



PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF IOTC WORKING PARTY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2015 AND 2016

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 23 NOVEMBER & 7 DECEMBER 2014

PURPOSE

To provide the Scientific Committee (SC) with the proposed list of dates and locations for each Working Party and Scientific Committee meeting to be held in 2014 and 2015, for its consideration.

BACKGROUND

The number of IOTC working party meetings has increased in recent years and the current length and timing of these meetings continues to stretch the limited resources of the IOTC Secretariat and CPCs alike. As such, there is a clear need to increase the level of efficiency (e.g. monetary and time) of the IOTC scientific process. In addition, it has become necessary to plan two years in advance so as to give potential hosts enough time to incorporate meeting costs into their budgets.

DISCUSSION

In recent years, there has been substantial discussion among participating IOTC scientists aimed at encouraging, wherever it is logical/feasible, the consolidation of IOTC meetings thereby reducing the financial and logistical burden upon the IOTC. Discussion has revolved around what would be the most sensible combination of working party meetings and the timing of those meetings, taking into account data reporting deadlines and other timing demands. It has been suggested that where feasible meetings should be held in localities most relevant to the participating CPCs. This would help increase the profile of the work that the IOTC is undertaking by exposing scientists from the region to fisheries matters most relevant to their own fleets.

The need for forward planning is highlighted by the fact that many of those invited to attend IOTC meetings as Invited Experts have indicated that their schedules are often planned more than 12 months in advance. As such, there is a clear need to secure meeting dates and locations well in advance.

In identifying potential venues and dates for IOTC meetings, other key international meetings in 2015 need to be considered:

IOTC Meetings:

- 3rd Technical Committee Meeting on Allocation Criteria: in **Month TBA** 2014, location **TBA**
- 2nd Performance Review of the IOTC: 2–6 February 2015 (Seychelles)
- 3rd Workshop on connecting the IOTC Science and Management processes: 18–20 February 2015 (Thailand)
- 12th Session of the Compliance Committee: Third week in April 2015 (Rep. of Korea)
- 12th Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance: Third/Fourth week in April 2015 (Rep. of Korea)
- 19th Session of the Commission: last week in April 2015 (Rep. of Korea)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Scientific Committee:

- 1) **FINALISE** the draft schedule of IOTC Working Party meetings and the Scientific Committee meeting for 2015 and 2015 ([Appendix I](#)).
- 2) **RECOMMEND** that the Commission endorse the schedule of IOTC Working Party meetings and the Scientific Committee meeting to be held in 2015 and 2016.

APPENDIX

[Appendix I](#): DRAFT: Schedule of IOTC Working Party and Scientific Committee meetings for 2015 and 2016.

Table 2: Dates and locations

Meeting	2015		2016	
	Date	Location	Date	Location
Working Party on Neritic Tunas	3–6 March (4d)	Kenya or Tanzania	1–4 March July (4d)	TBD
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch	21–25 May (5d)	Algarve, EU,Portugal	30 May–3 June (5d)	TBD
Working Party on Billfish	27–31 May (5d)	Algarve, EU,Portugal	24–28 May (5d)	TBD
Working Party on Temperate Tunas	Nil	Nil	7–10 September (4d)	TBD
Working Party on Methods	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Working Party on Tropical Tunas	21–26 October (6d)	EU,France	19–24 October (6d)	Victoria, Seychelles
Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Scientific Committee	24–28 November (5d)	Victoria, Seychelles	29 November–2 December (5d)	Victoria, Seychelles