

BILLFISH IDENTIFICATION CARDS

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 30 AUGUST 2013

Dr. David Wilson

PURPOSE

To update participants at the Working Party on Billfish (WPB11) on the development and production of identification cards for billfish.

BACKGROUND

Following recommendations from the Working Party on Billfish in previous years, the Scientific Committee made the following recommendation at its 15th Session in 2012 on the finalisation of identification cards for billfish:

Billfish identification cards

SC15.41 (para.179) **NOTING** that the IOTC Secretariat has developed identification cards for billfish species at the request of the WPB and SC, but no funds have yet been allocated to print the cards, the SC **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission allocate funds in the 2013 budget to print sets of identification cards for the billfish species, noting that the total estimated printing costs for the first 1000 sets of the identification cards is around a maximum of US\$6,700 (Table 7). The IOTC Secretariat shall seek funds from potential donors to print additional sets of the identification cards at US\$5,500 per 1000 sets of cards.

TABLE 7. Estimated production and printing costs for 1000 sets of billfish species identification cards

| Description | Unit price | Units required | Total |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Printing plates / plate | US\$100 | 12 | 1,200 |
| Printing /1000 sets | US\$5500 | 1 | 5,500 |
| Total estimate (US\$) | | | 6,700 |

These sets of identification cards are intended to be used primarily by the scientific observer under the framework of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme, however they could also be distributed and used by fishers in order to record and report catches of billfish species.

DISCUSSION

The billfish ID cards have now been completed and printed. Samples will be available at the WPB11 meeting. CPCs should be encouraged to translate, print and disseminate the identifications cards as a priority to their observers accredited for the Regional Observer Scheme and field samplers (Resolution 11/04) and to a larger extent to their fishing fleets targeting billfish species.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPB **NOTE** paper IOTC–2013–WPB11–08 which outlines the progress made by the IOTC Secretariat in finalising the identifications cards for billfish in English and French.

That the WPB **RECOMMEND** that IOTC CPCs translate, print and disseminate the identifications cards as a priority to their observers accredited for the Regional Observer Scheme and field samplers (Resolution 11/04), and to a larger extent to their fishing fleets targeting billfish species. This would allow accurate observer, sampling and logbook data on billfish to be recorded and reported as per IOTC requirements.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Billfish identification in Indian Ocean Fisheries

Appendix B: Identification des Poissons Porte-épées dans les Pecheries Pélagiques de l'Océan Indien