



منظمة الأغذية
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COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

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Report by IATTC

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Report to the 21st Meeting of the Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics

Copenhagen, 1-4 March 2005

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) is a member of CWP and is responsible for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like fisheries in the area east of 150°W and within the 40° latitudes in the Pacific Ocean. Membership in the Commission is open to coastal States and to States and fishing entities operating fisheries that capture tunas and tuna-like species in this region. Current membership includes Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Japan, France, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Spain, the United States, Vanuatu, and Venezuela. Cooperating Non-Parties or Cooperating Fishing Entities include: Canada, China, the European Union, Honduras, Korea and Chinese Taipei.

The IATTC was unable to participate in CWP-20. Since CWP-19, the IATTC has completed transition of its main data systems to SQL-based operation. This change has resulted in modifications to statistical data processing and trend reporting of interest to CWP.

One key advantage of the new system is the ability to readily integrate data from either scientific observer or logbook data into analyses, and the decision has been made that when observer data are available for a fishing trip, those data will be used in analyses. Logbook data will not be keyed for those trips, though it may continue to be abstracted. We note the experience that at the start of the observer program the logbook and observer data were independent reports of the same fishing events, but as regulations for tracking of fish were adopted, independence between these records has been lost.

The IATTC staff has recently reached two decisions on reporting of fisheries statistics which are of interest to CWP. First, we have adopted a consistent strata of 5° latitude by 5° longitude by month by flag for public domain data for purse seine, pole and line, and longline gear types that considers both the need to provide descriptive data for use by the general public, while at the same time recognizing the confidential nature of various fishing information. Access to data at other resolutions may be made available for scientific purposes on approval of the Director. Consideration may be given in the future to release of data to the public domain at other resolutions.

The second recent decision is to provide adjusted, or raised, catch and effort data at public domain resolution, as well as adjusted estimates of catch by flag by gear. Previously the catch and effort data for pole and line and for purse seine vessels was not raised, because coverage rates of catch in the fisheries of the EPO is generally above 95 percent for these vessels. In the case of catch by flag by gear, data from logbooks, observers and landings were used to compile the statistics. Henceforth, the data which will be provided will be adjusted to provide the best available scientific estimates using information from our port sampling and stock assessment analyses, and statistics provided will be consistent with the stock assessment modeling. Current and historical data will be made available in the new format.

The IATTC has entered into a FIRMS partnership agreement and has identified species and stocks on which it initially will report. Cooperative reporting arrangements have been reached with SPC for various species. Infrastructure (software and personnel) are now available to implement the information flows required under the agreement, as site support and input opportunity develop.

The IATTC is investigating compilation of a consolidated global vessel list for tuna fishing vessels in collaboration with other regional fisheries bodies concerned with fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species. The effort follows the discussion of the subject of vessel data exchange formats from the Intersessional Meeting of CWP Agencies, February, 2004: “It was noted that high seas vessel authorization records are now required following the entry into force of the FAO Compliance Agreement and these data are currently being updated in HSVAR in consultation with countries. HSVAR vessel identifiers will be utilized as the unique identifier for these vessels and for other vessels for which data are exchanged by regional fishery bodies. Standard vessel registry formats are being developed and are currently being discussed with national agencies and RFBs. The meeting recognized that this process should accelerate to enable the proper participation by all stakeholders.”

The IATTC continues to pursue harmonization of data collection standards for fisheries which capture tunas in the Pacific. In June 2003, the IATTC resolved that information from the fisheries must be supplied by member States and Cooperating Parties, and that “The technical aspects of the data to be supplied shall be established by the Director in collaboration with scientists of the members.” The resolution also noted the time schedule for provision of data on an annual basis to facilitate stock assessments. The technical aspects for provision include the detailed description of methods, as well as sample data, used to develop statistics provided by national programs (note in ref: CWP-20, Appendix 8, Para. 35).

The fisheries and stocks of concern to the IATTC often extend beyond the management boundaries identified as the EPO. Progress has been slowed in harmonizing standards across the Pacific basin by developments associated with the new management regime for international waters in the western Pacific, but some progress was made during recent discussions with SPC and FFA at the 6th Meeting of the Tuna Fishery Data Collection Committee, Brisbane, Australia, November, 2004. Further harmonization efforts are expected as the new commission in the western Pacific develops its working priorities.

Over the last several years the IATTC has significantly modified its document series reporting the status and trends in fisheries. It now includes a synopsis as the Fisheries Status Report (e.g. <http://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/FisheryStatusReport2.pdf>) designed to address the needs of the Commission, the general public and those looking for the principal information in synthesized format on which to base discussions of conservation and management requirements. Detailed information and presentation of scientific analyses is now presented separately in Stock Status Reports, which may also be found on line at the IATTC website.