

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, 2015
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, U.S.A.

1.0 Welcome and Introduction

A two-day meeting of the Statistics Working Group (STATWG) was held on July 9-10 in Kona, Hawaii, U.S.A. in conjunction with the 15th Meeting of the ISC Plenary.

Ren-Fen Wu, ISC STATWG Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed 14 participants from Canada, Chinese-Taipei, Japan, Korea, U.S.A., and WCPFC (Attachment 1). Gerard DiNardo, ISC Chairman, and Sarah Shoffler, Office of the ISC Chair, 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 4 Working Papers were distributed electronically, and reviewed at the meeting (Attachment 3). Five presentations were also made by members.

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 – Youjung Kwon and Hee-Won Park
Mexico – Michel Dreyfus and Luis Fleischer (not present)
U.S.A. – John Childers
IATTC – Nick Vogel (not present)
WCPFC – Peter Williams (not present)

5.1 STATWG Inter-sessional Activities

5.2 Information Paper 1: Report on the STATWG Intercessional Meeting (ISC15/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:

- February 9-11, 2015 - STATWG Steering Group meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

6.1 Status of STATWG 2014 Work Plan

6.2 Information Paper 2: Status of STATWG Work Plan presented (ISC15/STATWG/INFO-2) by Ren-Fen Wu

The STATWG chair reviewed the 2014 STATWG Work Plan proposed at ISC14 Plenary. It was reported that 9 of 10 items of the work plan were completed successfully in the past year; 1 item regarding the requesting of CAT I, II, and III data from the WCPFC and IATTC was only partially completed.

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 Memoranda can be found in the ISC Operations Manual. It was recommended that the ISC Chair communicate with the heads of the WCPFC and IATTC in order to facilitate data sharing between organizations.

7.0 Data Revision Reports from Members

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 Working Paper ISC14/STATWG/WP-1. These requirements include the Data Correspondent submitting a Data Revision Report to the STATWG that provides detailed documentation of the data revision, justification for the data revision, and comparisons of the original and revised values, as well as relevant data tables, charts/graphs, and distribution maps. The group decided that a Data Revision Report would not be required 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, a Data Revision Report would not be required 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%.

Data Revision Reports from Taiwan, U.S.A. and Japan were presented in the following working papers:

7.1 Working Paper 2: Data Revision Report (ISC15/STATWG/WP-2) presented by Wei-Jen Wang

7.2 Working Paper 3: Data Revision Report (ISC15/STATWG/WP-3) presented by John Childers

7.3 Working Paper 4: Data Revision Report (ISC15/STATWG/WP-4) presented by Koji Uosaki and Kazuhiro Ohshima

Taiwan proposed revisions for swordfish catch from their small scale tuna longline fishery from 2000 to 2002 due to the inclusion of data from the foreign-based fleet. The U.S. revised the Pacific bluefin tuna catches from their recreational fishery from 1993-2014 due to improved estimation methods for mean weight. Japan proposed revisions to CAT Ic (pole-and-line, drift gillnet and longline), CAT Ie (purse seine), and CAT II (longline and purse seine) data submissions. The group reviewed the Data Revision Reports and presentations from the Members and accepted the data revisions.

Korea presented an oral Data Revision Report on Pacific bluefin tuna catches from their offshore trawl (2005-2013) and set net (2013) fisheries, and distant water purse seine effort (2008-2014). The group accepted these data revisions.

The group accepted the data revisions as the best available fisheries data from those Members, and accept the data revisions as the official fisheries records for those Members.

8.0 Member Data Collection Systems

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

Korea

- Korea reported that since 2005 port samplers have been collecting landings data from sales records from their offshore trawl and offshore large purse seine fisheries. Length measurements were also collected from their offshore large purse seine fishery.

No other Member provided any updates their data collection systems or port sampling programs.

9.1 Member Issues with Online Data Submission

9.2 Common Data Issues for ISC Data Correspondents - presentation by John Childers

It was noted at ISC14 that some Members experienced issues with the 2014 online data submission to the ISC database. This presentation addresses these issues in detail, including issues with the data codes, blank values restricting data loading, the number of key codes needed to identify unique rows, unintentional overwriting of records, and issues with the database structure. This presentation also presented suggestions for improvements with ISC data management and improvements for the ISC STATWG web page.

The group recognized the validity of these issues but was uncertain about the costs of implementing the required changes and the benefits derived. It was agreed that a cost-benefit analysis should be conducted and that the DA would solicit proposed changes from WG members by September 30, 2015.

10.1 Comparison of data provision formats among ISC, WCPFC and IATTC

10.1 Working Paper 1: (ISC15/STATWG/WP-1) presented by Ren-Fen

It has been 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 among the RFMOs. The STATWG Chair investigated the data requirements of each RMFO in order to harmonize the data codes and data formatting used among the RFMOs wherever possible. He presented a comprehensive comparison of the data provision formats and requirements among the ISC, WCPFC, and IATTC for Category I catch, Category I effort, Category II (aggregated catch and effort), and Category III (size composition) data submissions. Similarities, differences and inconsistencies were noted.

The group concluded that harmonization among the RFMOs was not a simple issue, and would require further investigation and deliberation.

11.0 Performance of Member Countries

11.1 A comparison between 2015 data submission and historical data

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) which was distributed to the Data Correspondents in September, 2014. The DA updated the data comparison between the 2014 data resubmission and the historical data in the ISC database for the STATWG meeting in July, 2015.

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.

11.2 Submission of 2014 Data - Presentation by Izumi Yamasaki

The STATWG chair reviewed the submission of 2014 data by Member countries by July1, 2015 for Category Ic, Ie, II, and III.

It was noted that Korea provide catch data (CAT Ic) for set net and trawl fishery in 2015 for the first time.

Country	CAT	Gear														
		FPN	GN	GND	HAR	LH	LLD	LP	LTR	LX	MIS	NK	PS	RG	TX	
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*

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
TX	Trawl	Trawl (not specified)

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

** IATTC code.

11.3 Member Report Card - Presentation by Izumi Yamasaki and Ren-Fen Wu

The STATWG chair presented the 2015 report card for Members (see Attachment 4) based on submission of 2014 data by the July 1, 2015 deadline. Timeliness grades were assigned for Category Ic, 1e, II, and III; and completeness grades were assigned for all required fisheries.

- Canada, Chinese-Taipei, and Korea submitted all 2014 data on time and were complete for all fisheries
- Mexico submitted Category I catch data for 2014 late and incomplete
- China did not submit any Category I, II, and III data for 2014

12.0 Review of the ISC Catch Tables and Data Inventory - presentation by Izumi Yamasaki

The DA presented catch tables (Attachment 5) 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 catch tables were reviewed in the STATWG meeting, and the Member Data Correspondents approved the contents of the catch tables.

From 2015 and thereafter, the ISC species catch tables will be updated by the DA from the ISC database, reviewed by the STATWG, and approved by the Member Data Correspondents. This will ensure that the ISC catch tables are the same as the national data submissions to the ISC database and the national catch tables in the Member's national reports. The DA will then provide the approved catch tables to the ISC Office of the Chair for inclusion in the ISC Plenary Report and to serve as the official ISC catch tables.

13.0 Improvements of the ISC website - presentation by Ren-Fen Wu

The STATWG Chair delivered a presentation from ISC Webmaster, Yumi Okochi, on improvements of the ISC website since ISC14. These include regular and timely updates for meeting schedules, meeting documents, working group papers, figures for annual catches by country and gear, and downloading of public domain data.

A new feature provided was the publishing of the ISC data inventories for CAT I, II, and III. The ISC home page also has dedicated space for promoting new or ongoing ISC Working Group research, as well as recent publications. The Chairs of the species Working Groups were encouraged to take advantage of this web space.

14.0 Species Working Groups' Needs

The chairs of the species Working Groups for Albacore, Billfish, Pacific Bluefin, and Sharks are provided with an opportunity to present their data needs and concerns to the STATWG. Only the chairs of the Albacore and Shark Working Groups were present in this meeting. Their needs are presented in the following list:

- Obtaining CAT I, II, and III data from China annually, with improved documentation
- Clarification and validation of data from RFMOs, particularly albacore catches in the NPO by Vanuatu from the IATTC, albacore catches in the NPO by China from the WCPFC, and shark data from WCPFC
- Sex specific size composition data for ISC species of interest

- Improved submission of Member shark data (catches and discards) by species and unspecified shark categories (including historical data)
- Requesting shark data from the IATTC

15.0 Other Matters

15.1 Status of ISC Database Server - Presentation by Ren-Fen Wu

The STATWG Chair reported for the Webmaster that the free web server service for the ISC website will be terminated by the end of November, 2015, and that the ISC website will be moved to a private web server, and the website domain will be changed. The Webmaster will keep us informed on the server situation.

16.0 Conclusions, Future Work Plan, and Recommendations to Plenary

16.1 Future Work Plan

1. DA will distribute the ISC data inventory for CAT I, II, and III to ISC Data Correspondents for review by August 1, 2015. DA will then distribute the ISC data inventory to Chairs of the species Working Groups by September 1, and publish on the ISC website by September 30, 2015.
2. 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, 2015. Data Correspondents will provide appropriate explanations for any discrepancy identified in the DA's comparison report by November 1, 2015.
3. Chairs of species Working Groups will submit stock assessment files from 2013-2015 assessments which have not yet been archived to the DA by November 1, 2015. DA will archive the stock assessment files according to the procedures documented in ISC13-STATWG-WP1.
4. Data Correspondents of Members will provide their recommendations and revisions for the ISC online data submission system and User's Manual by September 30, 2015. These revisions will be prioritized by the STATWG Steering Group and the DA will distribute a proposal of revisions to the Data Correspondents for review by October 31, 2015. DA will request any necessary ISC database modifications to the database contractor by November, 2015. DA will revise and update the User's Manual, including the data codes, and distribute to the Data Correspondents by March 31, 2016.
5. 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 31 annually to identify overlaps and gaps in the data holdings of the RFMOs.
6. STATWG Steering Group will meet in January, 2016 in Taipei, Taiwan.

16.2 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 2015. It is recommended that the ISC Chair follow-up with China on its data submission obligations.
3. In order to improve data sharing between the ISC and the WCPFC and IATTC, it is recommended that the ISC Chair communicate with the heads of these RFMOs.
4. STATWG requests the scheduling of a 2-day meeting prior to the ISC16 Plenary.

17.0 Adjournment

The next STATWG meeting is planned to be held prior to ISC16 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 recognized the efforts and contributions of the ISC Database Administrator, Izumi Yamasaki, and the ISC Webmaster Yumi Okochi. The STATWG collectively thanked the hosts (U.S.A.) for their hospitality and overall support for the meeting.

The meeting of the ISC STATWG was adjourned at 12:55 pm on July 10, 2015.

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Attachment 2

AGENDA

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

Ocean Statistics Working Group

Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay, Keauhou III

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, U.S.A.

9-10 July 2015

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Appointment of Rapporteurs
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Tabling of Documents
5. STATWG Inter-sessional Activities
6. Status of 2014 STATWG Work Plan
7. Data Revision Reports of Members
8. Member Data Collection System
9. Member Issues with ISC Online Data Submission
10. Comparison of Data Provision Formats among ISC, WCPFC, and IATTC
11. Performance of Member Countries
 - i. Comparison between 2013 data submission and historical data
 - ii. Data submission in 2015
 - iii. Report card for Members
12. Review of the ISC catch tables and data inventory
13. Improvements of the ISC website
14. Species Working Groups' Needs

ALB WG

BILL WG

PBF WG

SHARK WG

15. Other Matters

16. Conclusions, Future Work Plan, and Recommendations to Plenary

17. Adjournment

Attachment 3

List of Papers and Presentations

INFORMATION PAPERS

1. ISC15/STATWG/INFO-1: Report on STATWG Intercessional Meeting - presented by Ren-Fen Wu
2. ISC15/STATWG/INFO-2: Status of 2014 STATWG Work Plan - presented by Ren-Fen Wu

WORKING PAPERS

1. ISC15/STATWG/WP-1: Comparison of data provision formats among ISC, WCPFC and IATTC - presented by Ren-Fen Wu
2. ISC15/STATWG/WP-2: The revision of swordfish catch for Taiwanese small scale tuna longline fishery in the North Pacific Ocean from 2000 to 2002 presented by Wei-Jen Wang
3. ISC15/STATWG/WP-3: Revision of estimates of catch in weight from the U.S. recreational fishery from 1993 to 2014 - presented by John Childers
4. ISC15/STATWG/WP-4: Data revision report of Japan as of 2015 - presented by Koji Uosaki and Kazuhiro Ohshima

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation 1 – Common Data Issues for ISC Data Correspondents – presented by John Childers
2. Presentation 2 – Member Submission of 2014 Data - presented by Izumi Yamasaki
3. Presentation 3 – Member 2015 Report Card - presented by Izumi Yamasaki and Ren-Fen Wu
4. Presentation 4 – Improvements of the ISC Website - presented by Ren-Fen Wu for Yumi Okochi
5. Presentation 5 – Review of the ISC Catch Tables and Data Inventory - presentation by Izumi Yamasaki

Attachment 4

2015 Data Submission Report Card for ISC Members

Member	CAT I c	CAT I e	CAT I I	CAT I I I
CAN	Green	Green	Green	Green
CHN	Red	Red	Red	Red
JPN	Green	Green	Green	Green
KOR	Green	Green	Green	Green
MEX	Blue	Red	Red	Red
TWN	Green	Green	Green	Green
USA	Green	Green	Green	Green

Green	On Time and Complete
Yellow	On Time but Incomplete and/or not in ISC format
Grey	Submitted Late but Complete
Blue	Submitted Late and Incomplete and/or not in ISC format
Red	Not Provided

Attachment 5

2015 ISC Catch Tables