
OUTCOMES OF THE 20th SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 15 MAY 2018

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 2nd Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP02) of the recommendations arising from the 20th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC20) held in 30 November – 4 December 2017, specifically relating to the work of the TCMP.

BACKGROUND

At the 20th Session of the SC, the SC noted and considered the recommendations made by the TCMP01 and WPM08 in 2017 that included updates on the MSE process for various IOTC species. Based on these recommendations, the SC20 made a set of requests (see extracts from the SC20 Report below). In addition, the SC20 reviewed and endorsed a Program of Work for the WPM, as detailed in [Appendix A](#).

DISCUSSION

The following extracts from the SC20 Report (IOTC–2017–SC20–R) are provided here for the consideration and action of the TCMP02:

Outcomes of the 1st Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP01)

Para 142. The SC noted the presentation of the Report of the First Technical Committee on Management Procedures (IOTC-2017-TCMP01-R). The SC **NOTED** the report of the 7th Session of the Working Party on Methods (IOTC–2016–WPM07–R), including the consolidated list of recommendations provided as an appendix to the report. The meeting was attended by 34 participants (26 in 2015), including 9 recipients of the MPF (6 in 2016).

Para 143. The SC noted the suggestion that the presentations of MSE to the Commission should include caveats related to the MSE procedures in terms of the possible violation of model assumptions which may have an impact on management advice.

Para 144. The SC **REQUESTED** the SC Chairperson, the WPM Chair and Vice-Chairpersons work with the IOTC Secretariat to develop a budget to accompany the workplan agreed by the Commission in S21 (IOTC-2017-S21-14).

Para 145. The SC noted that the Commission (SC21) meeting agreed to extend the duration of the TCMP to 2 days and, therefore the SC **REQUESTED** that IOTC Secretariat liaise with Commission chair to ensure that TCMP meeting lasts for 2 days.

Report of the 8th Session of the Working Party on Methods (WPM08)

Para 94. The SC noted that the various MSE exercises for different IOTC species are constructing OMs with a focus on structural uncertainty, evaluated through a grid of model runs with alternative assumptions.

Para 95. The SC noted the high number of performance indicators agreed by the TCMP (16) and the issues with the correlation between these, due to the tradeoff amongst management objectives. Therefore the SC acknowledged the difficulty of developing a structured approach to integrating the performance indicators for evaluating the MPs. The SC further noted that an objective function to evaluate MP performance based on the weighting of different performance indicators is not currently used in IOTC since this would need an agreement on the weighting criteria by Managers. The SC noted that the tuning criteria for the main objectives is used to fine tune the selection of MPs and then SC agreed figures to present the tradeoff between different objectives (eg sustainability vs. yield) and performance statistics are shown so as the manager can select the preferred MP.

7.6.1 Presentation and evaluation of MSE results

Para 97. The SC **ENDORSED** the proposed revisions to the standardised protocol for the presentation of MSE results ([Appendix VIb](#)). This should still be considered a living document that will benefit from revision based upon feedback received from the TCMP.

7.6.2 *Bigeye and yellowfin tuna MSE*

Para 98. *Due to the project funding delays, the SC noted that there was no opportunity for scientific review of the Bigeye MSE work before the SC20 meeting in November 2017 so the informal technical MSE workshop represents the only review opportunity before the TCMP02 in 2018. Therefore, the SC **AGREED** the next informal technical MSE workshop takes place between March-April 2018 to facilitate review ahead of the TCMP02.*

7.6.3 *Revision Swordfish MSE: update*

Para 99. *The SC noted a number of independent CPUE indices are available for this stock, and **AGREED** that it would be useful to undertake a joint analysis to develop a joint CPUE series based on operational data. This should increase spatio-temporal coverage, as well as better handle changes in targeting. The SC therefore **AGREED** that future stock assessments of swordfish are based on a joint standardised CPUE series*

RECOMMENDATION

That the TCMP:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2018–TCMP02–06 which outlined the main outcomes of the 20th Session of the Scientific Committee, specifically related to the work of the TCMP.
- 2) **CONSIDER** how best to progress these issues at the present meeting.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Program of Work (2018–2022) for the IOTC Working Party on Methods (WPM).

APPENDIX A
WORKING PARTY ON METHODS PROGRAM OF WORK (2018-2022)

Table 1. Priority topics for obtaining the information necessary to deliver the necessary advice to the Commission. Resolution 15/10 elements have been incorporated as required by the Commission.

Topic	Sub-topic and project	Research Priority	Funding Priority	Lead	Est. budget (potential source)	Timing				
						2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1. Management Strategy Evaluation	1.1 Albacore	High	5	EU (JRC)	Funded (EC JRC)					
	1.1.1 Revision of Operating Models based on WPM and SC feedback, including possible robustness tests									
	1.1.2 Implementation of initial set of simulation runs and results									
	1.1.3 Revision of Management Procedures and Indicators after presentation of initial set to TCMP and Commission									
	1.1.4 External peer review (2018 or date TBD)				US\$15,000					
	1.1.5 Evaluation of new set of Management Procedures (if required)									
	1.2 Skipjack tuna	High	2	Maldives						
	1.2.1 Review of model implementation and participation in MSE process					\$?? (TBD)				
	1.3 Bigeye tuna	High	4							
	1.3.1 Update OM & present preliminary MP results to TCMP, WPTT/WPM review of new OM				Australia (CSIRO)	\$75,000 (ABNJ/CSIRO)				
1.3.2 External peer review (2018 or date TBC)					US\$15,000					
1.3.3 Present revised MP results to TCMP with target adoption date of 2019					\$30,000 (Jan - Jun 2018)					

1.3.4 Additional iterations if required					(TBD)				
1.4 Yellowfin tuna		High	3						
1.4.1 Update OM & present preliminary MP results to TCMP, WPTT/WPM review of new OM				Australia (CSIRO)	Funded to Dec 2018 (ABNJ/CSIRO)				
1.4.2 External peer review (2018 or date TBD)					US\$15,000				
1.4.3 Present revised MP results to TCMP with target adoption date of 2018; iteratively update development if required)					US\$30,000 (Jan-Jun 2018)				
1.4.4 additional iterations if required					(TBD)				
1.5 Swordfish		High	1	TBD	?? (TBD)				
1.5.1 Initial OM									
1.5.2 Conditioning and OM set up									
1.5.3 Generic MP tests									
1.5.4 Final Model with MPs									
1.5.5 External peer review					US\$15,000				
2. Presentation of stock status advice for data limited stocks	2.1 Explore potential methods of presenting stock status advice to managers from a range of data limited scenarios, e.g. through the development of a 'Tier' approach for providing stock status advice, based on the type of indicators used to determine stock status (e.g. CPUE series, stock assessment model)	Medium	7	Consult.					
					US\$10,000 (TBD)				
3. Multiple stock status derived from different model structures	3.1 Develop specific guidance for the most appropriate models to be used or how to synthesize the results when multiple stock assessment models are presented. (<i>see IOTC-2016-WPTT18-R, para.91</i>)	Medium	6		?? (TBD)				

