Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Guidelines for the Voluntary Submission of Purse seine Processor data
by CCMs to the Commission

1. Purpose

Purse seine processor (cannery) data have been identified as a potentially important source of data to adequately verify the estimates of purse seine tuna species catch determined from observer data. While there is a requirement for 100% coverage of observers on purse seine vessels in the tropical WCPO purse seine fishery, species composition sampling is only currently possible to undertake on less than 0.2% of the catch to avoid disruptions to the fishing operation. The WCPFC Scientific Service Provider (SSP) would use these data as an invaluable means of verification of the estimates of purse seine tuna species composition obtained from the observer data in the future.

These guidelines acknowledge that processor (cannery) data have been submitted to the WCPFC by International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) participating companies since 2013 but that higher coverage of these data is required to be of use to the work of the Commission, specifically WCPFC Project 60.

2. Data requirements

To assist the scientific work of the Commission, specifically in verifying estimates of purse seine tuna species catch estimates, CCMs are requested to voluntarily submit purse seine processor (cannery) data compiled by companies operating in their country.

The processor (cannery) data represent the measured weights of commercial categories of tuna species and size classes, data which are linked to a specific purse seine trip. Table A1 below provides a list of the required fields, which are aligned to the standard used for submissions by the ISSF-affiliated companies.

3. Provision guidelines

The provision of processor (cannery) data by CCMs is to be done entirely at their own discretion, is not compulsory or binding in any form nor is it a requirement of the Commission.

It is acknowledged that CCMs understand the usefulness of processor (cannery) data to the scientific work of the Commission but will be required to liaise with their processor (cannery) companies regarding the release and compilation of these data for submission to the Commission, which may require establishing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) or similar agreements with the processor companies. In this respect, the WCPFC Secretariat, the WCPFC SSP and/or an agreed WCPFC Contractor will assist, to the extent possible, in establishing agreements required to maintain the security of these data.

CCMs should provide processor (cannery) data to the Commission and/or the WCPFC SSP, ideally on a quarterly basis.

The Commission cannot be held responsible should CCMs provide processor (cannery) data to any unapproved parties.

Any processor (cannery) data voluntarily provided by CCMs under this process should be clearly identified as being submitted under these guidelines.

4. Classification

All processor (cannery) data submitted by CCMs are consistent with "records of vessel unloading" and "raw data from catch documentation" which are considered non-public domain, as specified under the *Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission*.

The risk classification of processor (cannery) data submitted by CCMs is acknowledged to be medium-high and may need to be specifically included in Table 1 of the *Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission*.

5. Dissemination

Processor (cannery) data are anticipated to be used by the WCPFC SSP, although could be considered for release under agreed Commission work according to confidentiality rules as specified in the *Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission*, and according to any MOUs established with the sources of the processor (cannery) data (see Section 3 Provision guidelines).

6. Reporting

By the adoption of these Guidelines the Commission requests that the Secretariat provide, or arrange for the WCPFC SSP to provide, an annual report providing information on the provision and dissemination of processor (cannery) data submitted under these guidelines.

Table A1. List of minimum required fields for voluntary processor (cannery data) submissions of catch from purse seine vessels

Field no.	Data Field			Mandatory	Highly desirable
1	Country			Y	
2	Processor (cannery) company identifier (a distinct identifier which may be the name of the processor company, or an anonymous identifier, if deemed confidential)			Y	
	Carrier vessel information				
3	- Carrier vessel name			Y	
4	- Carrier vessel flag			Y	
5	- Carrier vessel IMO			Y	
6	- Carrier vessel Call sign			Y	
	Fishing vessel information				
7	- Fishing vessel name			Y	
8	- Fishing vessel flag			Y	
9	- Fishing vessel WCPFC Identification / IMO number			Y	
10	- Fishing vessel Call sign			Y	
11	- Fishing vessel gear type (PS)			Y	
12	Start of Unloading at processing plant				Y
13	End of Unloading at processing plant				Y
14	RFMO Area where catch taken (e.g. WCPFC Area)			Y	
15	Start date of fishing trip (departure from port of fishing vessel)			Y	
16	End date of fishing trip (return to port of fishing vessel)			Y	
17	Port of offloading or transshipment to Carrier vessel				Y
18	Coordinates of transshipment at sea (if relevant)				Y
19	Start date of transshipment from fishing vessel to carrier			Y	
20	End date of transshipment from fishing vessel to carrier			Y	
[Actual measured/weighed quantities (in kilograms, or metric tons to 3 decimal places) of catch received at processing plants in the commercial size categories outlined in **Table A2**]					
21	Species/size category weight unit (P = lbs/pounds or K = kilograms) – see Table A2			Y	
	Species	Size category No.			
22		1		Y	
23	SKIPJACK TUNA	2		Y	
24		3		Y	
25		4	Weight of catch received for each species/size category	Y	
26		1		Y	
27	YELLOWFIN TUNA	2	[kgs or metric tons to 3 decimal places]	Y	
28		3		Y	
29		4	See Table A2	Y	
30		5		Y	
31		1		Y	
32	BIGEYE TUNA	2		Y	
33		3		Y	
34		4		Y	
35		5		Y	
36	REJECTED TUNA, by SIZE CLASS and SPECIES, if possible			Y	

Table A2. Typical Cannery Data Size Categories

Size category Number	Commercial categories	Equivalent categories in KGs	Equivalent used on PS logbooks for YFT and BET
1	< 3lbs	(< 1.4 kgs)	SMALL < 20 lbs (~9 kgs)
2	3.0 - 4.0 lbs	(1.4- 1.8 kgs)	
3	4.0 -7.5 lbs	(1.8 – 3.4 kgs)	
4	7.5 - 20 lbs	(3.4 – 9.1 kgs)	
5	20 lbs up	(9 or 10 kgs up)	LARGE > 20 lbs (~9 kgs)

Footnote: the above are recommended size categories, other cannery size categories may be used