

FINAL

ISC/19/ANNEX/13



ANNEX 13

*19th Meeting of the
International Scientific Committee for Tuna
and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
Taipei, Taiwan
July 11-15, 2019*

REPORT OF THE STATWG WORKSHOP

July 2019

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*Annex 13***REPORT OF THE STATISTICS WORKING GROUP***International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like
Species in the North Pacific Ocean*

July 9, 2019

Taipei, Taiwan

1.0 Opening of meeting

The Statistics Working Group (STATWG) meeting was held July 9, 2019 in Taipei, Taiwan in conjunction with the 19th meeting of the ISC Plenary. The ISC Chair, John Holmes, acting as the STATWG Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed participants from Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, U.S.A., and the WCPFC (Attachment 1). Kirara Nishikawa continues to fulfill the roles of both the ISC Data Administrator (DA) and ISC Webmaster.

The agenda for the STATWG workshop was considered and adopted for the meeting (Attachment 2). A data revision working paper from Japan was reviewed at the meeting (Attachment 3).

2.0 Review of STATWG Status**2.1 Status of STATWG Workplan**

The DA reviewed the STATWG workplan for 2018-2019 adopted at ISC18 (Attachment 4) and commented on the status of each item. It was reported that four of the seven items of the work plan were completed in the past year. The items that were not completed include: (1) the publication of metadata on the ISC researcher's website, which is expected to occur by August 31, 2019; (2) a protocol to identify errors in submitted data in the ISC database for use by National Data Correspondents was not developed due to absence of an elected Chair of STATWG; and (3) a STATWG Steering Group meeting was not held because there was no urgent for a meeting was identified intersessionally.

The USA National Data Correspondent reported that he would like a new version of the data preparation manual to be drafted and circulated to the working group since several new corrections and edits were identified. He indicated that these corrections and edits will be submitted to the DA for consideration.

2.2 Report on ISC data systems

The DA noted that the server housing the ISC database scheduled to be closed down at the end of February 2021. A plan for moving the ISC database to a new server was discussed. The database is expected to be transferred to the new server by the end of March 2020, after which the old server will not be accessible, and will be shutdown permanently after ISC20. Once consequence of the move to a new server is that the ISC website domain will change. The DA will notify all National Data Correspondents and WG Data Managers with the new domain name when the change in servers occurs.

2.3 Report on ISC website

The DA (acting as the webmaster) reported three improvements to the ISC website and two improvements to the researchers' website.

- (1) The look of the Species WG webpages was simplified last year. The webmaster recommended a review of the text on these webpages, which was last updated in 2013, to ensure that it was relevant. Discussion focused on the general introductory text and it was recommended that it be replaced by simplified and standardized version that identifies when the species WG was established, and the years of the first and the latest stock assessment. STATWG members agreed with this proposal and recommended that the DA to distribute the webpages to the Chair of each species WG during the ISC19 Plenary meeting to confirm or propose amendments to the text, with the goal of updating Species WG webpages by ISC20;
- (2) The need to provide links to information on the MSE process for ALB and PBF on the species WG webpages was identified. The general format for this purpose was discussed, the work is included in the STATWG workplan for 2019-2020; and
- (3) The titles of many webpages of the species WG website were discussed and new titles, pictures and slideshows were suggested for clarity.

3.0 Review of Members Statistics

3.1 Submission Report Card

The DA reviewed 2018 data submissions for Category Ic, Ie, II, and III, by member country and by gear. Data submissions are due by June 1 annually, followed by metadata updates and submissions on July 1 annually. As in previous years, China did not submit data to the

ISC but its data can be obtained from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). All other member countries submitted their data by June 1, 2019. Some discrepancies were noted in the reported submissions of data by gear so the STATWG requested that the DA distribute the summary tables to each member for confirmation of the data they submitted prior to the end of the Plenary meeting.

Table 1. Report card of 2018 data by data category and by country.

Member	CAT Ic	CAT Ie	CAT II	CAT III
CAN				
CHN				
JPN				
KOR				
MEX				
TWN				
USA				

	On Time and Complete
	Submitted Late but Complete
	Not Provided
	On Time but Incomplete and/or not in ISC format
	Submitted Late and Incomplete and/or not in ISC format

Table 2. Status of 2018 data submission by data category, country and gear. (During review of this table, some discrepancies were identified. These discrepancies will be corrected by the end of ISC19 prior to publication of this report on the ISC website.

Submission of 2018 data (as of 2019/07/05)

Country	Category Gear												
	FPN	GN	GNDHAR	LH	LLD	LP	LTR	LX	MIS	NK	PS	RG	TX
CAN	1c						0						
	1e						0						
	2						0						
	3						0						
CHN	1c												
	1e												
	2												
	3												
JPN	1c	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		
	1e				0	0	0				0		
	2				0	0					0		
	3		0		0	0							
KOR	1c	0			0						0		0
	1e				0						0		
	2				0						0		
	3	0	0		0						0		
MEX	1c										0		
	1e										0		
	2										0		
	3										0		
TWN	1c	0	0	0	0				0	0			
	1e				0						0		
	2				0						0		
	3				0						0		
USA	1c		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	
	1e		0	0	0	0	0	0			0		
	2		0	0	0	0	0				0	0	
	3				0		0				0	0	

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.

Year	Country	Category	Gear																
			FPN	GN	GND	HAR	LH	LLD	LP	LTR	LX	MIS	NK	PS	RG	TX			
2016	CAN	3																	
2017	CAN	3																	
2018	CAN	3																	
2016	CHN	3																	
2017	CHN	3																	
2018	CHN	3																	
2016	JPN	3																	
2017	JPN	3																	
2018	JPN	3																	
2016	KOR	3																	
2017	KOR	3																	
2018	KOR	3																	
2016	MEX	3																	
2017	MEX	3																	
2018	MEX	3																	
2016	TWN	3																	
2017	TWN	3																	
2018	TWN	3																	
2016	USA	3																	
2017	USA	3																	
2018	USA	3																	

There was discussion of whether to expand ISC database to include incidental catch information of ecologically related species because Canada tried to submit incidental catches of Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and seabirds from 2018. STATWG members decided not to expand the database at this stage to include other incidentally caught species because they are beyond the ISC research domain of tuna and tuna-like species.

3.2 Metadata and Data Collection System

The DA reviewed metadata submissions by member countries. Currently Canada, Chinese Taipei, Korea and Japan have submitted their metadata. The USA will submit its metadata during ISC19 Plenary meeting. The metadata are scheduled to be published on August 1, 2019.

The contents of metadata table were reviewed during the meeting. Explanatory notes were requested to clarify the interpretation of some metadata. For example, it was noted that ranking of data quality was provided by reporting country, potentially using different

criteria, and therefore data quality is not a suitable way to compare data among member countries. STATWG members requested that the DA circulate the metadata table to National Data Correspondents for correction and confirmation prior to publishing the table on the ISC website.

3.3 Data Revisions

Japan described revisions to the historical catch time series (1994-2017) for both blue shark and shortfin mako shark (ISC19/STATWG/WP-01). The revisions were necessary because improved methods methodologies for estimating catches of sharks were developed. These methods and the resulting catches have been reviewed and approved by the Shark WG. It was observed and discussed that largest changes in catches of both shark species were in the offshore and distant water longline fisheries (LLD13). STATWG members suggested that Japan provide a table showing the percent changes, in addition to weight of changes, and Japan agreed to this suggestion. The STATWG recommends that the ISC19 Plenary approve the data revisions submitted by Japan.

3.4 Total Catch Tables

When developing total catch tables, the DA compares catches submitted annually by member countries to catches reported in their National reports to the ISC Plenary for a 5-year period ending in 2018. While most figures from the two sources are consistent with each other, several discrepancies were noted during the meeting. STATWG members requested that the DA distribute this table to National Data Correspondents for confirmation and explanation of the discrepancies before the end of ISC19 Plenary meeting as authoritative catch figures will be included in the ISC19 Plenary report.

4.0 Review of Issues Relating to Species Working Groups

4.1 Stock assessment report

The DA presented the status of submission of stock assessment data files that are due to be submitted by November 1 each year. These data files include input data, control files, dat files, etc. related various model runs completed for each species assessment. The group members discussed the accessibility of these data files on the ISC researchers website. The DA reported that currently only species working group chairs, members, and the DA have access to the respective species working group pages on the website. There was extended discussion on making these data available to external data requesters. A non-disclosure/confidentiality agreement is needed for sharing with parties external to the ISC as

some of the data held by WGs are confidential. The group agreed that a standard protocol needs to be established and this task was added to the STATWG 2019-2020 workplan.

This table shows the submission status of stock assessment files by the species working groups from 2014 to 2019.

	ALB	BILL			PBF	SHARK	
	ALB	BUM	MLS	SWO	PBF	BSH	SMA
2014							
2015							
2016							
2017							
2018							
2019							
	Stock assessment was done, and stock assessment files were submitted.						
	Stock assessment was done, but stock assessment files were not submitted.						
	Stock assessment was done, and stock assessment files are due by November 2019.						
	No stock assessment						

5.0 Other Statistics and Database Issues

A suggestion to create a temporal file-sharing space in ISC researchers’ website for species WG was proposed. Considering the need and convenience for WG to have a confidential file-sharing space for meeting participants, the STATWG agreed that creating a specific working and file-sharing space for each species WG was appropriate, with the following conditions: (1) files uploaded to the working space must be relevant to WG under Chair of WG’s decision; (2) Chair of WG needs to confirm annually that uploaded files are still necessary, and remove them when they are no longer required; and (3) the space will be accessible only to members of the WG.

6.0 Future Workplan and Recommendations

6.1 Function of STATWG and Future Workplan

STATWG members agreed there is a need for the STATWG with functions of (1) maintaining the ISC database and the quality of data submitted by members; (2) maintaining the proper function of ISC website; and (3) internal data sharing and developing protocols for answering external data requests. Although these functions were partially performed by the DA, the STATWG is responsible for overseeing these functions and providing a link to the ISC Plenary as well as recommending appropriate actions when needed, with collective efforts by all members and chairs of all species WGs.

STATWG members developed the following workplan for 2019-2020:

1. The DA will continue to distribute the ISC data inventory for Category I, II, and III to ISC Data Correspondents for review by September 30, 2019. The DA will then distribute the ISC data inventory to Chairs of the species Working Groups by October 15, and publish on the ISC website by October 31, 2019.
2. The DA will continue to archive stock assessment files from 2018-2019 ISC assessments which are required to be submitted by Chairs of species Working Groups by November 1, 2019.
3. The DA will continue to distribute Member's metadata by March 30, 2020. The Data Correspondents will review and update their metadata by July 1, 2020 prior to the ISC20 Plenary, and the metadata will be published on the ISC researcher's website by August 31, 2020.
4. The DA will oversee the transfer of the ISC database to a new server in Japan by March 2020. The Data Correspondent for each member country will check and confirm their data after the transfer is complete by July 1, 2020.
5. The DA will request any ISC database modifications recommended by the STATWG to the database contractor after the transfer to the new server by March 2020. These modifications include the implementation of controlled access space for the WGs to share files during their work processes. The DA will revise and update the User's Guide for Online Data Submission with the rules for using the controlled access space recommended by the STATWG and distribute to the Data Correspondents and Working Group Chairs by December 31, 2020. The DA will conduct training as necessary.
6. The DA and Chair of the STATWG will develop error checking protocols to be used to post-data submission by data correspondents to confirm the quality of the data in the

database. This protocol will be reviewed by the STATWG at ISC20.

7. The DA and the Chair of STATWG will annually review the responsibilities, duties and deliverables of the DA to ensure that they are accurate and practical, and revise them as necessary.
8. The STATWG Steering Group will hold an intersessional meeting or conference call/webinar January 2020 to conduct work for this work plan.
9. The Webmistress will add links to ALB and PBF MSE meeting documents through the Species pages
10. The DA's contact information will be added to the website for external parties to request stock assessment files. In addition, a form will be developed for these requests.
11. The STATWG Chair and Vice-Chair will develop a non-disclosure agreement for external file requests for review at the next STATWG meeting.

6.2 Recommendations to the Plenary

1. The STATWG recommends that the DA proactively move the ISC database to a new server as planned by March 2020 to ensure the security of those data and turn the old server off after ISC20.
2. The STATWG recommends approval of the data revisions to Blue Shark and Shortfin mako Shark catches presented by Japan. These revisions have been reviewed and approved by the SHARKWG.
3. The STATWG recommends that Species WG chairs review the Species pages and update information if necessary, that links to Albacore and Pacific Bluefin Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) meeting documents be added to their respective Species pages, and that some minor name changes to lower level pages in the Working Group tab.
4. The STATWG recommends that the ISC develop a protocol for sharing stock assessment files with external parties for the purpose of transparency. This protocol should include a non-disclosure agreement and rules governing the use of shared files.
5. The STATWG recommends that its next meeting be scheduled for 1.5 days in advance of the ISC20 Plenary.

7.0 Administrative matters

7.1 Update of organization chart

The organization chart of the STATWG (Attachment 5) was reviewed and one update was proposed for the WCPFC.

7.2 Adjournment

The next STATWG meeting is planned to be held prior to ISC20 for one and a half days in July 2020, at a time and place to be determined.

The meeting of the ISC STATWG was adjourned at 15:50 on July 9, 2019.

Attachment 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Canada

Zane Zhang
 Fisheries and Ocean Canada
 Pacific Biological Station
 3190 Hammond Bay Road
 Nanaimo, B.C. , Canada V9T 6N7
zane.zhang@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Chinese-Taipei

Weijen Wang
 Overseas Fisheries
 Development Council
 3F. No. 14, Wenzhou St. Da'an Dist.
 Taipei, 106 Taiwan
weijen@ofdc.org.tw

Hung-I Liu
 Overseas Fisheries
 Development Council
 3F. No. 14, Wenzhou St. Da'an Dist.
 Taipei, 106 Taiwan
luoe@ofdc.org.tw

Japan

Shuya Nakatsuka
 National Research Inst. of Far Seas Fisheries
 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu
 Shizuoka, 424-8633 Japan
snakatsuka@fra.affrc.go.jp

Hiromu Fukuda
 National Research Institute of Far Seas
 Fisheries
 5-7-1, Orido, Shimizu
 Shizuoka, 424-8633 Japan
fukudahiromu@affrc.go.jp

Ko Fujioka
 National Research Inst. of Far Seas Fisheries
 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu
 Shizuoka, 424-8633 Japan
fuji88@affrc.go.jp

Mikihiko Kai
 National Research Inst. of Far Seas
 Fisheries
 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu
 Shizuoka, 424-8633 Japan
kaim@affrc.go.jp

Kirara Nishikawa
 National Research Inst. of Far Seas Fisheries

Hiroaki Okamoto
 National Research Inst. of Far Seas Fisheries

5-7-1, Orido, Shimizu
Shizuoka, 424-8633 Japan
kiraranishi@fra.affrc.go.jp

5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu
Shizuoka, 424-8633 Japan
okamoto@affrc.go.jp

Koji Uosaki
National Research Inst. of Far Seas Fisheries
5-7-1, Orido, Shimizu
Shizuoka, 424-8633 Japan
uosaki@fra.affrc.go.jp

Hidetada Kiyofuji
National Research Inst. of Far Seas Fisheries
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu
Shizuoka, 424-8633 Japan
hkiyofuji@affrc.go.jp

Hiroataka Ijima
National Research Inst. of Far Seas Fisheries
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu
Shizuoka, 424-8633 Japan
ijima@affrc.go.jp

Akiko Aoki
National Research Inst. of Far Seas Fisheries
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu
Shizuoka, 424-8633 Japan
akaok@affrc.go.jp

Republic of Korea

Doonam Kim
National Institute of Fisheries Science
216 Gijanghaean-ro, Gijang-Eup,
Gijang-gun, Busan 46083, Korea
doonam@korea.kr

Mi Kyung Lee
National Institute of Fisheries Science
216 Gijanghaeanro, Gijang-Eup,
Gijang-gun, Busan 46083, Korea
ccmkleee@korea.kr

Sung Il Lee
National Institute of Fisheries Science
216 Gijanghaeanro, Gijang-Eup,
Gijang-gun, Busan 46083, Korea
k.sungillee@gmail.com

Junghyun Lim
National Institute of Fisheries Science
216 Gijanghaeanro, Gijang-Eup,
Gijang-gun, Busan 46083, Korea
Jhlim1@korea.kr

United States of America

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

Russell Ito
NOAA NMFS PIFSC
1845 Wasp Boulevard, Bldg. #176
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96818 USA
russell.ito@noaa.gov

WCPFC

SungKwon Soh

P.O. Box 2356 Kolonia Pohnpei 96941

Federated States of Micronesia

Sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int

ISC Office of the Chair

John Holmes

ISC Chair

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Pacific Biological Station

3190 Hammond Bay Road

Nanaimo, B.C., Canada V9T 6N7

John.Holmes@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Shui-Kai (Eric) Chang

ISC Vice Chair

Institute of Marine Affairs

National Sun Yat-sen University

70 Lienhai Road, Kaohsiung 80424

Taiwan, R.O.C.

skchang@faculty.nsysu.edu.tw

Attachment 2

ISC19 STATWG AGENDA

1 Opening of meeting

- 1.1 Welcome
- 1.2 Adoption of agenda
- 1.3 Meeting arrangement

2 Review of STATWG works

- 2.1 Status of STATWG workplan (STATWG chair) – WP-01
- 2.2 Report on ISC data systems (DA)
 - 2.2.1 database sever transfer
 - 2.2.2 others
- 2.3 Report on ISC websites (webmaster)
 - 2.3.1 ISC webpages
 - 2.3.2 researcher's website
 - 2.3.3 species WG website

3 Review of members statistics

- 3.1 Submission condition (reporting card)
- 3.2 Metadata and data collection system (including e-reporting)
- 3.3 Data revision – WP-02
- 3.4 Total catch table (by species and by member)

4 Review of issues relating to species Working Groups

- 4.1 Stock assessment report

5 Other statistics and database issues

6 Future workplan and recommendations

- 6.1 Function of STATWG and Future workplan
- 6.2 Recommendations to the Plenary

7 Administrative matters

- 7.1 Update of organization chart
- 7.2 Others

8 Adjourn

Attachment 3

List of Papers

WORKING PAPERS

ISC18/STATWG/WP-1: Koji Uosaki and Mikihiko Kai. Data Revision Report of Japan as of 2019. National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Shizuoka, Japan, 6 p.

Attachment 4

2018-19 STATWG Work Plan

1. The DA will continue to distribute the ISC data inventory for Category I, II, and III to ISC Data Correspondents for review by September 30, 2018. The DA will then distribute the ISC data inventory to Chairs of the species Working Groups by October 15, and publish on the ISC website by October 31, 2018.
->**Complete**

2. The DA will continue to archive stock assessment files from 2017-2018 ISC assessments which are required to be submitted by Chairs of species Working Groups by November 1, 2018.
->**Complete**

3. The DA will continue to distribute Member's metadata by March 30, 2019. The Data Correspondents will review and update their metadata by July 1, 2019 prior to the ISC19 Plenary, and the metadata will be published on the ISC researcher's website by August 31, 2019.
->**Complete**

4. The DA will continue to request any necessary ISC database modifications recommended by the STATWG to the database contractor by November 1, 2018. The DA will revise and update the User's Guide for Online Data Submission accordingly, and distribute to the Data Correspondents by December 31, 2018. The DA will conduct training for Data Correspondents as necessary.
->**Complete (No change in user manual)**

5. The Chair of STATWG and the DA will jointly draft a report documenting the proposed data checking protocols in detail and with examples by December 31, 2018. This report will then be distributed to STATWG members for review and revision. This final report will be discussed and considered for approval in the STATWG meeting in 2019 prior to the ISC 19

Plenary.

->Not Complete, Pending

6. The DA and the Chair of STATWG will annually review the responsibilities, duties and deliverables of the DA to ensure that they are accurate and practical, and revise them as necessary.

->Pending Completion

7. The STATWG Steering Group will hold an intersessional meeting in January 29-30, 2019 in Shimizu, Japan to conduct work for this work plan.

->Not Complete

Attachment 5
STATWG Organization Chart as of July 9, 2019

Web Master	Data Administrator	STATWG
5. K. Nishikawa	5. K. Nishikawa	Chair – J. Holmes
		Vice-Chair – S.K. Chang
		1. Z. Zhang
		2. X. Dai
		3. W.-J. Wang
		4. M.-K. Lee
		4. S.-I. Lee
		5. H. Fukuda
		5. K. Uosaki
		6. M. Dreyfus
		7. J. Childers
		7. R. Ito
		9. P. Williams
		10. N. Vogel
		12. SK. Soh

Legend

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. Canada | 2. China |
| 3. Chinese-Taipei | 4. Korea |
| 5. Japan | 6. Mexico |
| 7. USA | 8. PICES |
| 9. SPC | 10. IATTC |
| 11. FAO | 12. WCPFC |