

*Annex 14***REPORT OF THE STATISTICS WORKING GROUP**

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

July 10-11, 2014  
Taipei, Taiwan

**1.0 Welcome and Introduction**

A two-day meeting of the Statistics Working Group (STATWG) was held on July 10-11 in Taipei, Taiwan in conjunction with the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ISC Plenary.

Ren-Fen Wu, ISC STATWG Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed 13 participants from Canada, Chinese-Taipei, Japan, U.S.A., and WCPFC (Attachment 1). Gerard DiNardo, ISC Chairman, and Sarah Shoffler, Office of the ISC Secretariat, also participated in the meeting.

**2.0 Appointment of Rapporteurs**

Wei-Jen Wang (Chinese-Taipei) and Darryl Tagami (U.S.A.) were appointed as rapporteurs.

**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).

Two Information Papers and two Working Papers 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 (not present)  
Mexico – Michel Dreyfus and Luis Fleischer (not present)  
U.S.A. – John Childers (not present)  
IATTC – Nick Vogel (not present)  
WCPFC – Peter Williams (not present)

**5.0 STATWG Inter-sessional Activities**

**5.1 Information Paper 1:** Report on the STATWG Intercessional Meeting (ISC14/STATWG/INFO-1) - presented by Ren-Fen Wu

The STATWG Chairman reviewed the discussions of the STATWG Steering Group at one Inter-  
sessional meeting conducted since the ISC13 Plenary:

- January 21-23, 2014 - STATWG Steering Group meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

## **6.0 Status of STATWG Work Plan**

### **6.1 Information Paper 2:** Status of STATWG Work Plan presented (ISC14/STATWG/INFO-2) by Ren-Fen Wu

The STATWG chair reviewed the 2013 STATWG Work Plan proposed at ISC13 Plenary. It was reported that 10 of 10 items of the work plan were completed in the past year.

It was recommended that the STAT WG Chairman's request for non-ISC member data from the WCPFC and the IATTC be rescheduled to early in the spring annually with a delivery date of July 1 in order to assist the species Working Groups in the updating of their catch tables for the ISC Plenary session. The group agreed with this recommendation.

## **7.0 Formats for Revising Data in the ISC Database**

### **7.1 Working Paper 1:** Format of Data Revision Report (ISC14/STATWG/WP-1) presented by Ren-Fen Wu

Revising data in databases is necessary for a variety of reasons, including removing duplicate records, correcting errors detected in the data, updating data due to improved estimation procedures, and availability of new data. In order to facilitate the data revision process in the ISC database, the STATWG proposed standardized requirements in this Working Paper (ISC14/STATWG/WP-1). These requirements include submitting a Data Revision Report to the STATWG that provides the reasons for the data revision, detailed documentation of the data revision, and comparisons of the original and revised values, as well as data tables, charts/graphs, and distribution maps.

The group decided that it would not be required to submit a Data Revision Report for CAT I data if the revisions were limited to 2 years prior to the most recent year of data submission and the change in catch or effort values were less than 5% relative to the original value. For CAT II and III data, it would not be required to submit a Data Revision Report if the revisions were limited to 3 years prior to the most recent year of data submission and the change in values were less than 5%.

## **8.0 Performance of Member Countries**

### **8.1 A comparison between 2013 data submission and historical data**

#### **Working Paper 2:** Data comparison between 2013 submission and historical data (ISC14/STATWG/WP-2) presented by Izumi Yamasaki

In order to correct inconsistencies and errors in the ISC database, Members were asked to submit online the entire historical time series of Category I and II data by 2013, and Category III data by 2014. The DA conducted a data comparison between the 2013 data resubmission and the historical data in the ISC database (ISC14/STATWG/WP-2). For CAT I data, the resubmitted

data were checked to determine if it matched, was greater, or was less than the value of the original data. For CAT II and CAT III data, the data were checked to determine whether they were present in the historical data, and whether they matched the historical data.

## 8.2 Submission of 2013 Data - Presentation by Izumi Yamasaki

The STATWG chair reviewed the submission of 2013 data by Member countries in 2014 for Category Ic, 1e, II, and III.

Country	Cat	Gear													
		FPN	GN	GND	HAR	LH	LLD	LP	LTR	LX	MIS	NK	PS	RG	
CAN	1c								★						
	1e								★						
	2								★						
	3								★						
JPN	1c	★		★			★	★	★		★	★	★		
	1e						★	★					★		
	2						★	★					★		
	3		★		★		★								
KOR	1c						★						★		
	1e						★						★		
	2						★						★		
	3														
TWN	1c	★	★		★		★				★		★		
	1e						★						★		
	2						★						★		
	3						★								
USA	1c			★	★	★	★		★		★			★	
	1e			★	★	★	★	★	★	★			★		
	2			★	★		★		★					★	
	3								★						

**ISC Gear Codes\***

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

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

\*\* IATTC code.

**8.3 Report Card - Presentation by Ren-Fen Wu**

The current ISC report card was modified from the 2013 report card by splitting the “LATE” category into “LATE but COMPLETE” and “LATE and INCOMPLETE” categories.

The STATWG chair presented the 2014 report card for Members (see Attachment 4) based on submission of 2013 data by the July 1, 2014 deadline. Timeliness grades were assigned for Category Ic, Ie, II, and III; and completeness grades were assigned for all required fisheries.

- Canada, Chinese-Taipei, and Korea submitted all 2013 data on time and were complete for all fisheries
- USA submitted all 2013 data on time, but was not complete for Purse Seine in Category I, and was not complete for MIS and RG in Category II
- Japan submitted all 2013 data on time, except for longline data in Category I which was submitted after July 1, and was not complete for Pole & Line in Category III
- China and Mexico did not submit any Category I, II, and III data for 2013

**9.0 ISC Data Policy****9.1 Publishing the ISC data inventory on the ISC website - presentation by Yumi Okochi**

The STATWG plans to publish the ISC data inventory for CAT I, II, and III on the ISC website by the end of 2014. The Webmaster reviewed and presented the WCPFC online data catalogue to the group. The group modified the WCPFC format and agreed on an ISC format and content for the inventory of CAT I, II, and III data. The ISC format for CAT I combines category Ic with category Ie, and includes country, gear, first year, last year, and substantial number of years for vessels and species. The format for CAT II includes country, gear, area size, first year, last year,

time period, and species. The format for CAT III includes country, gear, area size, first year, last year, time period, and species.

## **9.2 ISC Data Exchange with WCPFC and IATTC**

Presentation by Ren-Fen Wu

The ISC has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the WCPFC and a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the IATTC that include varying provisions for data sharing. Both of these Memorandums can be found in the ISC Operations Manual. There may be issues for data sharing between RFMOs when countries belong to one RFMO but not to the other, or when an ISC member country provides data to the ISC that is not provided to the other RFMO.

The WCPFC representative informed the group that the WCPFC SC10 meeting in August, 2014, will review the progress of data reconciliation of the Commission and ISC data holdings for northern stocks to identify and address data gaps.

It was noted that there are overlaps in the data submission requirements of the ISC, WCPFC, and IATTC, and differences in the data formatting requirements and data codes of the RFMOs. It was recommended that the STATWG investigate the data submission requirements of each RFMO in order to harmonize the data codes and data formatting used by the ISC with those of the other RFMOs wherever possible.

## **10.0 Review of the ISC Catch Tables and Data Inventory - presentation by Izumi Yamasaki**

The DA presented catch tables by year, country, and gear for the following ISC species: swordfish, striped marlin, Pacific Bluefin tuna, albacore, black marlin, blue sharks, and mako sharks.

The ISC species catch tables were updated by the species Working Groups this year, as well as in previous years. From 2015 and thereafter, the ISC species catch tables will be updated by the STATWG from the ISC database.

## **11.0 Member Data Collection Systems**

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

### **Canada**

- Canada has received anecdotal reports of a sport fishery for albacore, consisting of both charter boats and private boats. A logbook was designed and distributed to the major charter boat operators in 2014 in an attempt to acquire preliminary information on the scope of this fishery (catch, effort and location).

### **Japan**

- Logbooks for the large-scale purse seine vessels were revised in the summer of 2013 to be able to record Pacific Bluefin tuna catches in 4 size categories (previously there were only 2 size categories).

### **Taiwan**

- Since 2013, electronic logooks have been used on a voluntary basis on purse seine vessels. For large-scale longline vessels, electronic logbooks were implemented in 2014

are expected to have 50% coverage in 2015. Electronic logbooks will be implemented on small-scale longline vessels in 2016.

## **12.0 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. Only the chairs of the Albacore and Shark Working Groups were present in this meeting. Their needs are provided in the following list:

- Member shark data by species and unspecified shark categories (particularly in historical data); and sex specific data for Category III size composition data
- Sex specific size composition data for albacore
- Annual request by the STATWG Chair for Category I, II, and III data from WCPFC and IATTC for ISC species of interest (including all sharks), particularly from China and non-ISC member countries

## **13.0 Other Matters**

### **13.1 Member Issues with Online Data Submission**

It was noted that some Members experienced issues with the 2014 online data submission to the ISC database. In one case, the existing ISC Fleet codes were not sufficient for one Member Country's Gear, so the CAT III data could not be submitted. In another case, there were no values for Latitude and Longitude for the CAT III data for 2 different Gears, so the data could not be uploaded into the database. The DA was notified of these issues prior to the July 1 data submission deadline, and asked the Member Country to submit their CAT III data files via email. At the STATWG meeting in July, 2014, the DA proposed creating new Fleet codes for that particular Gear for that Member Country. The DA also proposed temporarily removing the database restriction for loading records with blanks in required data fields.

It was noted that the current ISC data code for Quadrant which was supposed to be based on the FAO codes for Quadrants may have been incorrectly implemented. The STATWG Steering Committee will investigate this further; the group agreed that it would be preferable to be consistent with the FAO codes and with other RFMO data standards. It was also noted that the CAT III data format is missing the fields for rounding and unit of measurement.

### **13.2 Status of ISC Database Server - Presentation by Yumi Okochi**

The Webmaster informed the group that the free web server service for the ISC website may be terminating by the end of November, 2015. If and when that occurs, the ISC website will need to be moved to a private web server, and the website domain will be changed. The Webmaster will monitor the server situation and any decisions will be made at ISC15.

## **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, 2014. DA will then distribute the ISC data inventory to chairs of the species Working Groups by September 1, 2014.

2. DA will exchange the ISC data inventory with the WCPFC and IATTC by August 1, 2014.
3. STATWG Chair will request data (CAT I, II, and III) from the WCPFC and IATTC for shortfin mako and mako shark before the ISC SHARKWG stock assessment meeting in November, 2014.
4. STATWG Chair will request data (CAT I, II, and III) from 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 May 1 annually, and ask for a July 1 delivery date.
5. DA will distribute a comparison report between the Member data submitted in 2014 and historical data in the ISC database to the Data Correspondents by September 1, 2014. Data Correspondents will provide appropriate explanations for any discrepancy identified in the DA's comparison report by November 1, 2014.
6. DA will distribute access information for cloud storage services to chairs of species Working Groups by September 1, 2014, to facilitate the submission of large stock assessment files to be archived in the ISC data server. Chairs of species Working Groups will submit stock assessment files from 2013 assessments (bluefin, blue marlin, and blue shark) to the DA by November 1, 2014. DA will archive the stock assessment files according to the procedures documented in ISC13-STATWG-WP1.
7. DA will generate the ISC data inventories for CAT I, II, and III in the new format (as agreed on in the STATWG meeting in July, 2014); and the Webmaster will publish the new ISC data inventories on the ISC website by November 1, 2014.
8. STATWG Chair will complete and distribute a comparison report between the data formats for data submission of the ISC, WCPFC, and IATTC to harmonize the data format requirements of the ISC by November 1, 2014.
9. DA will complete any necessary changes to the ISC data codes and data submission requirements to facilitate uploading of Member CAT III data in to the ISC database. DA will request any necessary ISC database modifications to the database contractor by November, 2014. DA will revise and update the user's manual for the online data submission system, including the data codes, and distribute to the Data Correspondents by March 1, 2015.
10. DA will distribute a comparison report between the data inventory of the ISC and WCPFC, and between the data inventory of the ISC and IATTC, to chairs of the species Working Groups by March 1 annually to identify overlaps and gaps in the data holdings of the RFMOs.
11. STATWG Steering Group will meet in January, 2015 in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.

## **14.2 Recommendations to the Plenary**

1. In order to improve data management within the Species Working Group as well as coordination with the STATWG, each Species Working Group should assign a member to assume the role of Data Manager for the Working Group. The Data Manager will attend meetings of the STATWG and may participate in inter-sessional activities of the STATWG.
2. China's performance with data submission continued to be delinquent in 2014. It is recommended that the ISC Chair follow-up with China on its data submission obligations.

3. STATWG requests the scheduling of a 2-day meeting prior to the ISC15 Plenary.

### **15.0 Election of Chair**

Ren-Fen Wu, the current Chair of the STATWG, was nominated by the group to serve for a second term as Chair of the STATWG. No other nominations were made, and he was acclaimed as the Chair of the STATWG for a second term.

### **16.0 Adjournment**

The next STATWG meeting is planned to be held prior to ISC15 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 (Chinese-Taipei) for their hospitality and overall support for the meeting.

The meeting of the ISC STATWG was adjourned at 12:30 pm on July 11, 2014.



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**Attachment 2**

AGENDA

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

Statistics Working Group

Ching Room, 3F, Sherwood Hotel, Taipei, Chinese-Taipei

10-11 July 2014

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Appointment of Rapporteurs
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Tabling of Documents
5. STATWG Inter-sessional Activities
6. Status of STATWG Work Plan
7. Formats for Revising Data in the ISC Database
8. Performance of Member Countries
  - i. Comparison between 2013 data submission and historical data
  - ii. Data submission in 2014
  - iii. Report card for Members
9. ISC Data Policy
  - i. Publishing the ISC data inventory on the ISC website
  - ii. ISC data exchange with WCPFC and IATTC
10. Review of the ISC catch tables and data inventory
11. Member Data Collection System
12. Species Working Groups' Needs

- i. ALB WG
  - ii. BILL WG
  - iii. PBF WG
  - iv. SHARK WG
- 13. Other Matters
  - 14. Conclusions, Future Work Plan, and Recommendations to Plenary
  - 15. Election of chair
  - 16. Adjournment

**Attachment 3**

## List of Papers and Presentations

## INFORMATION PAPERS

1. ISC14/STATWG/INFO-1: Report on STATWG Intercessional Meeting - presented by Ren-Fen Wu
2. ISC14/STATWG/INFO-2: Status of STATWG Work Plan - presented by Ren-Fen Wu

## WORKING PAPERS

1. ISC14/STATWG/WP-1: Format of Data Revision Report - presented by Ren-Fen Wu
2. ISC14/STATWG/WP-2: Data comparison between 2013 submission and historical data - presented by Izumi Yamasaki

## PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation 1 - Submission of 2013 Data - presented by Izumi Yamasaki
2. Presentation 2 - Report Card - presented by Ren-Fen Wu
3. Presentation 3 - Data Inventory Publish - presented by Yumi Okochi
4. Presentation 4 - ISC Data Exchange with WCPFC and IATTC - presented by Ren-Fen Wu
5. Presentation 5 - Review of the ISC Catch Tables and Data Inventory - presented by Izumi Yamasaki
6. Presentation 6 - Status of ISC Database Server - presented by Yumi Okochi

**Attachment 4**

**2014 Data Submission Report Card for ISC Members**

<b>Member</b>	<b>CAT Ic</b>	<b>CAT Ie</b>	<b>CAT II</b>	<b>CAT III</b>
<b>CAN</b>				
<b>CHN</b>				
<b>JPN</b>	NK, MAK, SWO, MLS			<b>LP</b>
<b>KOR</b>				
<b>MEX</b>				
<b>TWN</b>				
<b>USA</b>	<b>PS</b>	<b>MIS, RG</b>		
	<b>On Time and Complete</b>			
	<b>On Time but Incomplete and/or not in ISC format</b>			
	<b>Submitted Late but Complete</b>			
	<b>Submitted Late and Incomplete and/or not in ISC format</b>			
	<b>Not Provided</b>			