



*10th Meeting of the
International Scientific Committee
for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
Victoria, BC Canada
21-26 July, 2010*

ISC Action Plan¹

(2009-2010)

ISC

July 2010

¹Prepared for the Tenth Meeting of the International Scientific committee on Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), 21-26 July, 2010, Victoria, B.C., Canada. Document should not be cited without permission of the authors.

2009-2010 ISC ACTION PLAN

I. ISC CHAIRMAN

1. Incorporate agreed-upon changes to the ISC-IATTC MOU and sign MOU. (5.1)
2. G. DiNardo agreed to represent ISC at the October 2009 PICES meeting, identify which current PICES activities might hold benefit for ISC work, and report back on these issues at ISC10; (5.3, 7.7).
3. Convene a BCWG to elect a new Chairman and discuss shark and bycatch data issues among others. (6.4, 7.6)
4. Organize ISC10 seminar in consultation with local organizers. (7.7)
5. Finalize response to MRAG report for ISC membership review and submission to WCPFC5. (11.5)
6. Provide formal comments on the proposal to revise the WCPFC-ISC MOU after NC5 discussion on same. (11.5)
7. Submit four funding proposals to WCPFC NC5 in September 2009: (1) biological research proposal, (2) North Pacific albacore sampling proposal, (3) database administrator, and (4) website redesign. (11.7)

II. ISC MEMBERS

1. Report on all fleets which catch tuna and tuna-like fishes in the North Pacific Ocean and consider expanding the coverage of annual reports in future submissions. (3.2)
2. Korea needs to investigate and take action on: (1) potential species mis-identification, (2) reason for apparent sharp decline in catches since 2006, (3) missing catches for gear types other than longline and purse seine, (4) availability of distribution information for the distant-water fisheries, (5) availability of billfish data by species, and (6) raising logbook data to estimated full coverage (3.4).
3. Identify appropriate conversion factors and convert catch data to weight (Mexico) (3.5).
4. Provide information on fishing grounds, size composition and seasonality of catches of Pacific bluefin tuna to the PBFWG. (US) (3.6)
5. Work with STATWG to update inventory of data. (9.1)

6. Notify the Database Administrator (DA) via email when they submit Category II and III data to WG Data Managers. (9.1)
7. Compile catch data metadata prior to STATWG 2010. (9.1)
8. Provide total catches for all stocks fished by 27 November 2009 to STATWG Chairman for inclusion in a total catch table. (9.1)
9. Make best effort to undertake assessment of the priority stocks regularly and without undue delay. (10.2)
10. Japan agreed to contract a professional website designer and produce a prototype of a fully re-designed ISC website for review by 1 September 2009 and proceed with development in a step-wise manner to ensure ISC membership satisfaction. (11.3)
11. Review and comment on re-designed ISC website and consider progress at ISC10. (11.3)
12. Japan agreed to propose website maintenance protocols and provide to ISC members for comment. (11.3)
13. Japan agreed to appoint a professional Database Administrator (DA) and support staff to handle mounting database-associated matters. (11.4)
14. Review DA performance at ISC10; if unsatisfactory, consider transferring responsibility to another ISC member or whether outside funding should be pursued. (11.4)
15. Review ISC response to MRAG Report by 18 September 2009. (11.5)
16. Consider appropriate candidates to nominate as ISC Chair. (13)

III. ALL ISC WORKING GROUPS

1. Complete all workshop reports by due dates (within one month of workshop) and according to standards.
2. Continue efforts to secure data from non-ISC members and other Pacific RFMOs. (9.1)
3. Coordinate among all ISC working groups to ensure the best staff participation in appropriate stock assessments. (10.2)
4. Circulate 2009-2012 schedule of ISC workshops to absent members and non-members likely to participate in WG intercessional meetings and determine conflicts. (10.2)
5. Implement new revised policy on availability of working paper policy. (11.8)

IV. ALBWG

1. Meeting scheduled for 16-23 March 2010 in Shimizu, Japan; a review meeting for 12-13 July 2009 in Canada (ISC10), and regular meeting 19-26 October 2010 in La Jolla, CA. Next stock assessment completed by March 2011. (6.1)
2. Conduct full stock assessment of North Pacific albacore tuna in 2011. (7.1)
3. Seek clarification from the Northern Committee regarding whether its interim management objective is a target or limit reference point. (7.1)

V. PBFWG

1. Meeting scheduled for November 2009 in La Jolla, USA to conduct full sensitivity analyses using new M schedule and SS3; Undertake next full stock assessment in 2012; intercessional workshop in December 2010 location TBD (data preparation); intercessional workshop in May 2012, location TBD (stock assessment). (6.2)
2. Conduct full range of sensitivity analyses using the new M schedule and the Stock Synthesis 3 model. (6.2)

VI. BILLWG

1. Meetings scheduled for 2-9 December 2009 in Honolulu, Hawaii and 21-28 April 2010, location TBD. (6.3)
2. North Pacific striped marlin stock assessment in July 2011; Pacific-wide blue marlin stock assessment in July 2012. (6.3)
3. Coordinate with IATTC on striped marlin stock assessment. (7.3)
4. Continue efforts to improve estimates of biological parameters of striped marlin. (7.3)
5. Continue efforts to acquire swordfish data from Spain and include in the upcoming assessment. (7.4)
6. Review the southern boundary of swordfish in the EPO and report progress at ISC10. (7.4)
7. Proceed with planning a World Blue Marlin Symposium in March 2011 and report on progress at ISC10. (7.5)

VII. STATWG

1. Update inventory of data (including metadata) and data submission report card after members submit their respective data by 27 November 2009 and report on progress at ISC10. (9.1, 9.2, 9.5)

2. Work with acting DA to track members' performance on data submission (9.1)
3. Request catalog of WCPFC data holdings and share catalog of data held by ISC with WCPFC. (9.1, 11.6)
4. Work with acting DA to expand ISC database to include aggregate catch data, encounter (bycatch) data, historical data rescue and metadata. (9.1, 9.3)
5. Conduct a one-day session at STATWG 2010 to collect metadata. (9.1)
6. Collect total catches of all stocks from each member (due 27 Nov 2009 to STATWG chair). (9.1)
7. Monitor the hiring of a permanent Database Administrator (9.1)
8. Work with WGs to standardize definitions for zero catch (with effort), zero catch (no effort) catch rounded to zero if below a threshold, and no data submission as well as develop reporting formats. (9.3)
9. Continue with same terms of reference until Database Administrator is hired and up to speed and then review need for STATWG. (9.1)

VIII. BCWG

1. Elect a new Chairman. (6.4, 7.6)
2. Review work plan and progress as appropriate. (6.4)
3. Report on progress of BCWG at ISC10. (6.4, 7.6)
4. Review and approve a new bycatch/encounter table. (9.3)

IX. Database Administrator

1. Incorporate historical data into the ISC database. (9.1, 9.4)
2. Assist STATWG with data inventory. (9.5)
3. Monitor and report on member data reporting. (9.1)