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**DRAFT: AGENDA FOR THE 16<sup>TH</sup> WORKING PARTY ON BILLFISH**

**Updated: 18 June 2018**

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**Date:** 4–8 September 2018

**Location:** Cape Town, South Africa

**Venue:** TBD

**Time:** 09:00 – 17:00 daily

**Chair:** Dr Rui Coelho (EU,Portugal); **Vice-Chair:** Dr Evgeny Romanov (EU,France)

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 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.2. Outcomes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.3. Review of Conservation and Management Measures relevant to billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 3.4. Progress on the recommendations of WPB15 (IOTC Secretariat)
4. **NEW INFORMATION ON FISHERIES AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FOR BILLFISH**
  - 4.1. Review of the statistical data available for billfish (IOTC Secretariat)
  - 4.2. Review new information on fisheries and associated environmental data (general CPC papers)
  - 4.3. New information on sport fisheries (all)
5. **MARLINS (Priority species for 2018: Black marlin and Striped marlin)**
  - 5.1. Review new information on marlin biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
  - 5.2. Review of any biological data in support of retention and transshipment bans for specimen below a minimum size, as per recent IOTC Resolutions (all)
  - 5.3. Review of new information on the status of marlins (all)
    - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
    - Stock assessments
    - Selection of Stock Status indicators for marlins
  - 5.4. Development of management advice for marlins and update of marlin species Executive Summaries for the consideration of the Scientific Committee, including discussion on current catch limits as per standing IOTC Resolutions (all)
6. **OTHER BILLFISHES (new information for informing future assessments)**
  - 6.1. Review of new information on other billfishes (swordfish, other marlins, I.P. sailfish) biology, stock structure, fisheries and associated environmental data (all)
  - 6.2. Review of any biological data in support of retention and transshipment bans for specimen below a minimum size, as per recent IOTC Resolutions (all)
  - 6.3. Review of new information on the status of other billfishes (swordfish, other marlins, IP sailfish) (all)
    - Nominal and standardised CPUE indices
    - Other indicators

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**7. DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES (INCLUDING CLOSURES) FOR BILLFISH IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE**

**8. WPB PROGRAM OF WORK**

- 8.1. Revision of the WPB Program of Work (2019–2023) (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 8.2. Development of priorities for an Invited Expert at the next WPB meeting (Chairperson)

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

- 9.1. Date and place of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson and IOTC Secretariat)
- 9.2. Review of the draft, and adoption of the Report of the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Party on Billfish (Chairperson)