

Annex 6**REPORT OF THE STATISTICS WORKING GROUP STEERING
MEETING 2015**

*International Scientific Committee for Tuna-like species
In the North Pacific Ocean*

9-10 February 2015
Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.

1.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING

The STATWG conducted its intercessional meeting since the 2014 ISC Plenary in Taipei, Taiwan. The Chair of the STATWG convened the 5th STATWG steering group meeting from February 9-10 2015 at the Campus Center of University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, US. The participants included the Chair of ISC, Dr. Gerard DiNardo, the chair and co-chair of STATWG, Mr. Ren-Fen Wu and Mr. Darryl Tagami, and Data Administrator of ISC, Dr. Izumi Yamasaki. The group reviewed the work plan proposed by STATWG at the ISC14 Plenary meeting to determine the status of each assignment, and to update them as necessary.

2.0 AGENDA OF THE MEETING

A draft agenda circulated to the participants prior to the meeting (Attachment 2).

3.0 REVIEW OF THE ARCHIVING OF STOCK ASSESSMENT FILE

The data administrator (DA) reported the Pacific bluefin tuna and albacore stock assessment files had been archived last year, but she had not received any stock assessment files for archival from Billfish and Shark working groups. The group noted that this issue had been discussed in 2013 STATWG meeting, the stock assessment file archiving procedure proposed by STATWG had been approved by the Plenary, and it was recommended that DA send a notification to the chairs of Billfish and Shark working groups to submit their stock assessment files for archiving.

**4.0 REVIEW OF THE ISC DATA INVENTORY TO BE PUBLISHED ON THE
WEBSITE**

DA reported the tables of ISC data inventory needed some minor revisions of the titles before publishing on the ISC website. The group recommended DA forward the data inventory tables to ISC Chair for further review, and publish the tables on the website after they are reviewed by the ISC chair.

5.0 REVIEW OF ISC DATA SUBMISSION MANUAL

The group noted that no revisions were made on the data submission system last year, but there were some errors in the manual that needed to be corrected. Mr. Tagami was assigned to assist DA with finishing the work by the end of April, and DA will disseminate the manual to the Data Correspondents of member countries in May.

**6.0 COMPARISON OF DATA SUBMISSION FORMATS AMONG ISC, WCPFC
AND IATTC**

The chair of STATWG reported the preliminary results on the comparison of the data submission format among ISC, WCPFC and IATTC. The group noted that ISC and IATTC require all vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species, and WCPFC only require 4 fisheries; number of key shark species listed are 11 for ISC, 7 for WCPFC and 5 for IATTC; only ISC requires that gender information be provided in size composition data. The group recognized that the gender information in size composition is critical for billfish stock assessment which was identified in Fifth International Billfish Symposium, and ISC should not change its data policy on collecting gender information. The group recommended STATWG Chair include this issue in the next STATWG meeting for further discussion.

7.0 REQUESTING FISHERY DATA FROM WCPFC AND IATTC

The Chair of STATWG reported progress on the requesting of fishery data from RFMOs. The group noted that IATTC has provided all fishery data to WCPFC annually under the bilateral data exchange MoU, and ISC can request the data from WCPFC with a formal letter. The group considered sending a formal letters for requesting the North Pacific fishery data of WCPFC and IATTC.

8.0 ISC WEBSITE

ISC Chair suggested that adding scrolling text boxes in the ISC website to reveal the latest research information on the ISC species of interest. The group recommended the Webmaster contact Chairs of working groups for obtaining the relevant research information to publish on the ISC website.

9.0 PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA DATA COLLECTION AND US SPORT FISHERY

The group noted that the PBF catch of US sport fishery increased significantly in recent years, and recommended that US prepare a report on the PBF fishery and its data collection for the upcoming PBF working group meeting.

10.0 NEXT MEETING

Since the office of NOAA Fisheries PIFSC moved to Ford Island in 2014, it has become difficult to provide access for group members who are non-US citizens. The group recommended the next STATWG Steering Group meeting will be held in Taipei in early 2016.

11.0 ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 on 10 February 2015.

ATTACHMENT 1

List of Participants

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ATTACHMENT 2

***STATISTICS WORKING GROUP (STATWG) STEERING MEETING
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE
SPECIES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN
INTERSESSIONAL WORKSHOP***

9-10 February 2015

The Campus Center of University of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii, United States of America

1. Review of the Work Plan
2. Review of the archiving of stock assessment files
3. Review of the data inventory publishing on the ISC website
4. Revision of ISC data submission manual
5. Comparison of data submission formats among ISC, WCPFC and IATTC
6. Data acquisition progress
7. Agenda of next STATWG meeting