chairs for each of the IOTC Working Parties, as provided in Appendix VII .	Yes	ENDORSED
WPDCS09.14 (para. 73):	<i>Review of the draft, and adoption of the report of the Ninth session of the WPDCS</i> The WPDCS RECOMMENDED that the Scientific Committee consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from WPDCS09, provided at Appendix VI.	-	Considered as shown above.	-	-