

**Report of the Statistics Working Group of the 5th Interim
Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species in the
North Pacific Ocean (ISC)¹**

MARCH 2005

¹ A working document submitted to the fifth Meeting of the Interim Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), 28 - 30 March 2005, Tokyo, JAPAN. Document not to be cited without author's permission.

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March 28, 2005

Tokyo, Japan

1. OPENING BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEMS 1-4)

Mr. Norihisa Baba, substituting for Dr. Yuji Uozumi who was chairperson of the 3rd meeting of the ISC Statistics Working Group (STATWG), opened the 4th STATWG meeting and welcomed participants from Canada, Chinese-Taipei, Japan, Korea, Mexico, USA, IATTC and SPC (Attachment 1). The meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Japan Post Building, Tokyo, Japan. Mr. Baba noted that a provisional agenda had been circulated ahead of the meeting and that three papers had been tabled (Attachment 2). The first item of business was the election of a chairperson to convene the current meeting. Dr. Gary Sakagawa (USA) was nominated by Mr. Baba and confirmed by the participants. Dr. Roger Hewitt (USA) and Mr. Harumi Yamada (Japan) were appointed rapporteurs.

Election of a chairperson for a three-year term was deferred to the next meeting.

Dr. Sakagawa reminded the group that only 2-1/2 hours were scheduled for the current meeting and that it needed to move through its agenda as rapidly as possible. Dr. Sam Pooley (USA) requested the addition of an agenda item to discuss the suggestion by SWOWG for a joint intersessional meeting of STATWG, SWOWG and MLNWG. With this addition the agenda was adopted (Attachment 3).

2. STATUS OF ISC DATABASE (AGENDA ITEM 5)

The Working Group reviewed ISC/05/STATWG/01 and agreed that the tables and figures summarizing Category I data should be updated to reflect current catches and posted on the ISC Web Site.

Dr. Robin Allen (IATTC) called the attention of participants to ISC/05/STATWG/3, which highlighted recent changes in fisheries statistics maintained by the IATTC. Dr. Allen noted that IATTC will provide revised data to the ISC in May 2005.

Dr. Sakagawa noted that Mr. Yamada is the administrator for the ISC Database and Web Site and that data correspondents should confirm catches for their respective countries and provide him with corrections and updates.

3. NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE WORKSHOP DATABASE AND WEB SITE (AGENDA ITEM 6 - 7)

The Working Group reviewed ISC/05/STATWG/02, which described the North Pacific Albacore Database, and discussed how it may be used as a model for databases maintained by the ISC. The database, which was compiled in support of stock assessment workshops, is available on a password-protected FTP site. It consists of flat tables of Category I, II and III data for albacore and Category II data for several other species.

The Working Group agreed that:

- i) National data correspondents and chairpersons of species working groups should be reminded of their responsibilities with respect to providing fisheries data.
- ii) National data correspondents should contribute Category I data directly to the ISC Database Administrator.
- iii) Species working groups should develop databases for Category II and III data in support of their work, in cooperation with national data correspondents, and forward summarized forms of these databases to the ISC Database Administrator.
- iv) Chairpersons of each of the species working groups should attend the meetings of the STATWG.

The Working Group also reviewed a static web site compiled from the proceedings of the 19th North Pacific Albacore Workshop and discussed how it may be used as a model for the ISC web site. The site contained links to a summary status of the stock, the database FTP site, recent workshop reports, workshop papers, and graphic displays of Category I, II and III data.

The Working Group agreed that:

- i) A central ISC Web Site should display data contributed by national data correspondents and species working groups.
- ii) Metadata (information describing how the data were collected and pooled) should be included on the ISC Web Site.
- iii) Links to all reports and working papers for the ISC and its working groups should be maintained on the ISC Web Site.

4. INVENTORY OF ISC DATA (AGENDA ITEM 8)

The Working Group agreed that a review of data held by the ISC should be deferred until the next meeting. In the meantime, it is expected that the albacore database will be incorporated and national data correspondents will update their contributions. Mr. Yamada and the chairperson of STATWG will coordinate this effort.

5. REVIEW OF ISC WEB SITE (AGENDA ITEM 9)

The Working Group reviewed the report of its last meeting and reaffirmed that the ISC Web Site will be developed by Japan and will contain area-aggregated Category I data (including summary figures similar to those presented in ISC/05/STATWG/01), reports of ISC plenary and working groups, and papers tabled at the plenary and working groups. Furthermore, it was agreed that the ISC Web Site would display Category II and III data as summarized in the reports of species working groups.

The Working Group agreed that this will require active involvement of the ISC Database and Web Site Administrator and the chairperson of the STATWG.

6. FUTURE WORK (AGENDA ITEM 10)

The Working Group reviewed future work outlined in the report of its last meeting and agreed that:

- i) Work remained with respect to establishing a central database for ISC fishery statistics.
- ii) Procedures and format for submission of data had been developed and distributed to national data correspondents (ISC/05/STATWG/Inf-01).
- iii) Historical data still needs to be submitted. Primary responsibility for this remains with the national data correspondents with coordination by the chairpersons of the species working groups.
- iv) National data correspondents should provide 2003 and/or 2004 data no later than 1 July 2005.
- v) Chairpersons of species working groups should provide guidance on sub-area definitions, standard measurements for Category III data, and conversion factors no later than 1 July. It was acknowledged that some sub-area definitions and conversion factors must await further studies.
- vi) Data summaries received by the ISC Database and Web Site Administrator will be incorporated into the ISC Web Site and reviewed at the next meeting of STATWG scheduled for late January in Shimizu, Japan (see item 9).

7. NATIONAL DATA CORRESPONDENTS (AGENDA ITEM 11)

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Data Correspondent</u>
Canada	Max Stocker
Chinese-Taipei	Shui-Kai Chang
Japan	Harumi Yamada
Korea	Dae-Yeon Moon
Mexico	Michael Dreyfus
Peoples Republic of China	(to be designated)

USA	Robert Skillman
IATTC	Michael Hinton
SPC	Timothy Lawson

8. JOINT INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF STATWG, SWOWG, AND MLNWG (AGENDA ITEM 12)

The chairperson of the SWOWG noted that users of various databases may not be cognizant of the caveats associated with fisheries data compilation. The SWOWG suggested a joint intersessional meeting of STATWG, SWOWG and MLNWG to discuss how fisheries statistics were being collected, various deficiencies (particularly with Category III data), and appropriate stock assessment models, given the limitations of the data. It was also suggested that the North Pacific Albacore (NPALB) Database be considered as a model and that it would be helpful for Al Coan, as the manager of that database, to attend the meeting. It was further suggested that someone be designated as database manager for each of the species working groups.

The Working Group agreed that it would be appropriate for the chairperson of STATWG and the ISC Database Administrator to attend the joint intersessional meeting. Chinese Taipei and Japan were discussed as possible locations for the meeting. The timing of the meeting is tentatively set for 5-days in September 2005.

9. NEXT MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 13)

Dr. Sakagawa noted that he expected the Northern Committee of the WCPFC to begin to organize its activities between September and December 2005. The ISC, as provider of scientific advice to the Northern Committee, should therefore organize its administrative procedures as a matter of priority and the STATWG, as one of the most important subsidiary bodies of the ISC, should consider a 3-4 day meeting during the September to October 2005 period or early in 2006.

After some discussion it was agreed to hold the next meeting of STATWG in late January 2006 at the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF) in Shimizu, Japan. Specific dates for this meeting will be determined through correspondence between personnel from the NRIFSF and the chairperson of STATWG.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 14)

Dr. Sakagawa thanked all of the participants and rapporteurs for their contributions to a successful meeting and closed the 4th meeting of the STATWG at 12:30 on 28 March 2005. The report was adopted on 29 March 2005 and forwarded to the plenary.

Attachment 1: List of Participants

Max Stocker	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Nanaimo, Canada
Shui-Kai Chang	Fisheries Agency, Taipei, Chinese Taipei
Ding-Rong Lin	Fisheries Agency, Taipei, Chinese Taipei
Chien –Chung Hsu	National Taiwan University, Taipei, Chinese Taipei
Ziro Suzuki	National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF), Shimizu, Japan
Yuji Uozumi	NRIFSF, Shimizu, Japan
Norihisa Baba	NRIFSF, Shimizu, Japan
Naozumi Miyabe	NRIFSF, Shimizu, Japan
Miki Ogura	NRIFSF, Shimizu, Japan
Harumi Yamada	NRIFSF, Shimizu, Japan
Kotaro Yokawa	NRIFSF, Shimizu, Japan
Makoto P. Miyake	Japan Tuna, Tokyo, Japan
Takaaki Suzuki	Fisheries Agency, Tokyo, Japan
Jeong-Rock Koh	National Fisheries and Research Development Institute (NFRDI), Busan, Korea
Kwang-Ho Choi	NFRDI, Busan, Korea
Michel Dreyfus	Instituto Nacional de la Pesca (INP), Ensenada, Mexico
Raymond P. Clarke	Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIFSC), Honolulu, USA
Samuel Pooley	PIFSC, NMFS, Honolulu, USA
Bob Humpherys	PIFSC, NMFS, Honolulu, USA
Robert A. Skillman	PIFSC, NMFS, Honolulu, USA
Russel Ito	PIFSC, NMFS, Honolulu, USA
William Fox	Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC), NMFS, La Jolla, USA
Rodney McInnis	SWFSC, NMFS, La Jolla, USA
Gary Sakagawa	SWFSC, NMFS, La Jolla, USA
Roger Hewitt	SWFSC, NMFS, La Jolla, USA
Ray Conser	SWFSC, NMFS, La Jolla, USA
John Sibert	JIMAR, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, USA
Shelley Clarke	JIMAR, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, USA
Holly Koehler	US Dept. of State, Office of marine Conservation, Washington DC, USA
Keiko Kandachi	US Embassy, Tokyo, Japan
Robin Allen	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, La Jolla, USA
Adam Langley	SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia

Attachment 2: List of Documents

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| ISC/05/STATWG/01 | Up date inventory of the Category I data, collected from the National Reports submitted to the past ISC meetings. (Clearing House Staffs) |
| ISC/05/STATWG/02 | North Pacific Albacore Workshop Data Base Catalog. (Atilio L. Coan Jr.) |
| ISC/05/STATWG/03 | Report to the Statistics working group (IATTC) |
| ISC/05/STATWG/Inf-01 | Report of Statistics Working Group of the 4th Interim Scientific Committee for tuna and tuna-like species in the North Pacific Ocean. |

Attachment 3. Agenda

Fifth Meeting of the Interim Scientific Committee
for Tuna and Tuna-like Species
in the North Pacific Ocean

Statistics Working Group

March 28, 2005
Japan Post, Tokyo,

1. Opening of STATWG meeting
2. Appointment of chair and rapporteurs
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Tabling of Documents
5. Review of the agreements at the previous STATWG meeting
6. Discussion on transferring the NPALB database to ISC meeting
7. Review of the North Pacific Albacore Workshop prototype web site
8. Up date inventory of the available data
9. Review of the draft ISC internet website
10. Recommendations and future plan
11. Up date of the Data Correspondent Group
12. Joint Intersessional Meeting of STATWG, SWOWG and MLNWG
13. Time and place of next STATWG meeting
14. Close of STATWG meeting