Scoping Study on Longline Effort Creep in the WCPO: Project 122

WCPFC-SC20-2024 / SA-WP-05

August 2024

Manila, Philippines

J. Day[1], P. Hamer[1]

1 Oceanic Fisheries Programme, the Pacific Community

Effort creep in longline fisheries

- Effort creep already introduced at this meeting (for purse seine and pole and line)
- Recommend comprehensive and detailed information paper by Simon Hoyle (SA-IP-19), covering effort creep in both purse seine and longline fisheries
- Evidence that effort creep has been occurring in longline fisheries
- Effort creep of 0% implausible
- Effort creep can be both positive and negative

Options for effort creep

- Include in CPUE standardisation, if possible – but can only incorporate some components of effort creep – vessel ID is preferable
- Use effort creep scenarios for other components, those not able to be included in CPUE
- Inclusion of effort creep over a long time series could have significant consequences for stock assessment modelling and results, possibly requiring structural changes to models

What do other tRFMOs do?

Ocean	Species	Year	LL	Vessel id	PS	PL
IOTC	YFT	2021	N	Y	3%	
	BET	2022	N	Y		
	SKJ	2023		Y	0%, 1.25%	0%, 1.25%
WCPO	SKJ	2022	N	N	N	N
	YFT	2023	N	N		
	BET	2023	N	N		
IATTC	YFT	2019		Y	Complicated	
	BET	2024	0%, 1%, 2%	Y		
ICCAT	YFT	2019	N	Y	N	
	BET	2018	N	Y	N	
CCSBT	SBT	2005-present	0.5%	N		

Recommendations

- SC20 is invited to note:
  - This project has not progressed to completion under the original TOR scope
  - Aspects of the original project scope were somewhat redundant - covered comprehensively in WCPFC-SC20-2024/SA-IP-19
  - Suggest no cost extension, for incomplete aspects of the current project (i.e. engagement with DWFN) and initiate collaboration on a broader inter-tRFMO project on challenges and solutions to improve reliability of CPUE indices for tuna assessments (a priority research area in the Tuna Assessment Research Plan) (TOR is provided for the no cost extension)
  - This project will include effort creep - more effective to consider effort creep as part of a broader project considering challenges associated with CPUE abundance indices for tuna