

*Annex 13***REPORT OF THE STATISTICS WORKING GROUP****International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species
in the North Pacific Ocean**

July 9-10, 2013
Busan, Korea

1.0 Welcome and Introduction

A two-day meeting of the Statistics Working Group (STATWG) was held on July 9-10 in Busan, Korea in conjunction with the 13th Meeting of the ISC Plenary.

Ren-Fen Wu, ISC STATWG Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed 22 participants from Canada, Chinese-Taipei, Japan, Korea, Mexico, U.S.A., and WCPFC (Attachment 1). Gerard DiNardo, ISC Chairman, also participated in the meeting.

2.0 Appointment of Rapporteurs

Wei-jen Wang (Chinese-Taipei) and Anthony Beeching (WCPFC) were appointed as rapporteurs, with Darryl Tagami (U.S.A.) appointed as lead rapporteur.

3.0 Adoption of Agenda and Tabling of Documents

The agenda for the Statistics Working Group workshop was considered and adopted for the meeting (Attachment 2).

One Information Paper and one Working Paper were distributed electronically, and reviewed at the meeting (Attachment 3).

4.0 National Data Correspondents

National Data Correspondents were identified as follows:

Canada – John Holmes
China – Xiaojie Dai (not present)
Chinese – Taipei – Wei-Jen Wang
Japan – Koji Uosaki

Korea – Sang-Chul Yoon
Mexico – Michel Dreyfus and Luis Fleischer
U.S.A. – John Childers (not present)
IATTC – Nick Vogel (not present)
WCPFC – Peter Williams (not present)

5.0 STATWG Intercessional Activities

5.1 Information Paper 1: Report on the Intercessional Activities of the STATWG (ISC13/STATWG/INFO-1) - presented by Ren-Fen Wu

The STATWG Chairman reviewed the discussions of the STATWG Steering Group at three intercessional activities conducted since the ISC12 Plenary:

- September 10-12, 2012 Steering Group meeting in Shimizu,
- May 28-29, 2013 online data submission workshop in Shimizu, and
- May 30, 2013 Steering Group meeting in Shimizu.

6.0 Status of STATWG Work Plan

The STATWG chair reviewed the 2012 STATWG Work Plan proposed at ISC12 Plenary. It was reported that 10 of 10 items of the work plan were completed in the past year.

It was noted that the Albacore Working Group received updated catch data from China at their intercessional meeting in Shanghai in March, 2013, and that it will be provided to the ISC Data Administrator (DA) and chair of the STATWG in the form of a Working Paper.

7.0 Data Inventory and Metadata

7.1 ISC Data Inventory and Exchange with WCPFC and IATTC

Status of Data Inventory and Exchange – oral presentation by Ren-Fan Wu

The DA provided the 2011 ISC data inventory to the WCPFC before their SC8 meeting in August, 2012. The WCPFC provided their updated data inventory online through the WCPFC Data Catalogue (<http://www.wcpfc.int/wcpfc-data-catalogue>).

The DA provided the 2011 ISC data inventory to the IATTC in February, 2013, and received the 2011 IATTC data inventory in April, 2013. This was the first exchange of data inventories between the ISC and IATTC.

The DA will provide the 2012 ISC data inventory to both the WCPFC and IATTC by August 1, 2013.

It was noted that the ISC has a Memorandum of Understanding with the WCPFC and a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the IATTC that include provisions for data sharing. Both of these Memorandums can be found in the ISC Operations Manual.

It was recommended that the annual ISC data inventory be distributed to the Member Data Correspondents for review, and then distributed to the chairs of the species Working Groups.

7.2 Status of Public Domain Data

Status of Public Domain Data – oral presentation by Yumi Okochi

Prior to the ISC12 Plenary, the ISC Category Ic data was displayed online only by species, year, and country. In October, 2012, the Category Ic data was also displayed online by species, year, and gear. The ISC Category Ic data also can be downloaded from the ISC website as an MS Excel file. These data were based on ISC database as updated from the July 1, 2012 data submission.

Every September 1, the DA will update the public domain tables for Category Ic and distribute them to Member Data Correspondents for review. The final public domain tables for Category Ic will be published on the ISC website annually by October 1.

As recommended by the Group, the text in the Fishery Statistics section of the ISC website was amended to state that the annual catch graphs represent reported catch from ISC member countries only, and are not the total known catches in the North Pacific Ocean.

7.3 Metadata Format

Status of Metadata – oral presentation by Izumi Yamasaki

The STATWG Steering Group proposed a new simplified metadata format at ISC12. Changes proposed by the STATWG were reviewed and accepted by July, 2012. After further review by Steering Group and STATWG members, the metadata format was finalized by October, 2012. Members completed their metadata tables by November, 2012. Requests for further feedback or updates were made at the STATWG meeting in Busan in July, 2013.

It was noted that the fisheries/fleet descriptions were very detailed, as provided by the member countries, but would benefit from standardization.

8.0 ISC Database

8.1 Online Data Submission

Status of the ISC Online Data Submission – oral presentation by Izumi Yamasaki

The DA noted that in prior years Members encountered some difficulties with online submission of Category I, II, and III data, in spite of minor annual improvements to the ISC online data submission system. At the ISC12 Plenary, the STATWG Steering Group was tasked with significantly improving the ISC online data submission system. This included developing new input formats, standardizing data codes, improving fisheries/fleet descriptions, updating metadata, modifying the online data submission software, improving loading error messages, and improving email notifications.

Software and database modifications to the online data submission system were completed in May, 2013. The DA drafted a User's Guide for online submission to the ISC database in May, 2013 and distributed it to Data Correspondents in June 6, 2013.

To expand usage of the ISC online data submission system, the STATWG Steering Group conducted a hands-on training workshop for Data Correspondents in Shimizu, in May, 2013. Data Correspondents from Chinese-Taipei and Japan participated in this workshop and successfully loaded test data into the ISC database.

The DA also opened a two-week practice period for online data submission from June 10-21, where arrangements could be made for direct communication with the DA. Data Correspondents from Canada, Chinese-Taipei, and U.S.A. participated in this trial data submission period.

The new online data submission system was then open from June 23 to July 1 for Members to load their complete Category Ic, Category Ie, and Category II data into the ISC database. Since the input format for Category III data was not finalized for the new online data submission system, Members were allowed to submit their Category III data to the DA by email.

At the STATWG meeting in Busan, Korea, the afternoon of July 10 was dedicated to training and assistance with uploading data on the new ISC online data submission system. A representative from Korea participated in this training session.

Member performance with 2013 online data submission:

- Canada had no problems
- Chinese-Taipei had no problems
- Japan had no problems
- Korea had some problems with loading CAT II data, records were loaded but not all fields (latitude and longitude)
- Mexico had problems with loading CAT II, no records were loaded
- U.S.A. had some problems with loading CAT II data, records were loaded, except for confidential data that were rolled up into larger area/time strata

It was noted that a longer lead time between providing an updated User's Guide for Online Data Submission and the ISC data submission deadline of July 1 is appropriate. Any changes to the online data submission procedures should be distributed no later than April 1 of the submission year to allow the Data Correspondents sufficient time to format their data appropriately.

The STATWG chair discussed the need for a standardized input format for CAT III size composition data, and solicited feedback on a simplified input format similar to the one used by Chinese-Taipei. The group also noted that there may be a need to input individual size data and mean size data, as well as aggregated size frequency data.

8.2 Archival of Species Working Groups' Files

Status of Archival of Species Working Groups' Files – oral presentation by Ren-Fan Wu

The STATWG Steering Group developed a draft guideline in May, 2013 for the archival and retrieval of species Working Group files, specifically the stock assessment files for completed assessments of ISC species of interest. The proposed guidelines were reviewed at the STATWG meeting in Busan in July, 2013.

The group agreed that species Working Groups should determine the appropriate files to be archived and that chairs of the Working Groups will provide zipped files for archival to the DA by November 1 of the year in which a stock assessment was completed. Stock assessment files for bluefin tuna, blue marlin, and blue shark will be provided to the DA for archival by November 1, 2013.

The group recommended that file naming conventions be established, that the version of the software (executable file) be archived, and that an archive report be maintained and distributed annually to the chairs of the species Working Groups. The chair of the STATWG and the ISC Chair agreed to investigate the legality of archiving software versions used for a stock assessment.

It was noted that the 2 terabytes of storage space currently available for archival of ISC stock assessment files may not be adequate given the large file sizes for sensitivity runs and boot strapping exercises.

9.0 Member Data Collection Systems

The STATWG chair asked the group for any updates to Member's data collection systems or port sampling programs.

Japan

- Observer coverage on the offshore longline fishery was increased.

- New vessel registration and logbook system was implemented in 2012 for the coastal troll fishery for bluefin tuna.

Korea

- Since May, 2011, the troll fisheries for bluefin tuna were required to submit catch data to the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute.
- Effective December, 2012, Korea's Revised Distant-Water Fisheries Act contains new data collection and reporting requirements for the distant-water longline and purse-seine fisheries that are consistent with tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations' requirements.

U.S.A.

- NOAA Fisheries Observer Program coverage for a set gillnet fleet targeting sea bass and halibut has been expanded and should provide better data on incidental catch of tuna and tuna-like species in that fishery.
- NOAA Fisheries has begun biological sampling of tuna and tuna-like species from the U.S.A. West Coast recreational fishery. Samples collected will contribute to ongoing and new life history and ecological studies (e.g. age and growth, stock structure, foraging ecology).

10.0 Performance of Member Countries

10.1 Submission of 2012 Data

The STATWG chair reviewed the data submitted by Member countries for 2012 for Category Ic, Ie, II, and III.

2012 Country	C _{Ic} Gear	C _{Ie} Gear	C _{II} Gear	C _{III} Gear
CAN	LTR	LTR	LTR	LTR
CHN	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided
JPN	FPN, GND, LLD, LP, LTR, MIS, NK, PS	LLD, LP, PS	LLD, LP, PS	GND, LLD, LP,
KOR	LLD, PS	LLD, PS	LLD, PS	LLD
MEX	MIS, PS, RG	PS, LP	PS	PS, RG
TWN	LLD, PS, FPN, GN, GND, HAR, MIS	LLD, PS	LLD, PS	LLD
USA	GND, HAR, LH, LLD, LP, LTR, MIS, PS, RG	GND, HAR, LH, LLD, LP, LTR, MIS, PS, RG	GND, HAR, LLD, LTR, RG	LLD, LTR

ISC Gear Codes*

Code	Gear	Name
FPN	Set-net	Stationary uncovered pound nets
GND	Gill-net	Driftnets
GN	Gill-net	Unspecified Gill-net
HAR	Harpoon	Harpoons
LH**	Handline	Handline gear
LLD	Longline	Drifting longlines
LP**	Pole-and-line	Pole-and-line
LTR	Troll	Trolling lines
LX	Hook-and-line	Hooks and lines (not specified)
MIS	Other gears	Miscellaneous gear
NK	Not specified	Gear not known or not specified
PS	Purse-seine	Supporting nets with purse lines (purse-seine)
RG	Sport	Recreational fishing gears

* FAO 1999. Definition and classification of fishing gear categories. FAO Fish. Tec. Pap. 222 Rev.1.

** IATTC code.

The chair of the STATWG noted that Member countries will be able to submit historical time series of Category I, II, and III data until August 1, 2013.

The group recommended that performance metrics be developed such as % completeness with respect to the submission of historical data time series.

10.2 Report Card

The current ISC report card was first implemented in 2012, and was a modification of the 2011 report card in order to account for timeliness and completeness. The STATWG Steering Group agreed not to make any changes to the report card for 2013.

The STATWG chair presented the 2013 report card for Members (see Attachment 4) based on submission of 2012 data by the July 1, 2013 deadline. Timeliness grades were assigned for Category Ic, Ie, II, and III; and completeness grades were assigned for all required fisheries.

- Canada and Chinese-Taipei submitted all 2012 data on time and were complete for all fisheries
- Japan submitted all 2012 data on time, but was not complete for all fisheries in Category III
- USA submitted all 2012 data on time, except for longline data in Category III which was submitted after July 1

- Korea submitted 2012 Category I and II data on time; Category III data was submitted after July 1
- Mexico submitted 2012 Category Ic and Ie data on time, but was not complete for all fisheries in Category Ic; data for Category II and III were submitted after July 1
- China did not submit any 2012 data for Category I, II, and III

11.0 Species Working Groups' Needs

The chairs of the Working Groups for Albacore, Billfish, Pacific Bluefin, and Sharks were asked to present their data needs and concerns. This is provided in the following list:

- Member shark data by species and unspecified shark categories (particularly in historical data); and sex data for Category III size composition data
- Direct access to the ISC database for chairs of the species Working Groups
- Annual request by the STATWG Chair for Category I, II, and III data annually from WCPFC and IATTC for ISC species of interest, particularly from China and non-ISC member countries

12.0 ISC Website Status Report

Status of ISC Website – oral presentation by Yumi Okochi

The ISC Webmaster Yumi Okochi presented the status of the ISC website and the improvements made in the past year since the ISC12 Plenary in July, 2012. Improvements include providing fishery statistics by species, year, and gear; species profiles for the Working Groups, including albacore, bluefin tuna, swordfish, striped marlin, blue marlin, blue shark, and shortfin mako shark; and a new Statistics Working Group page.

The group suggested one correction on the website. The text in the Fishery Statistics section of the ISC website was amended to state that the annual catch graphs represent reported catch from ISC member countries only, and are not the total known catches in the North Pacific Ocean. The web pages for the species profiles were distributed to the chairs of the species Working Groups with a request to provide updates, if needed.

The ISC Operations Manual and the Memorandums of Understanding with the WCPFC and the IATTC are scheduled to be published on the ISC website.

14.0 Conclusions, Future Work Plan, and Recommendations to Plenary

14.1 Future Work Plan

1. DA will distribute the ISC data inventory to ISC Data Correspondents for review by August

- 1, 2013. DA will then distribute the ISC data inventory to chairs of the species Working Groups by September 1, 2013.
2. DA will exchange the ISC data inventory with the WCPFC and IATTC by August 1, 2013.
3. STATWG Chair will request data (CAT I, II, and III) of the WCPFC and IATTC for ISC species of interest (e.g., albacore, bluefin, blue marlin, swordfish, striped marlin, blue shark, shortfin mako and mako shark) from China and non-ISC members by Aug 31, annually.
4. The STATWG Steering Group will finalize the input format for the online data submission of Category III data into the ISC database by November 30, 2013. DA will report on cost and time estimates for any necessary database modification to the Steering Group by the end of December, 2013. The Steering Group will prioritize the scheduling of the database development as necessary.
5. DA will revise the user's manual for the online data submission system, including the data codes, and distribute to the Data Correspondents by April 1, 2014.
6. DA will start archiving the stock assessment files for Species Working Groups according to the procedures documented in ISC13-STATWG-WP1. The chair of STATWG will distribute the Working Paper to the chairs of the Species Working Group for review and revision by the end of the Plenary. Species Working Groups will submit stock assessment files from 2013 assessments (bluefin, blue marlin, blue shark) to the DA by November 1, 2014.
7. DA will complete the comparison between the data provided prior to 2013 and the data provided in July, 2013, by country and fishery in order to check for completeness by Jan 1, 2014.
8. Webmaster will continue to improve the ISC website. Webmaster will provide copies of the species profiles to the chairs of the Species Working Groups at the STATWG meeting, and comments will be provided back to the Webmaster by the end of the ISC13 Plenary.
9. The STATWG Steering Group will draft procedures to enable Members to amend historical data in the ISC database by February, 2014. The procedures will be reviewed for approval at the next STATWG meeting in July, 2014.
10. STATWG Steering Group will meet in January, 2014 in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.

14.2 Recommendations to the Plenary

1. In order to correct inconsistencies and errors in the ISC database, Members should submit online the entire historical time series of Category III data for ISC species of interest by July 1, 2014.

2. China's performance with data submission regressed in 2012 compared to 2011. It is recommended that the ISC Chair follow-up with China on its data submission performance.
3. STATWG requests the scheduling of a 2-day meeting prior to the ISC14 Plenary.

15.0 Adjournment

The next STATWG meeting is planned to be held prior to ISC13 for 2 days at a time and place to be determined.

The Chairman expressed his appreciation to all participants for their contributions and cooperation in completing a successful meeting. The STATWG collectively thanked the hosts (Korea) for their hospitality and overall support for the meeting.

The meeting of the ISC STATWG was adjourned at 12:00 pm on July 10, 2013.

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Attachment 2**AGENDA**

International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

Statistics Working Group

Novotel Ambassador Hotel, Busan, Korea

9-10 July 2013

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Appointment of Rapporteurs
3. Adoption of Agenda and Tabling of Documents
4. National Data Correspondents
5. STATWG Intercessional Activities
 - i. September 10-12, 2012 Steering Group meeting in Shimizu
 - ii. May 28-29, 2013 online data submission workshop in Shimizu
 - iii. May 30, 2013 Steering Group meeting in Shimizu
6. Status of STATWG Work plan
7. ISC Data Inventory and Metadata
 - i. ISC Data Inventory and Exchange with WCPFC
 - ii. Status of Public Domain Data
 - iii. Metadata Format
8. ISC Database
 - i. Status of Online Data Submission
 - ii. Archival of Species Working Groups' files
9. Species Working Groups' Needs
 - i. ALBWG
 - ii. BILLWG
 - iii. PBFWG
 - iv. SHARKWG
10. Website Status Report
11. Member Data Collection Systems
12. Performance of Member Countries
 - i. Data Submission in 2013
 - ii. Report card for Members
13. Conclusions, Future Work Plan, and Recommendations to Plenary
14. Adjournment

Attachment 3**List of Papers and Presentations**INFORMATION PAPERS

1. **ISC/13/STATWG-1/INFO-1:** *Report on STATWG Intercessional Meetings* presented by Ren-Fen Woo

WORKING PAPERS

1. **ISC/13/STATWG-1/WP-1:** *Guidelines for Archival of Stock Assessment Files* presented by Ren-Fen Woo

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Presentation 1** - *Data Inventory and Exchange with RFMOs* presented by Izumi Yamasaki
2. **Presentation 2** – *Status of Public Domain Data* presented by Yumi Okochi
3. **Presentation 3** – *Archival of Species Working Groups' Files* presented by Ren-Fen Woo
4. **Presentation 4** – *Status of Missing Metadata* presented by Izumi Yamasaki
5. **Presentation 5** – *Status of Online Data Submission* presented by Izumi Yamasaki
6. **Presentation 6** – *Status of the ISC Web Site* presented by Yumi Okochi

Attachment 4

2013 Data Submission Report Card for ISC Members

Member	CAT Ic	CAT Ie	CAT II	CAT III
CAN				
CHN				
JPN				
KOR				
MEX				
TWN				
USA				

	On Time and Complete
	On Time but Incomplete
	Submitted Late
	Not Provided