

*Annex 4****REPORT OF THE STATISTICS WORKING GROUP INTERCESSIONAL MEETING***

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

10-12 September, 2012
Shimizu, Japan

The STATWG Steering Group conducted its first intercessional meeting since the 2012 ISC Plenary in Sapporo, Japan. The Chair of the STATWG convened the 3rd STATWG steering group meeting from September 10-12 2012 at the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries in Shimizu, Japan. The participants included the Chair of ISC Dr. Gerard DiNardo, Dr. Hideki Nakano and Dr. Shuhei Uematsu from Japan, the chair and co-chair of STATWG Mr. Ren-Fen Wu and Mr. Darryl Tagami, data administrator of ISC Dr. Izumi Yamasaki, and web master of ISC Ms. Yumi Okochi.

The group reviewed the work plan proposed by STATWG at the ISC12 Plenary meeting to determine the status of each assignment, and to update them as necessary.

The items discussed during this meeting are as followed:

1. Report of albacore data issues and data inventory exchange with WCPFC
The STATWG chair reported on the progress on the NP albacore catch issues. Because this issue is related to the accuracy of NP albacore catch reporting in IATTC and WCPFC areas, the Group recommended that the chair of STATWG continue monitoring this issue and contact with the data managers of WCPFC and IATTC to clarify the data sources and accuracy of data reporting.
2. Review of Members' fisheries descriptions
The DA reported on the submission of fisheries description by Members before the end of August. There were 2 Members who have not submitted the fisheries descriptions by the deadline set by the Plenary. The Group recommended the DA contact these 2 Members' Data Correspondents again and attach the description of Chinese Taipei fisheries as a template.
3. Review of ISC report card
The Group noted that the format of the data report card had just been revised before the 2012 Plenary meeting, and agreed not to amend it for 2013.
4. Standardization of database code

The DA presented the codes of ISC database and proposed some suggested amendments to the code, including the replacement of “BLZ” with “BUM” and the expansion of the fleet code. The Group reviewed the code and recommended that the DA should disseminate the amended code to Members’ Data Correspondent and ask for their comments on the code changes.

5. Archival of Species Working Groups’ stock assessment files

The Group recommended that the stock assessment files archived should be zipped, and the uploading and retrieval of these files can only be done by DA. Regarding the contents of the file archived, it should be determined by the chairs of species WG. The guidelines for file archival and retrieval will be developed by STATWG and disseminated to the chairs of species WG soon.

6. Metadata format

The DA presented the metadata tables of Category I & Category II data. The Group agreed on these table formats and recommended that DA disseminate to Members’ Data Correspondents as soon as possible.

7. Public Domain Data

The DA reported the status of public domain data and mentioned that the catch tables published on the ISC website will be presented by fishery from this year. The Group noted and agreed on this.

8. Review of data policy of other t-RFMOs

The Group reviewed the practices of data policy of t-RFMOs, including WCPFC, IATTC, IOTC, ICCAT and CCSBT. Considering that the ISC is not a fisheries management organization, the Group recommended that STATWG publish the report on data inventory to reveal the ISC data holdings, and update the catch of interested species on the ISC website annually.

9. Online Data Submission system, user’s manual and online training material

The Data Administrator reported on the status of the new Online Data Submission system. Since this system was developed by the contractor, the DA proposed to have a meeting with their programmers in October to discuss modifications to the system structure. The Group recommended that DA disseminate the database structure and the user’s manual draft to the Group members for reviewing its validity. The Group also recommended holding a training workshop of the online data submission system in May, 2013.

10. ISC Web Site

The webmaster reported on the progress of ISC website upgrading. The Group appreciated her efforts on updating the ISC website, and recommended there should be a section on the home page to show the information of the latest events.

11. Review of arrangements of STATWG assignments

The Group reviewed the status of the work plan proposed by STATWG in ISC12 Plenary meeting, and allotted the assignments to the members of the Group according to the field of tasks.

Next meeting

The group recommended the next STATWG steering group meeting will be held in Shimizu before the training workshop in May, 2013.

Attachment 1. Agenda**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE
SPECIES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC**

STATISTICS WORKING GROUP (STATWG)

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING AGENDA

Meeting Site: National Research Inst. Of Far Seas Fisheries
5-7-1 Ordo, Shimizu
Shizuoka, Japan 424-8633

Dates: September 10-12, 2012

AGENDA

1. Review of the performance of STATWG - Chairperson (9/10)
2. Report of albacore data issue and data inventory exchange with WCPFC (9/11 morning)
3. Review of the descriptions of Members' fisheries (9/11 morning)
4. Review of Members' fisheries descriptions (9/11 morning)
5. Review of report card (9/11 morning)
6. Standardization of database code (9/11 afternoon)
 - Finalize the code for database by October, 2012, and DA will implement code changes and revise the ISC database user's manual by May, 2013
7. Archival of Species Working Groups' files (9/11 afternoon)
 - Develop guidelines for archival of Species WG files
8. Metadata format (9/11 afternoon)
 - Finalize the metadata format by October, 2012, and distribute metadata tables to

Members for completion by November, 2012.

9. Public Domain Data (9/11 afternoon)

10. Online Data Submission system, user's manual and online training material (9/12 morning)

11. Review of data policy of other t-RFMOs (9/12 morning)

12. ISC Web Site (9/12 morning)

13. Review of arrangements of assignments (9/12 afternoon)