

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL STOCK ASSESSMENT REVIEW WORKSHOP, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, MONDAY 2 TO FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 2024

Over Monday 2 to Friday 6 December, the customary annual International Stock Assessment Workshop will be taking place at UCT (Mathematics Building, Room M212).

Three international scientists have confirmed acceptance to attend as members of the Review Panel: Andre Punt (University of Washington, USA), Ralph Tiedemann (University of Potsdam, Germany) and Mike Wilberg (University of Maryland, USA).

TOPICS

The primary topics to be covered for various South African marine resources are as follows:

- 1) Sardine – Review of progress on the new sardine assessment model, which rests on a changed stock structure hypothesis informed by (among other data) genomic and transcriptomic research results, and discussions on how to take this forward in developing a new OMP for sardine.
- 2) Squid – Review of progress on the development of a revised population model to assess this resource, based in particular, on the information provided by monthly commercial catch size structure data.
- 3) Horse-mackerel – Discussion of explanations for and the implications of the especially low midwater trawl CPUEs experienced over the last two years (a phenomenon that also occurred for a few years some ten years previously).

SCHEDULE

Discussion will commence at 10-30 am on Monday 2 December, and thereafter take place from 9 am to 5-30 pm each day, with two 30-minute breaks for tea at 10-30 am and at 3-30 pm, and a 90-minute lunch break at 12-30 pm – this is except for minor changes for the Monday, while the Thursday afternoon will be reserved for the Panel to prepare their report. A detailed schedule indicating which topics will be discussed at what times will be circulated in due course.

For the most part, discussions will be at a fairly technical level, however on the final day (Friday 6th at **2-00 pm** in room M304 of the UCT Mathematics Building, the **International Review Panel will provide a summary of their recommendations at a level appropriate for a lay audience, and will be available to respond to questions** from the attending audience.

DOCUMENTATION AND ATTENDANCE

Likely commencing Thursday 21 November (possibly before), documents for background and for discussion at the workshop will be posted on the following website for prior download, as they become available: <https://science.uct.ac.za/maram/2024-workshop>.

Attendees are asked to bring their own copies of documents (as found on the website above) to the meeting as they will not be made available in other forms. However, for technical reasons, there may be some documents which cannot be made available in this way; if so, these will be emailed to those who advise attendance as requested below.

Because of the need to maintain a workshop type interaction, Chairs will limit discussion during each session primarily to panel members and selected key contributors who will sit at a central table. However, others are welcome to attend, with members of relevant DFFE scientific working groups especially encouraged to do so. Their interventions will be entertained in the discussions to the extent that time permits.

Inter alia for catering purposes, we need to assess/document likely attendance. **Could those wishing to attend part or all of the event please send an email to Di Loureiro di.lapidoloureiro@uct.ac.za**, indicating the topics for which you wish to attend (this is **not** necessary for those who wish to attend the final Friday lay summary session only).