

# Standardized data submissions to improve efficiency of WCPFC data provisions

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- Data processing and preparation is one of the key bottlenecks for the SC and TCC preparations
- ‘Non-standard’ data submissions require significant time to interpret, format, process, and quality check – formats can and do change year-to-year
- Extensive processing can lead to errors – more human intervention
- This paper proposes several options to enhance standardization of key SciData submissions to accommodate CCMs
- The anticipated benefits:
  - More timely processing of data
  - Less time spent on data corrections
  - More time for data quality checks – and discussions with CCMs, as necessary
  - More time for the assessments, scientific analyses, and compliance reporting

# Proposals

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Electronic-reporting (ideal)

JSON standard with API (technical option)

CSV templates

- SSP is willing to support CCMs to prepare data from current structures into template formats
- Additional details on formats, reference tables, guidelines to continually be enhanced via the GitHub repo

## Data submissions impacted



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SCIENTIFIC DATA TO BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION<sup>1</sup>

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Annual catch estimates

Number of vessels

Aggregate catch and effort

Operational catch and effort

Size composition data

# GitHub Repo

<https://pacificcommunity.github.io/scidata-standard/>

○ WCPFC Area Data Submission formats

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## WCPFC Area Data Submission Formats

### Introduction

This repository supports ongoing efforts to **standardize fisheries data submissions** across the WCPFC convention area. The work builds on a draft paper prepared for the WCPFC Scientific Committee (2025) that addresses the structural and formatting challenges arising from non-standardized datasets.

The focus is on four key domains of data critical for regional science and management:

- **Annual Catch Estimates (ACE)** – national-level summaries of total catch, stratified by species, gear, and flag.
- **Number of vessels active** – static and dynamic vessel attributes, harmonized with the WCPFC Vessel Registry.
- **Aggregated data** – spatially and temporally aggregated catch and effort (e.g., 5°x5° by month) to complement operational submissions.
- **Operational longline data** – trip- and set-level catch and effort records, with standardized

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#### WCPFC Area Data Submission Formats

##### Introduction

1. Annual Catch Estimates
2. Number of vessels active
3. Aggregated Catch and Effort
  - 3.1. Purse Seine
  - 3.2. Longline
  - 3.3. Pole-and-Line
  - 3.4. Troll
4. Operational Data
  - 4.1. Longline Logbooks
  - 4.2. Purse Seine Logbooks
  - 4.3. Pole-and-Line Logbooks

# Longer-term vision

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Removing data exchange from email (security & organizational benefits)



Development of web-based data upload or entry options



Enhanced data quality/format checks on upload



Built-in data summaries/visualizations for data review

# SC21 and TCC21 discussions

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- Both SC21 and TCC21 noted that this approach is expected to improve the timeliness of data availability
- SC21 supported the development of a standardized data reporting mechanism by the SSP to enhance the efficiency of processing required data submissions under the SciData guidelines.
- TCC21 recommended that WCPFC22 standardize SciData submissions
- SC21 and TCC21 encouraged CCMs to work with the SSP on template development
- The SSP has incorporated all feedback received, updated the templates and GitHub repo with format and usage guidelines, where applicable, and reached out to members to offer support with implementation, if necessary.

# WCPFC22 invited to:

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- Adopt the proposed standardized data submission templates for SciData submissions