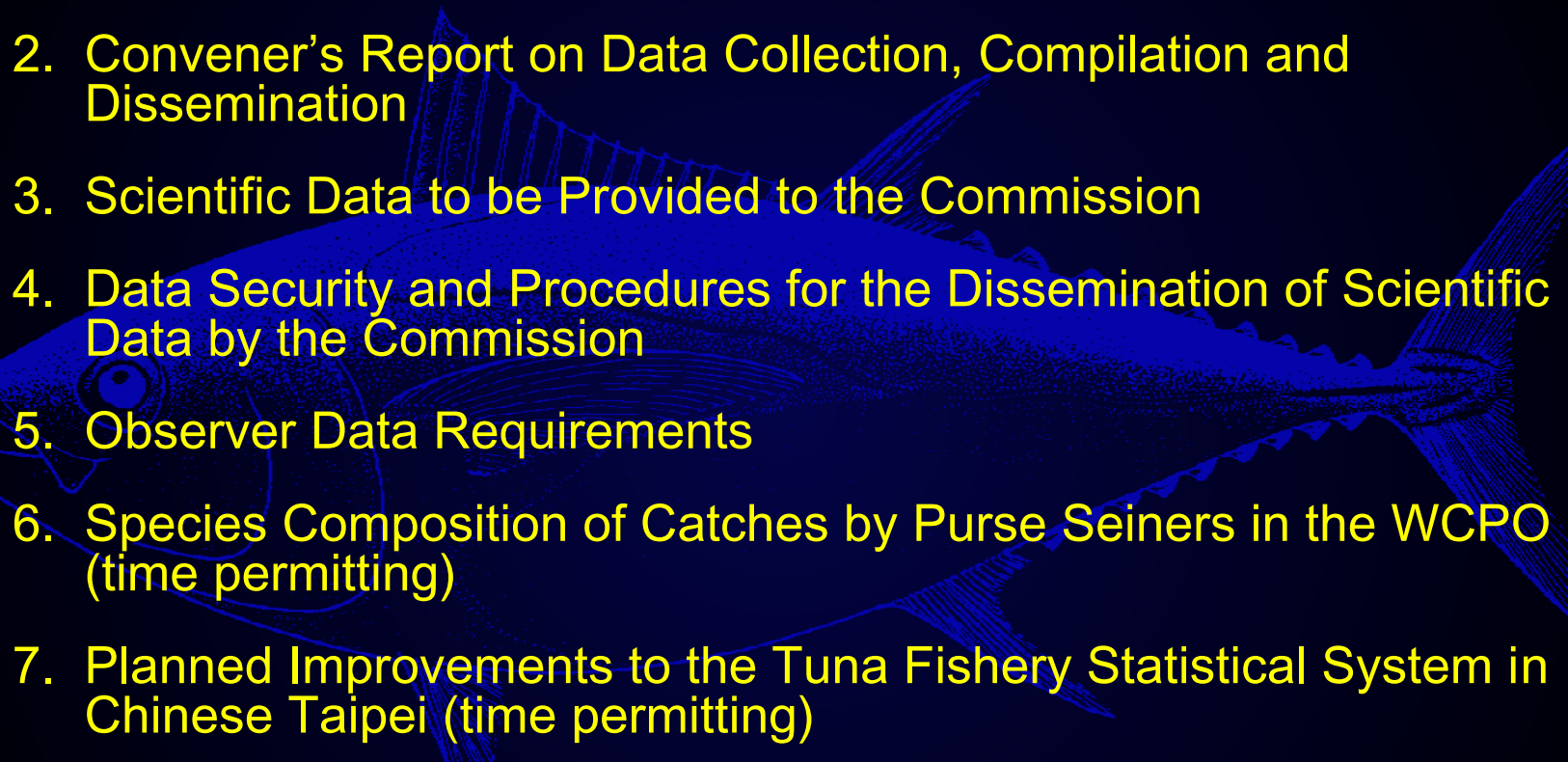


PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Preliminaries
 2. Convener's Report on Data Collection, Compilation and Dissemination
 3. Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission
 4. Data Security and Procedures for the Dissemination of Scientific Data by the Commission
 5. Observer Data Requirements
 6. Species Composition of Catches by Purse Seiners in the WCPO (time permitting)
 7. Planned Improvements to the Tuna Fishery Statistical System in Chinese Taipei (time permitting)
 8. Future work of the Statistics SWG
 9. Other Matters
 10. Adoption of the Report of the Statistics SWG
- 

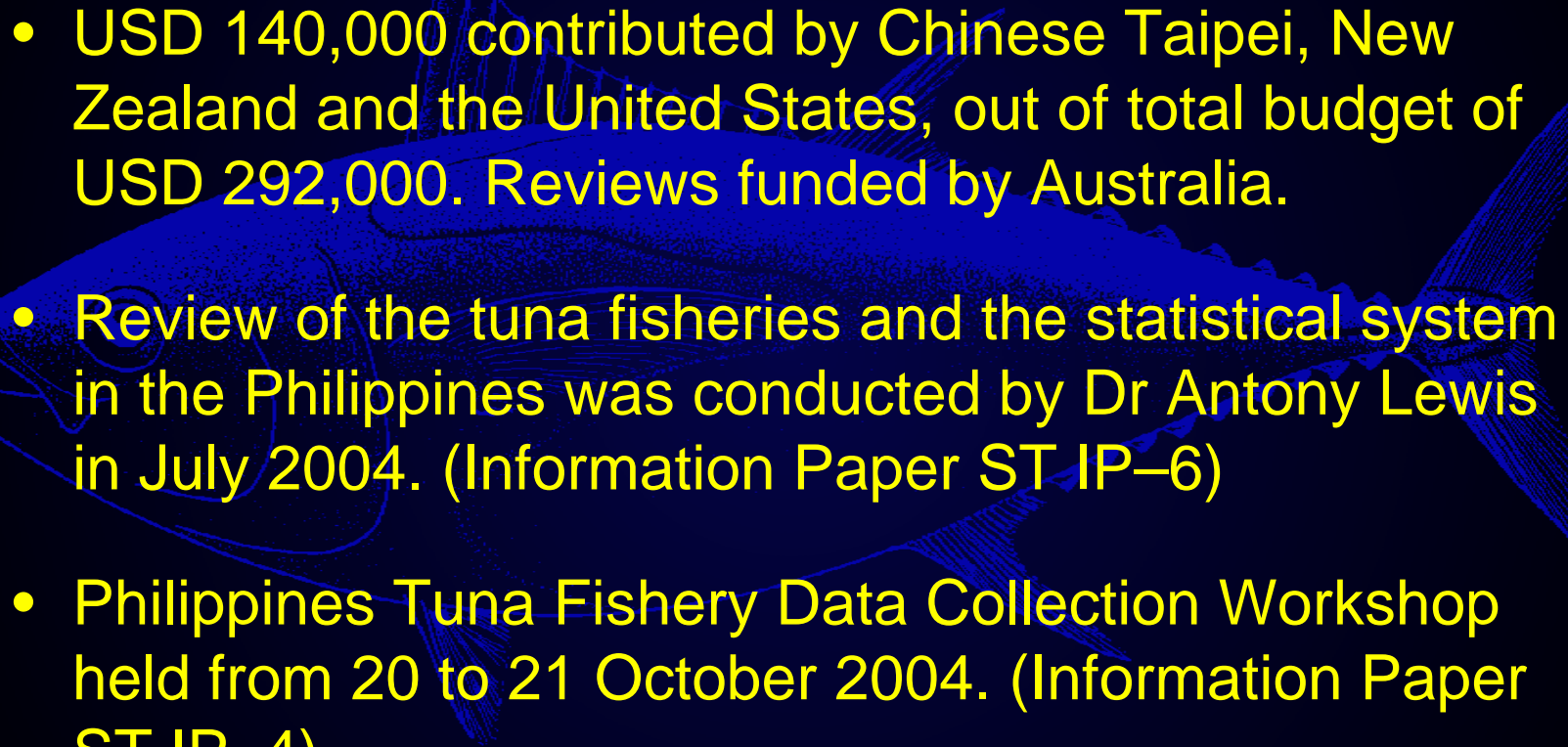


2. Convenor's Report on Data Collection, Compilation and Dissemination

Working Paper ST WP-1

Data Collection

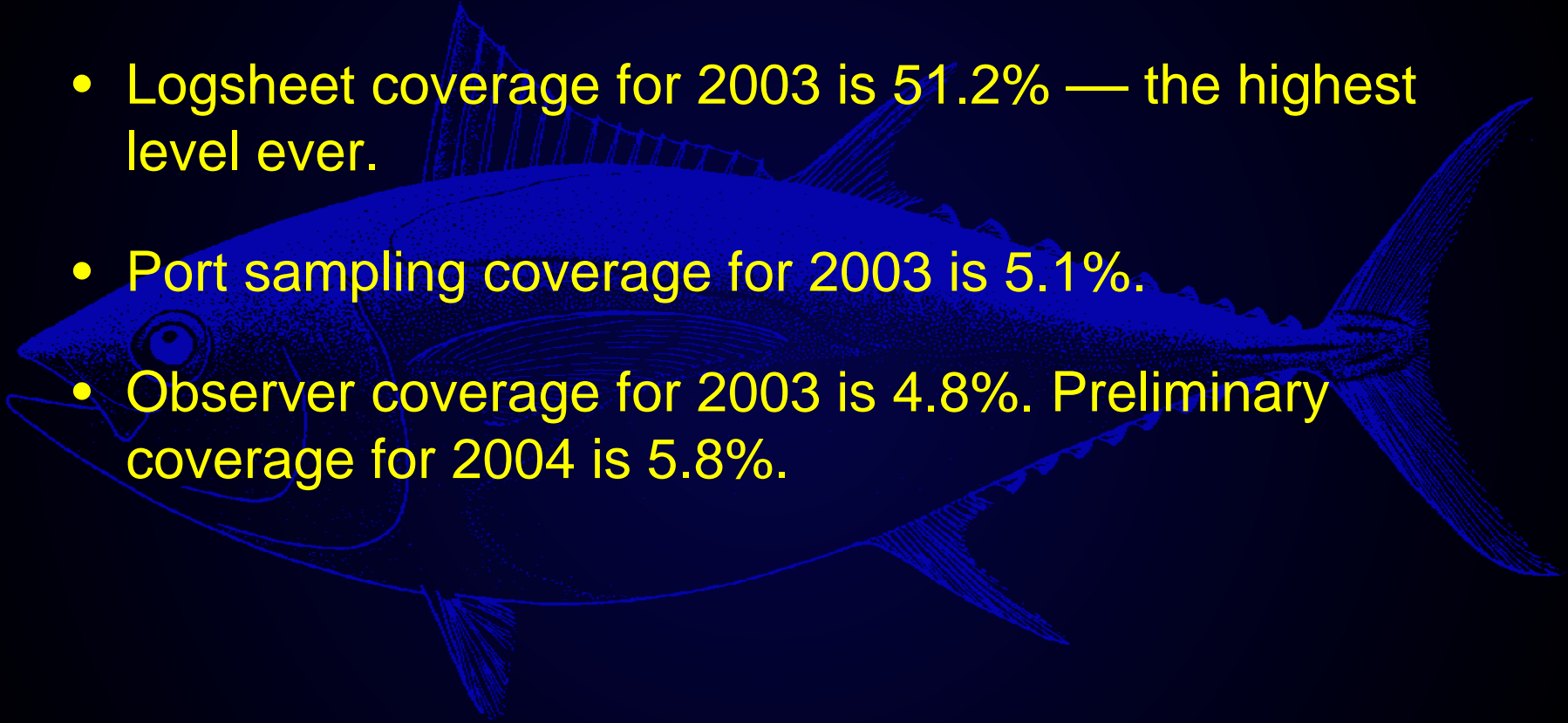
Indonesia and the Philippines Data Collection Project

- USD 140,000 contributed by Chinese Taipei, New Zealand and the United States, out of total budget of USD 292,000. Reviews funded by Australia.
 - Review of the tuna fisheries and the statistical system in the Philippines was conducted by Dr Antony Lewis in July 2004. (Information Paper ST IP–6)
 - Philippines Tuna Fishery Data Collection Workshop held from 20 to 21 October 2004. (Information Paper ST IP–4)
 - Surveys by BAS and enhanced sampling by BFAR commenced in January 2005.
- 

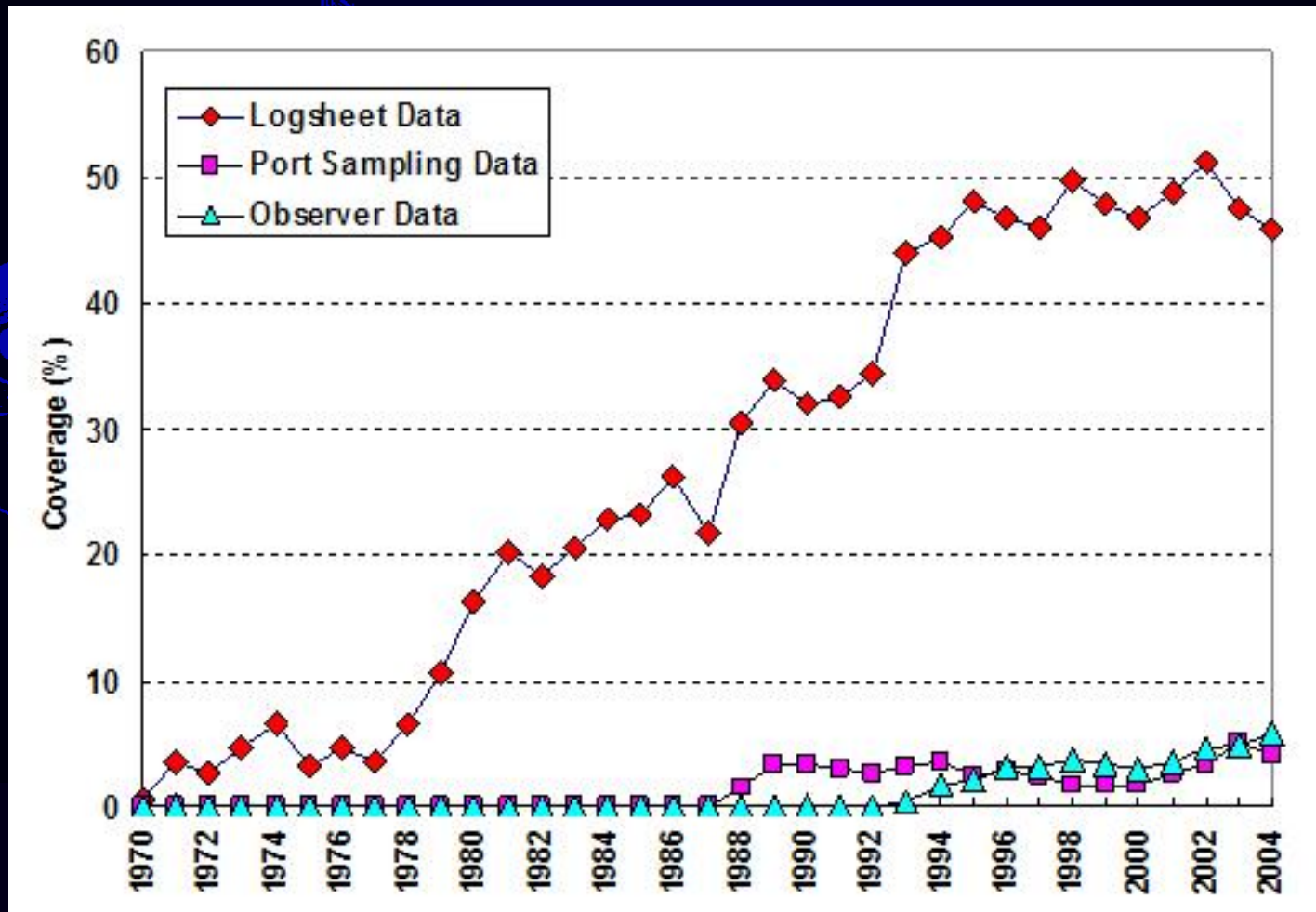
Compilation of Data by the OFP

Coverage rates for data held by the OFP:

- Logsheet coverage for 2003 is 51.2% — the highest level ever.
- Port sampling coverage for 2003 is 5.1%.
- Observer coverage for 2003 is 4.8%. Preliminary coverage for 2004 is 5.8%.

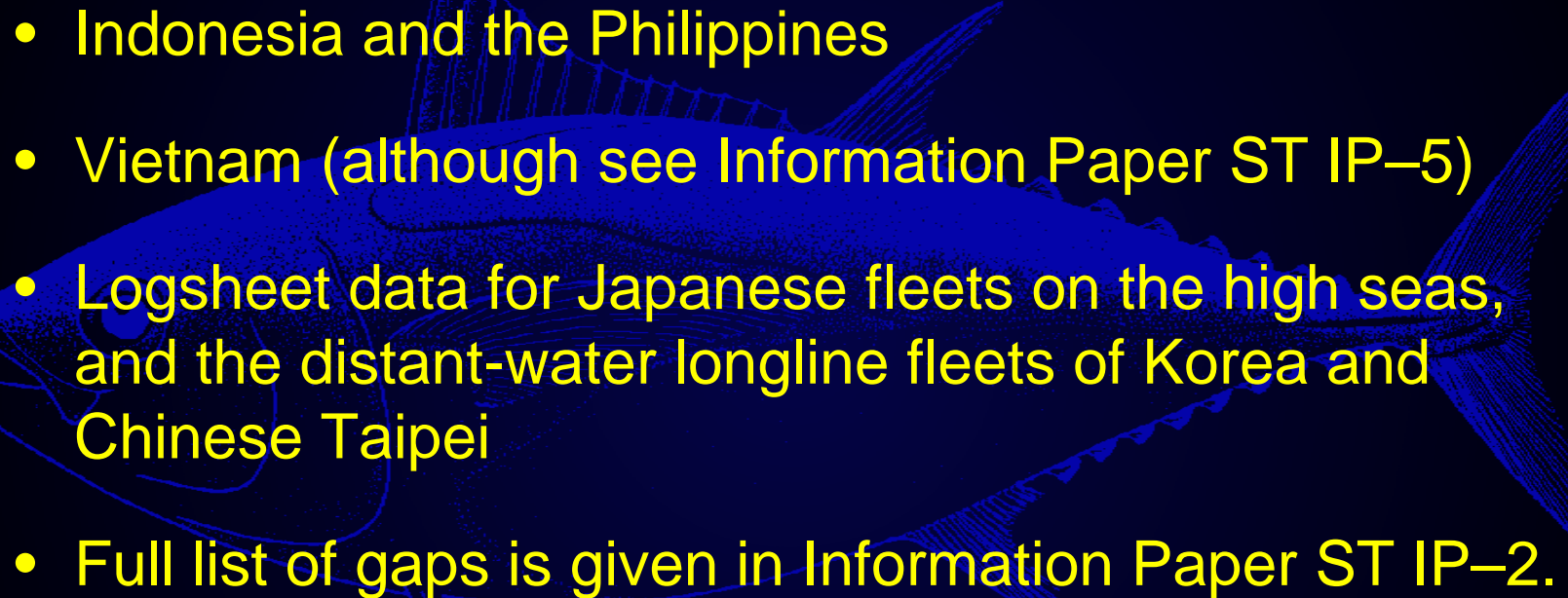


Coverage of WCPO tuna fisheries by data held by the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme

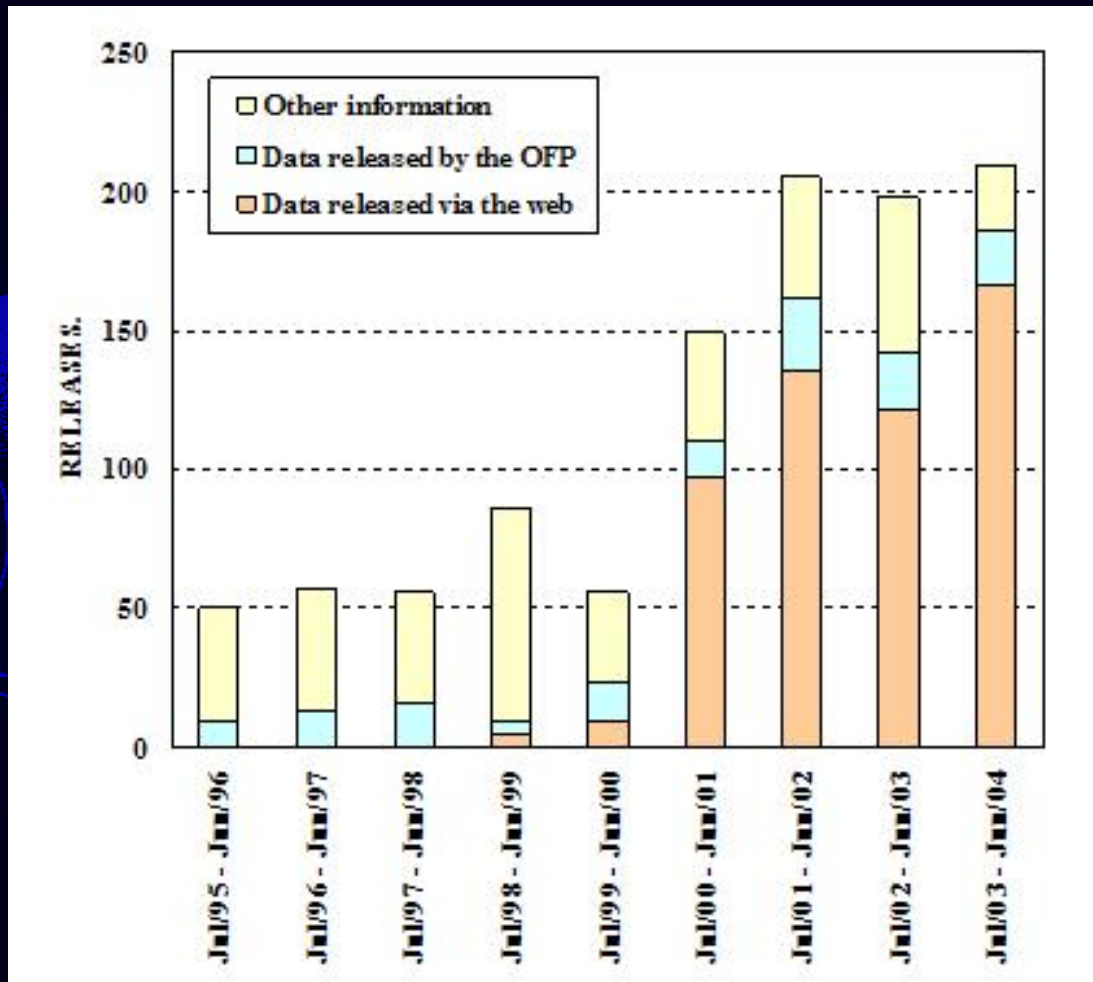


Compilation of Data by the OFP

Main gaps:

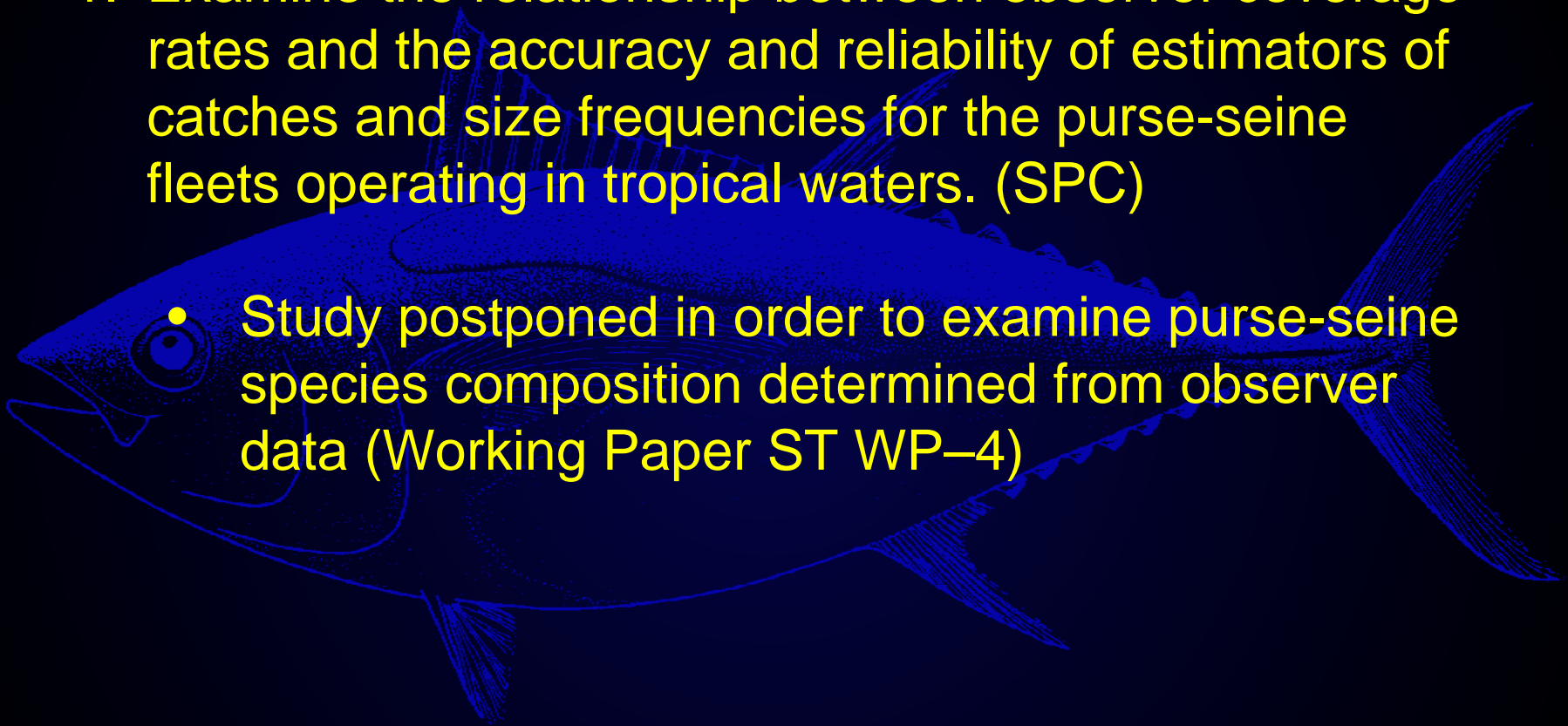
- Indonesia and the Philippines
 - Vietnam (although see Information Paper ST IP–5)
 - Logsheet data for Japanese fleets on the high seas, and the distant-water longline fleets of Korea and Chinese Taipei
 - Full list of gaps is given in Information Paper ST IP–2.
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Dissemination of Data by the OFP



SCTB17 Directives

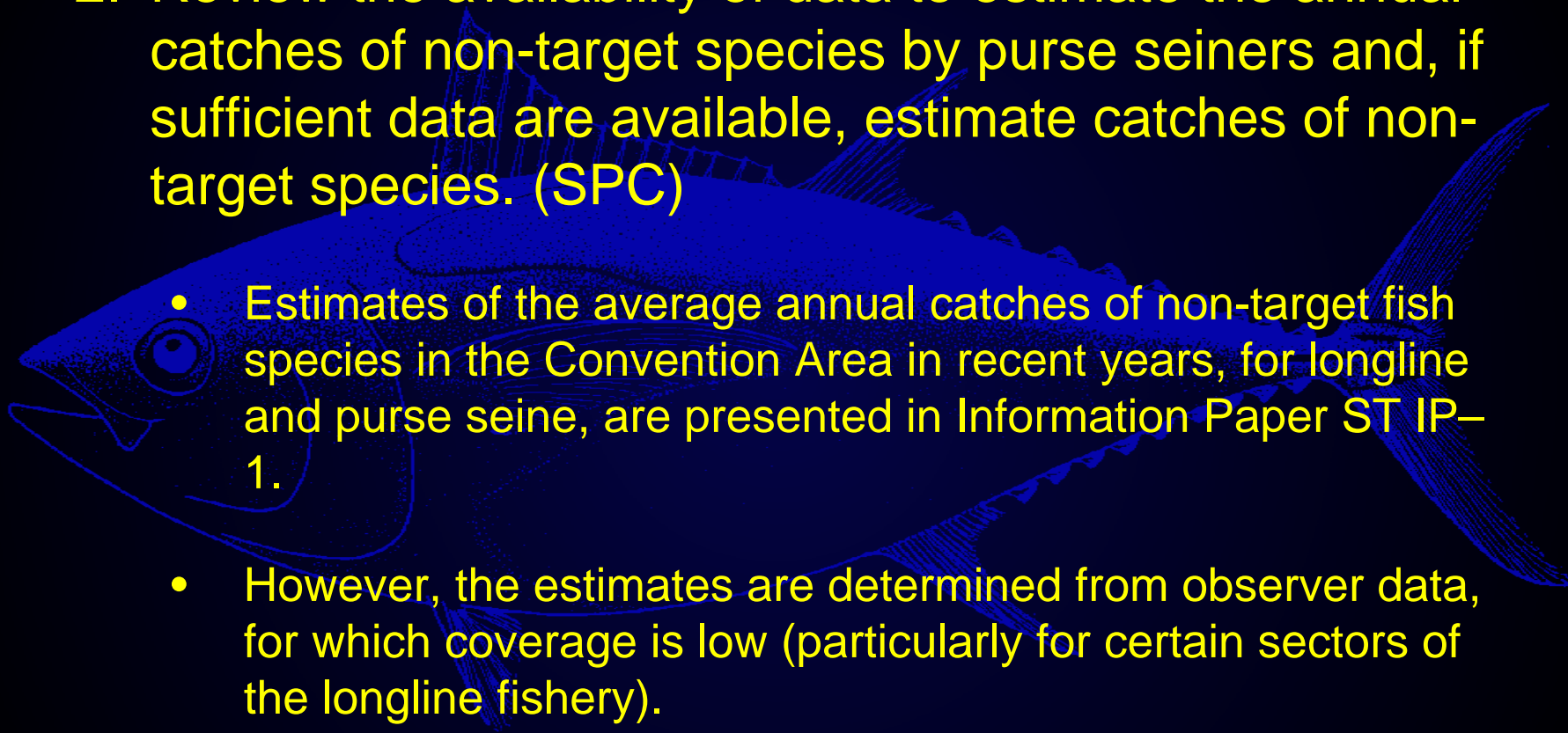
1. Examine the relationship between observer coverage rates and the accuracy and reliability of estimators of catches and size frequencies for the purse-seine fleets operating in tropical waters. (SPC)
 - Study postponed in order to examine purse-seine species composition determined from observer data (Working Paper ST WP-4)



SCTB17 Directives

2. Review the availability of data to estimate the annual catches of non-target species by purse seiners and, if sufficient data are available, estimate catches of non-target species. (SPC)

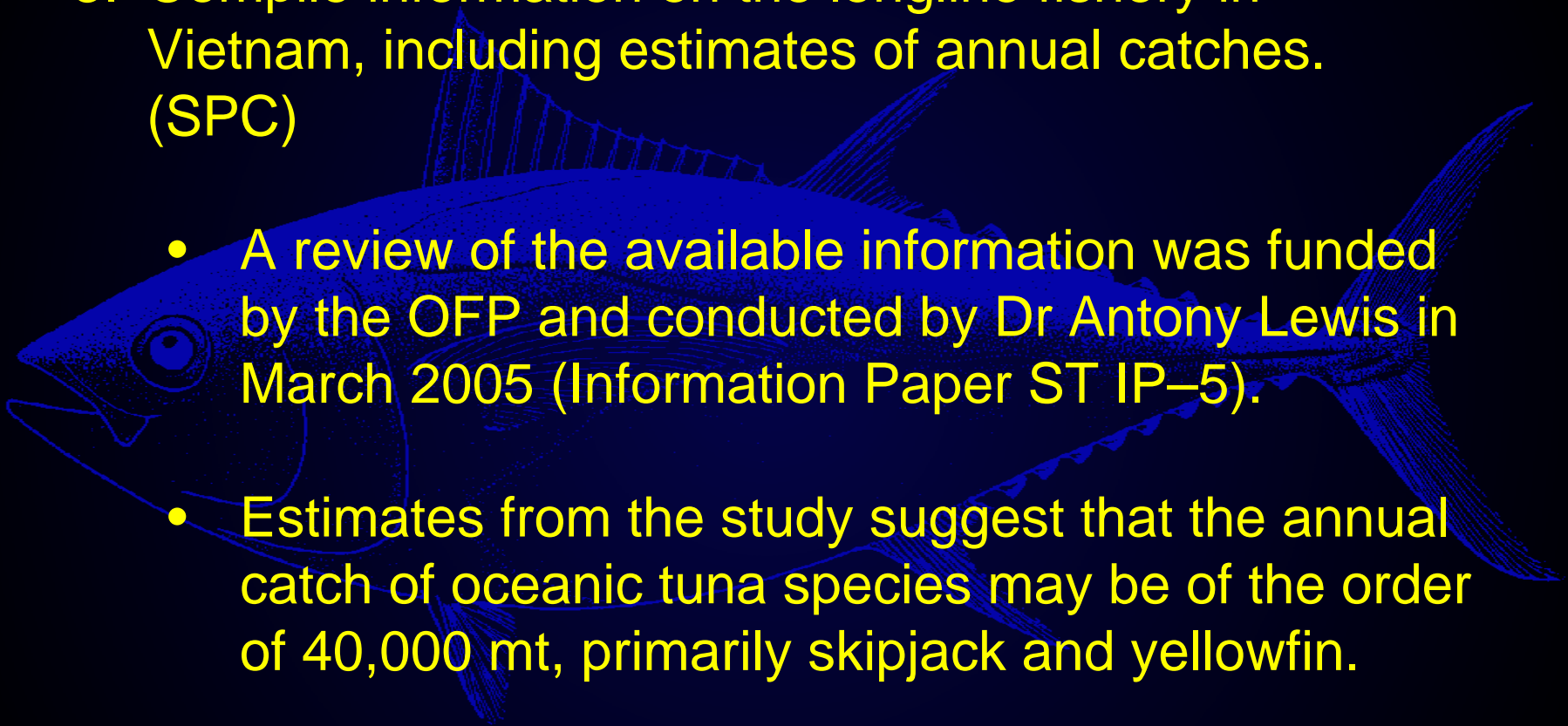
- Estimates of the average annual catches of non-target fish species in the Convention Area in recent years, for longline and purse seine, are presented in Information Paper ST IP-1.
- However, the estimates are determined from observer data, for which coverage is low (particularly for certain sectors of the longline fishery).
- Future work will look at (a) estimating catches for finer time-area stratification and (b) quantifying the reliability of the estimates.



SCTB17 Directives

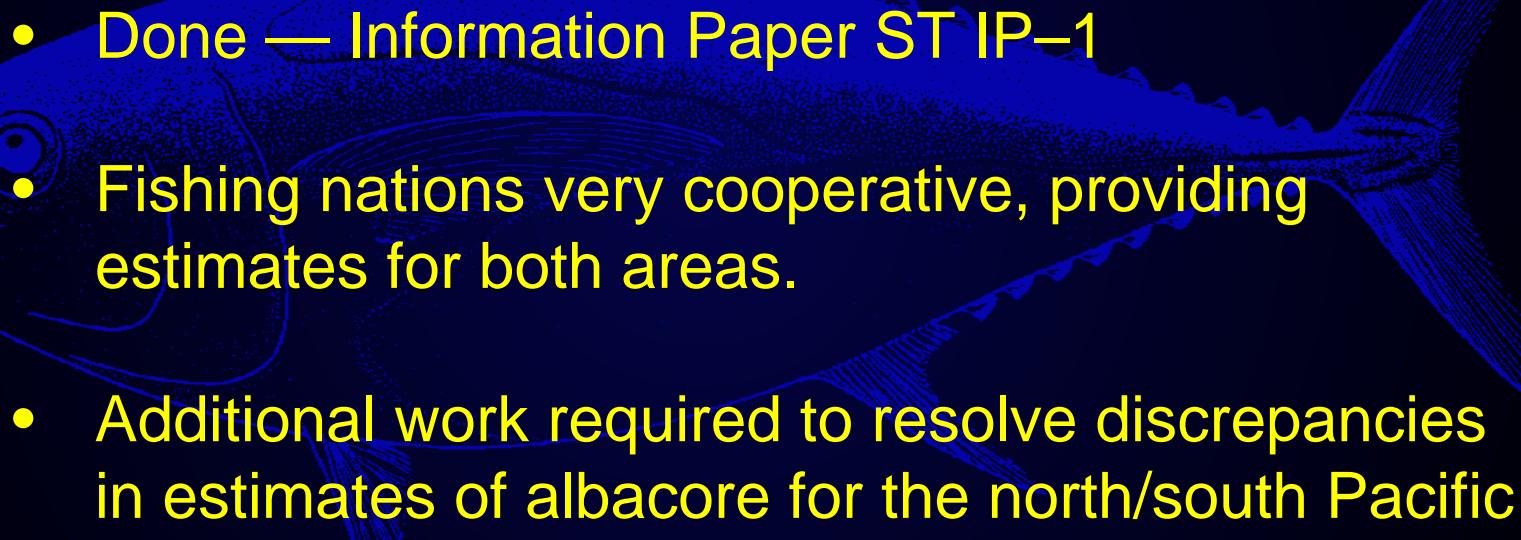
3. Compile information on the longline fishery in Vietnam, including estimates of annual catches. (SPC)

- A review of the available information was funded by the OFP and conducted by Dr Antony Lewis in March 2005 (Information Paper ST IP-5).
- Estimates from the study suggest that the annual catch of oceanic tuna species may be of the order of 40,000 mt, primarily skipjack and yellowfin.



SCTB17 Directives

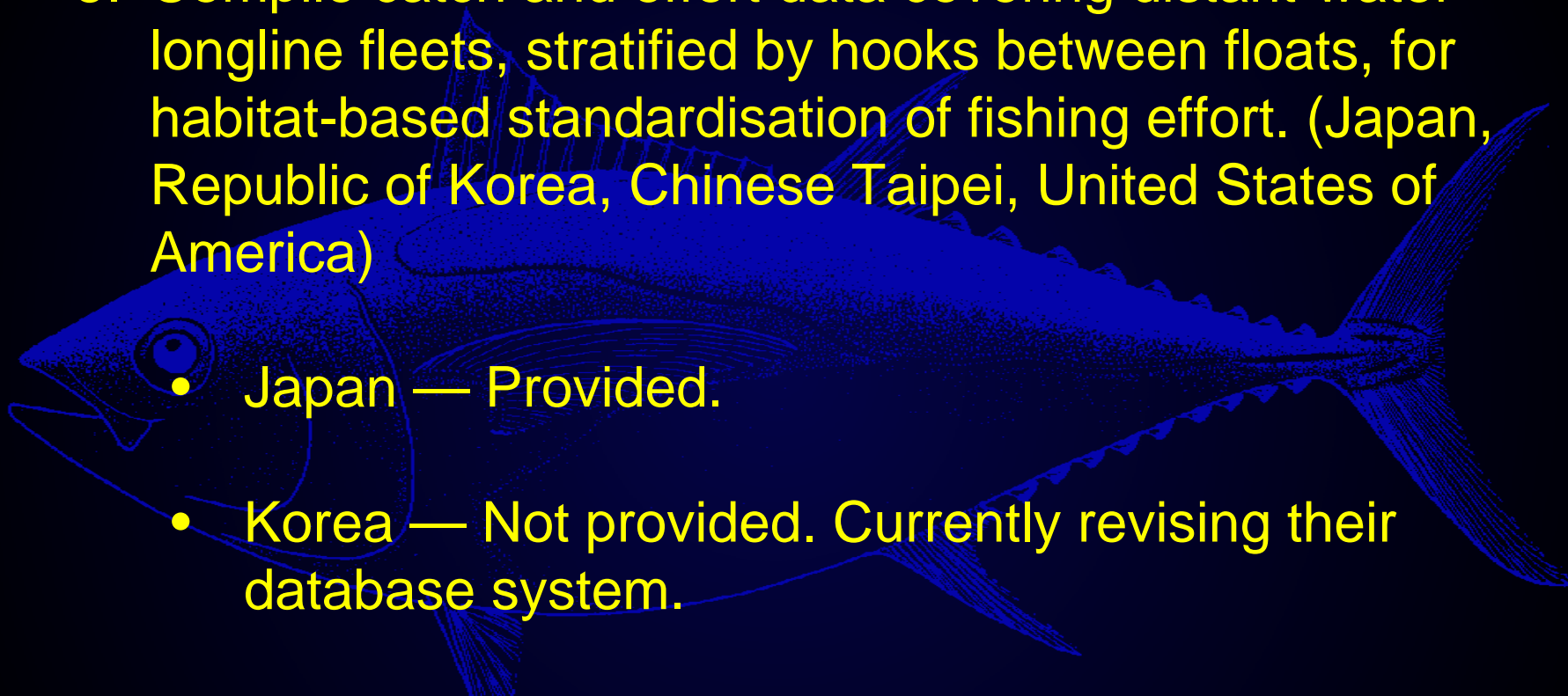
4. Compile annual catches for the WCPF Convention Area, in addition to estimates for the WCPO Area established at SCTB12.

- Done — Information Paper ST IP-1
 - Fishing nations very cooperative, providing estimates for both areas.
 - Additional work required to resolve discrepancies in estimates of albacore for the north/south Pacific and east/west Pacific.
- 

SCTB17 Directives

5. Compile catch and effort data covering distant-water longline fleets, stratified by hooks between floats, for habitat-based standardisation of fishing effort. (Japan, Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States of America)

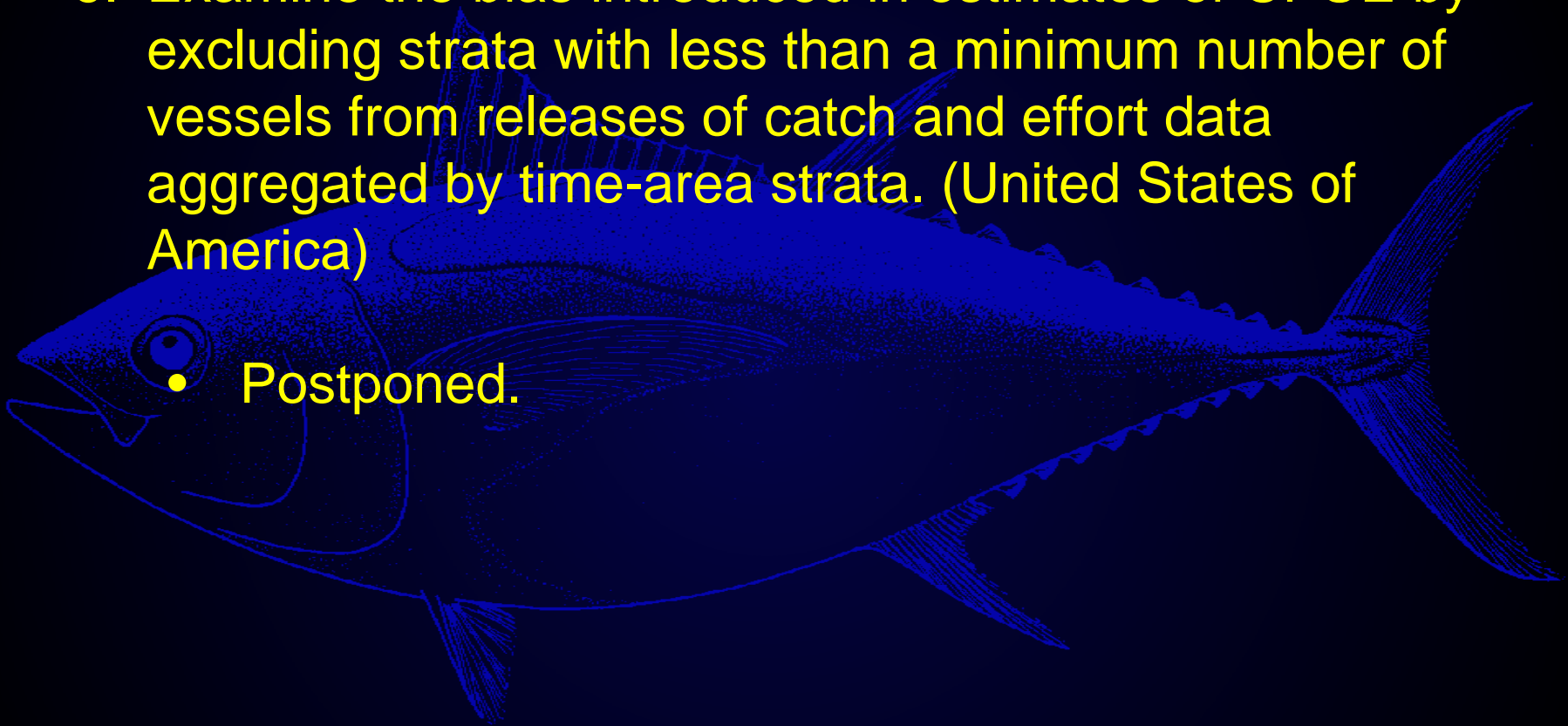
- Japan — Provided.
- Korea — Not provided. Currently revising their database system.
- Chinese Taipei — Not provided.
- United States — Not provided.



SCTB17 Directives

6. Examine the bias introduced in estimates of CPUE by excluding strata with less than a minimum number of vessels from releases of catch and effort data aggregated by time-area strata. (United States of America)

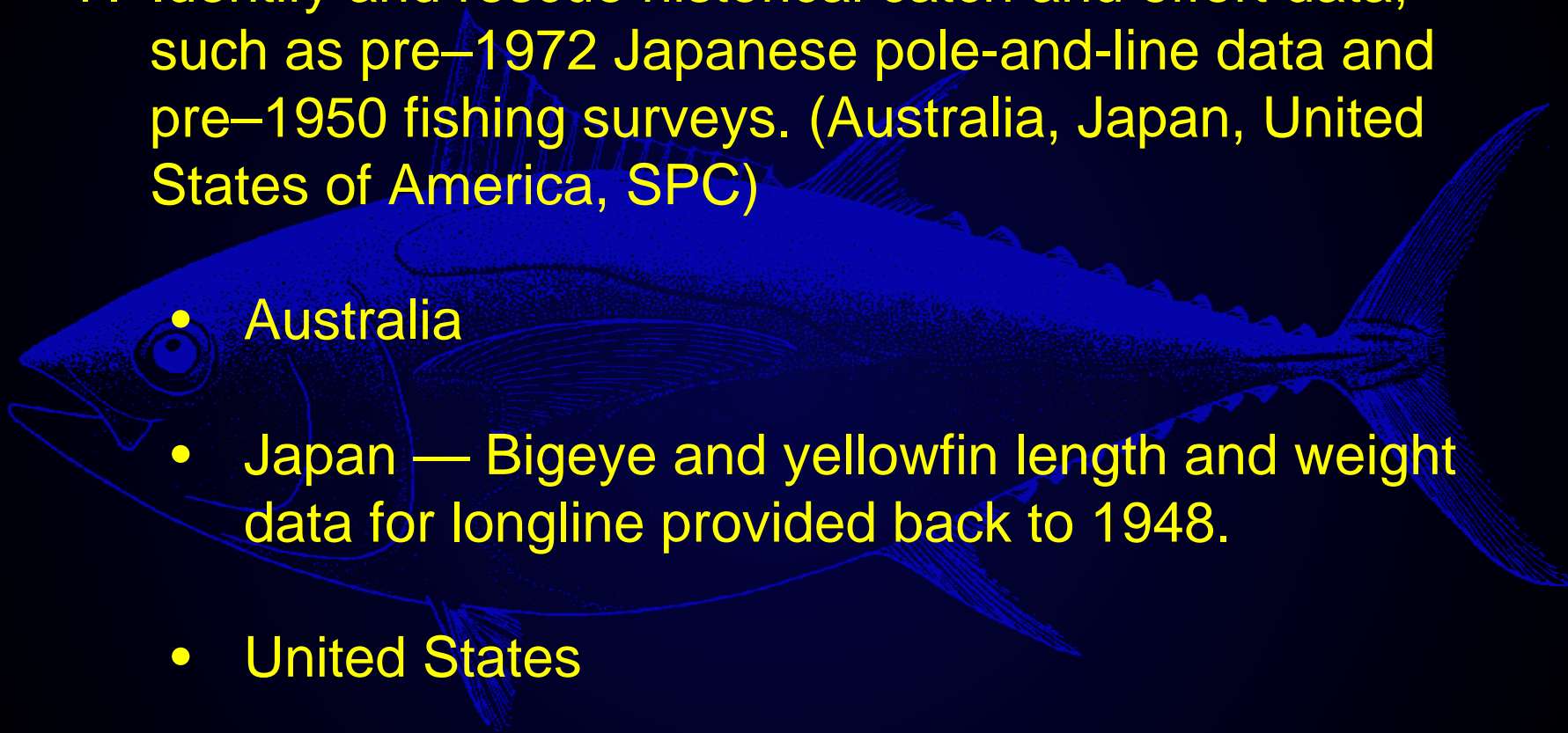
- Postponed.



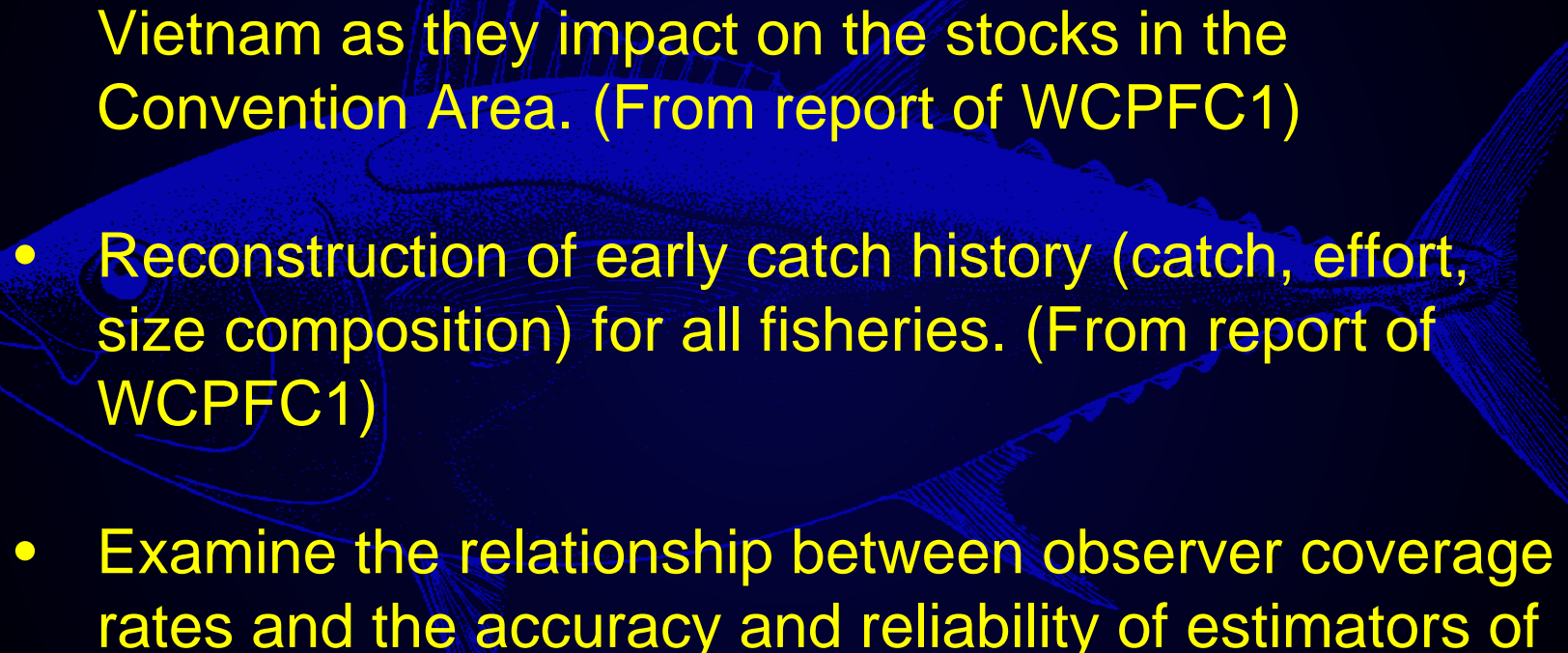
SCTB17 Directives

7. Identify and rescue historical catch and effort data, such as pre-1972 Japanese pole-and-line data and pre-1950 fishing surveys. (Australia, Japan, United States of America, SPC)

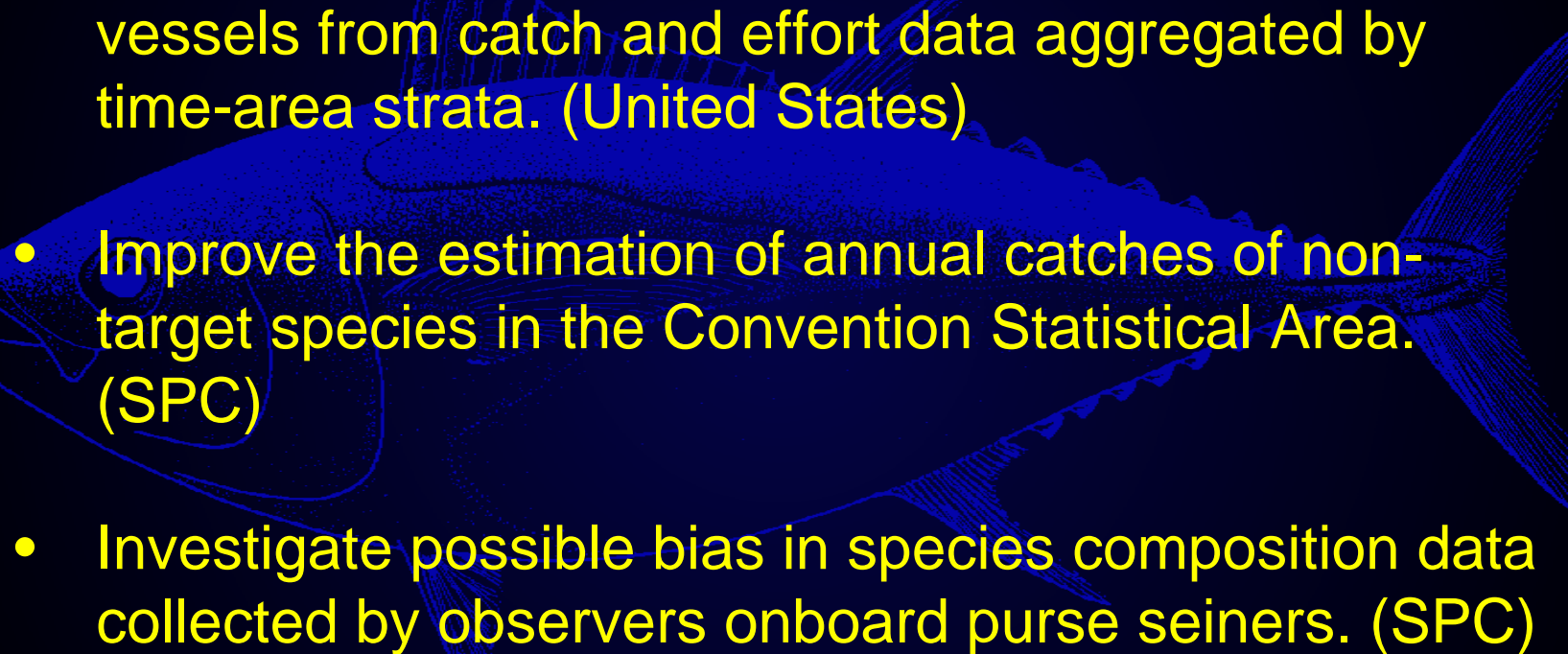
- Australia
- Japan — Bigeye and yellowfin length and weight data for longline provided back to 1948.
- United States
- SPC — Data from Japan has been imported into the OFP database.



8. FUTURE WORK OF THE STATISTICS SWG

- Better characterisation of current catch and catch composition from Indonesia, Philippines, and for Vietnam as they impact on the stocks in the Convention Area. (From report of WCPFC1)
 - Reconstruction of early catch history (catch, effort, size composition) for all fisheries. (From report of WCPFC1)
 - Examine the relationship between observer coverage rates and the accuracy and reliability of estimators of catches by the purse-seine fleets. (SPC)
- 

8. FUTURE WORK OF THE STATISTICS SWG

- Examine the bias introduced in estimates of CPUE by excluding strata with less than a minimum number of vessels from catch and effort data aggregated by time-area strata. (United States)
 - Improve the estimation of annual catches of non-target species in the Convention Statistical Area. (SPC)
 - Investigate possible bias in species composition data collected by observers onboard purse seiners. (SPC)
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9. OTHER MATTERS

- Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Project
- Exchange of tuna fisheries data between IATTC and WCPFC
- Terms of Reference for the Statistics SWG
- Drafting committee for recommendations from the Statistics SWG

