

Annex 6**REPORT OF THE STATISTICS WORKING GROUP
INTERSESSIONAL WORKSHOP**

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

18-20 January 2017
La Jolla, USA

1. OPENING AND INTRODUCTION**1.1 Welcome and Introduction**

The STATWG Steering Group conducted one intercessional meeting since the 2016 ISC Plenary in Sapporo, Japan. The STATWG Chair convened the 6th STATWG Steering Group Meeting from 18-20 January 2017, at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, California, USA. The participants included the ISC Chair, Dr. Gerard DiNardo, STATWG Chair and Co-chair, Mr. Ren-Fen Wu and Mr. Darryl Tagami, ISC Data Administrator, Dr. Izumi Yamasaki, Shark WG Chair, Dr. Suzanne Kohin, and the US Data Correspondent, Mr. John Childers. Before processing meeting matters, Mr. John Childers welcomed participants and provided an overview of meeting logistics.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the STAWG Steering Group meeting was considered and adopted (Attachment 1).

1.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs

John Childers (USA) and Darryl Tagami (USA) were appointed as rapporteurs.

1.4 Personnel Change

The Group welcomed John Childers as a new member of STATWG Steering Group to facilitate STATWG measures. Data Administrator (DA), Dr. Izumi Yamasaki, informed the group that she will be moving from the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSFS) to the Fisheries Agency of Japan on 1 April 2017. Members expressed their sincere blessing to Dr. Yamasaki for the new career, and requested that NRIFSFS appoint a new DA as soon as possible. The Group also noted that the STATWG chair and co-chair terms will expire this year and a new election will be conducted this July. The ISC Chair reminded the Group to contact potential ISC candidates for the STATWG Chair to aid in a smooth transition.

2. REVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN

The Group reviewed the work plan proposed by the STATWG at the ISC16 Plenary meeting to determine the status of each assignment, and update them as necessary. The status of the work plan items reviewed was as follows:

1. Prior to the meeting, the DA distributed ISC data inventory for Cat I, II, and III to ISC Data Correspondents and species WG Chairs, and had published the data inventory on the ISC website according to the time frame set by STATWG.
2. The DA did not receive any responses from Data Correspondents regarding the data discrepancies identified in the comparison report. The DA recommended that the Group to consider discussing this issue in the upcoming STATWG meeting this July.
3. The stock assessment files from 2013-2015 had been received from species WG Chairs and archived. Species Working Group Chairs can access stock assessment files from the archive.
4. Since the metadata had not been revised for two years, the DA recommended the Group include updating metadata into the STATWG meeting agenda this July for a periodic review.
5. Modifications to the ISC online data submission system had been completed to accommodate data with two decimal places. The User's Manual update is in process, and the DA will forward the revised version to the STATWG Co-chair and US Data Correspondent to review. The manual will be distributed to Data Correspondents and upload on the ISC research website by 1 May 2017.

3. PUBLIC DOMAIN DATA

The Group noted that ISC only makes Cat I (annual catch by species, by country, and by fishery) public, while Cat II and III data are not publically accessible. Since other RFMOs like IATTC, IOTC, and ICCAT have already published aggregated catch and effort data by fishery and size measurement by species, the Group recommended that the ISC consider publishing 5x5 aggregated Cat II and Cat III data to improve the transparency of ISC's data sharing policy. This issue will be tabled and discussed in the STATWG meeting, then submitted to the Plenary for approval this July.

4. REVIEW OF ISC DATABASE ISSUES

The Group reviewed and made recommendations on ISC database issues raised in the 2016 STATWG meeting. The summary and recommendation of each issue discussed are listed as follows:

1. The Group noted that the ISC data submission rule requests that Cat III weight data be submitted in kg. If the Cat III data is collected in lb, the Group recommended that the Data Correspondent of the ISC member convert the weight from lb to kg prior to submission. There is no need to amend the data online submission system to accommodate values over 999.

2. The Group recommended that the ocean and quadrant information of Cat II & Cat III data be omitted for these data with precise latitudinal (in N/S) and longitudinal (in E/W) grid information.
3. The Group recommended that the STATWG meeting in July discuss Cat III data in number of fish or frequency, and the omission of code 4 for immature in the sex codes.
4. The Group discussed adding an explanation of rounding codes and accepted one proposed by the STATWG Chair. They recommended the DA add it to the user manual.
5. The Group considered the time constraint to amend the data online submission system this year, and noted that there is no urgent need to change the convention of Cat I for “positive value but unknown.”

5. DESIGN OF QUESTIONNAIRE ON SHARK CATCH DATA COLLECTION OF MEMBERS

To facilitate SHARKWG stock assessments, the STATWG Chair initiated a survey on fishery data collection for shark species. The Group invited the SHARKWG Chair to discuss this issue and recommended the STATWG and SHARKWG Chairs work together to develop a questionnaire for further understanding of the members’ statistics system on shark catch.

6. STATWG WEBPAGE

The Group discussed the update of the STATWG webpage and suggested including titles of content. The titles of content would include general information about the history and terms of reference of the STATWG; the STATWG organizational structure; data reporting regulations; the relationship with species WG Chairs; public domain data and data access rules; recent activities; STATWG reports; and other RFMOs’ website linkage, like WCPFC and IATTC. The STATWG Chair will draft an updated webpage and the Co-Chair will assist reviewing the draft. The draft will then be tabled in the STATWG meeting for approval. The Group recommended that the ISC Chair send requests to WCPFC and IATTC for permission to include their website linkages.

7. NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING

The Group recommended a webinar in May, if needed, and a one day preparatory meeting prior to the STATWG meeting in July.

ANNEX 1: AGENDA

Steering Group

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

18-20 January 2017, San Diego, California, USA

1. Review of the 2016-2017 Work Plan
2. ISC Database Issues (see attachment)
3. Resolving member issues with online submission of data, and updating the User's Manual
4. Shark catch data collection system report format
5. Resolving discrepancies between catches in the National Reports of members and the ISC database
6. Generating the new 2017 metadata report for members to update
7. Review of the current ISC website and recommendations
8. Agenda of next STATWG meeting

ANNEX 2: PARTICIPANT LIST**Japan**

Izumi Yamasaki
National Research Inst. of Far Seas Fisheries
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu
Shizuoka, 424-8633 Japan
izyam@affrc.go.jp

Republic of China

Ren-Fen Wu
Overseas Fisheries Development Council
3F. No. 14, Wenzhou St. Da'an Dist.
Taipei, 106 Taiwan
fan@ofdc.org.tw

USA

John Childers
NOAA NMFS/SWFSC
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California 92037 USA
John.Childers@noaa.gov

Suzanne Kohin
NOAA NMFS/SWFSC
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California 92037 USA
Suzanne.Kohin@noaa.gov

Gerard DiNardo
NOAA NMFS/SWFSC
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California 92037 USA
Gerard.DiNardo@noaa.gov

Darryl Tagami
NOAA NMFS PIFSC
1845 Wasp Boulevard. Bldg. #176
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818 USA
Darryl.Tagami@noaa.gov