



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE SCIENTIFIC DATA TO BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION

**WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-WP05_Rev02
24 July 2026**

Submitted by SPC-OFP

Rev01:

Revised text in section 1.5 of the Annex and Table A2.2.4 as text from the current SciData was inadvertently omitted;

Added text for the proposed 'Is discarded' field into the Annex in sections 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6.

Rev02:

Incorporated suggested changes from WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP10 on hook size and type and additional text related to reporting of sea turtle catches.

Executive Summary

This proposal aims to provide additional clarity around the reporting requirements detailed in the Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission (i.e., SciData). Over the past year as the SSP aimed to develop standardized data submission templates aligned with the [SciData](#), areas of ambiguity and gaps in the reporting guidelines were identified. The aim of this proposal is to refine the existing requirements to ensure standard reporting options are clear and comprehensive and to simplify the document where applicable given improvements in reporting in recent years. However, there are a couple places where new reporting fields are suggested. In the case of additional reporting suggestions, the justification for the inclusion is documented below.

The details below correspond to specific reporting provisions in the SciData to explain proposed modifications. This document is accompanied by both a tracked changes version of the current SciData document and a clean version of the proposed changes, for ease of reference.

SC22 is invited to:

- Review the proposal and consider any potential changes to data reporting;
- Address the specific **Question** point raised in this document and provide guidance on the best path forward; and
- Recommend the proposed SciData revisions be adopted by the Commission.

Proposed revisions

Para 1: Annual Catch Estimates

Here, the proposed change is to ensure that all key species to be reported to the Commission are reported for the WCPFC Statistical Area (WX), as this is the main area used for statistical reporting. Under the current guidelines, catches for certain species in this area could be calculated from the sub-areas, but it requires an additional processing step by the SSP, and at times one sub-area but not both are provided, requiring assumptions about catches in the remaining areas. By submitting catches for the WCPFC area explicitly for all species, it will be possible to avoid such assumptions.

Given that all species are required to be reported for the WCPFC Statistical Area, in this proposal, the text can be simplified. We have added a table as a visual representation of the ACE reporting, for easy reference.

An additional, optional, reporting field has been suggested to separate out catches into within and outside archipelagic waters. This additional field is intended as a binary flag (0/1) and is important for the development of the ACE by EEZ data product. In the ACE by EEZ there is a column indicating whether or not catches are inside or outside archipelagic waters, which is important for scientific and compliance reporting, as archipelagic waters may be exempted or excluded from certain analyses. If a CCM does not have 100% logbook reporting and does not report this additional data field, the SSP is not able to determine how much of the reported ACE is from archipelagic waters. This field is likely only applicable to a few CCMs.

Para 4: Catch and effort data aggregated by time period and geographic area

For longline, we propose including hooks between floats in the stratification of raised aggregated catch and effort. It is our understanding that at this point in time, unraised aggregate catch and effort data may no longer be required given the high coverage rates of logbook data and the observation that all CCMs, where applicable, appear capable of producing raised catch and effort.

The paragraph that includes a provision of unraised catch and effort data Eastern Pacific Ocean has been removed, as the SSP obtains aggregate catch and effort data from the IATTC; these data are used to estimate catch and effort across the full Pacific.

Question:

Hooks between floats have historically been provided in raw form. Would binned categories be more useful for the SC, or would it be most useful to continue to collect this information at the seemingly fine-scale it is currently reported?

Annex 1: Standards for the Provision of Operational Level Catch and Effort Data

Para 1.1: Vessel identifiers, for all gear types

The inclusion of IMO number with the vessel identifier fields is aimed at reducing uncertainty around vessel identity, where applicable. We recognize that all of these data fields may not be available for all vessels, but they should be mandatory where they exist.

Para 1.2: Trip information, for all gear types

Trip identifier: For all gear types the trip identifier field is proposed to be mandatory. Given the adopted standardized data submission templates, trip and activity identifiers are required to link the data files associated with trip, activity, and catch. Without these fields, the standardized templates cannot be processed.

We proposed including the vessel flag and fleet code (non mandatory) to assist with verification of data by cross-referencing with the record of fishing vessels and the charter notification scheme. Additional detail about fleet code can be found on the [GitHub data submission repository](#).

In addition, we have proposed that date of unloading is not mandatory, as there were several instances where trips were ongoing and therefore could not provide this data field. We propose that if a trip has ended, this field is mandatory, otherwise only when the port/place of unloading is ‘ongoing’ can this field be left blank.

Para 1.3: Information on operations by longliners

Trip identifier: A unique trip identifier key must be provided for each activity in order to appropriate link between these two data sources. A trip identifier in the activity data set must match the trip-level data submission.

Activity identifier: A unique id key for each activity must be provided. The activity identifier is used to distinguish individual activities, but also link to the catch data, as this same field is required to be included in the catch data sets.

Activity: The activity field descriptions provided here implicitly suggest an exhaustive list of available options. During the development of standardized reporting templates, it was clear that CCMs required additional codes to cover activities that didn’t fit into those provided in this list. Therefore, we propose adding two codes: ‘a day searched, but no sets made’ and ‘no fishing - other’, the latter being a broad category to capture any number of activities, unrelated to fishing. In addition, it is suggested to change the activity reporting for days where no sets were made to a binding requirement to minimize time spent assessing data to determine if data are missing or simply have not been provided, given the non-binding nature of this provision.

Date of start of set and time of start of set: As part of the standardized reporting, UTC is indicated as the format in which dates and times should be submitted. Therefore, we propose removing the last sentence requiring CCMs to report on the time zone their data are reported in. Several years ago the Commission requested CCMs to work with the SSP to provide information on time zones reported by their fleets, and since then the SSP has used that information in combination with detailed analyses around time of day, location, and fishing activity, along with cross-validations with observer and VMS data, to provide a consistent date/time format across all operational data (i.e., UTC). To mitigate these efforts, and potential uncertainty going forward, we suggest UTC should be the standard across all SciData reporting.

Position at start of set (when no sets made): We propose reporting of the noon position to be mandatory, for data completion.

Target species: This provision suggests that species groups can be reported. This caused some challenges in the standardized templates as target species only accepts a single value (3-letter species code). If species groups are intended to be reported as TUN (i.e., tunas), the appropriate FAO code should be used. If additional flexibility to provide multiple species codes is required, we may consider the approach proposed for bait type, i.e., target species 1, 2, and 3, for example.

Mainline length: change kilometers to nautical miles, a unit more commonly used by fishers

Number of branchlines: We propose reporting -1 when the number of branchlines is not applicable (i.e., non setting activities), given that this is a mandatory field to be reported.

Hook size: To include a set of standard sizes as reporting options.

Hook type: To include a set of standard reporting options.

Bait type used: Some CCMs noted that fishers were using multiple bait types, but it was unclear how to report multiple when standard 3-letter FAO codes were expected for this field. To address this gap, we propose adding multiple fields for bait type to include primary, secondary, and tertiary, all as optional (non-binding) fields to add flexibility.

Number of fish/animals caught per set: Numbers of all key WCPFC species and others as determined by the Commission¹ caught should be reported, at a minimum (reporting of additional bycatch species is encouraged). For that reason, we propose simplifying this provision to remove specifically listing a subset of the species to be reported.

Weight (kg) of fish caught per set: Weights of all key WCPFC species and others as determined by the Commission caught should be reported, at a minimum (reporting of additional bycatch species is encouraged). For that reason, we propose simplifying this provision to remove specifically listing a subset of the species to be reported.

Based on recent reporting, it appears that all CCMs are capable of reporting weight of longline

¹ To include cetacean and sea turtle interactions in accordance with CMMs 2024-07 and 2018-04

catch. We suggest that CCM reported weights are expected to be more accurate than an average weight applied by the SSP, if this field is not reported. Therefore, this field is proposed to be a mandatory field going forward.

Para 1.4: Information on operations by pole-and-line vessels and related gear types

Trip identifier: A unique trip identifier key must be provided for each activity in order to appropriate link between these two data sources. A trip identifier in the activity data set must match the trip-level data submission.

Activity identifier: A unique id key for each activity must be provided. The activity identifier is used to distinguish individual activities, but also link to the catch data, as this same field is required to be included in the catch data sets.

Activity: Similar to longline, we propose adding a couple reporting options to cover the range of activities vessels may experience to include ‘a day searched, but no sets made’ and ‘no fishing - other’.

Set identifier: This field is proposed to be removed as it is understood to be redundant. Each activity is to have a unique activity identifier, and setting is one of the possible activities, therefore, each set would have a unique activity identifier.

Weight of fish caught per day (mt): simplify the text as all key WCPFC species and others determined by the Commission are to be reported, at a minimum (reporting of bycatch species is encouraged).

Number of fish/animals caught per day: This field is intended to capture discarded individuals for which an estimated weight cannot be obtained.

Is discarded: This field is a flag to indicate whether the associated catch weight and numbers are associated with retained catch (0) or released/discarded catch (1).

Para 1.5: Information on operations by purse seiners and related gear types

Trip identifier: A unique trip identifier key must be provided for each activity in order to appropriate link between these two data sources. A trip identifier in the activity data set must match the trip-level data submission.

Activity identifier: A unique id key for each activity must be provided. The activity identifier is used to distinguish individual activities, but also link to the catch data, as this same field is required to be included in the catch data sets.

Activity: Similar to longline and pole-and-line, we propose adding a couple reporting options to cover the range of activities vessels may experience to include ‘a day searched, but no sets made’

and ‘no fishing - other’. We propose combining the rows for activity, as the second row appears as a note rather than a separate reporting requirement.

Position at start of set (when no sets made): We propose reporting of the noon position to be mandatory.

School association: Consider adding a code for ‘unknown’ when the school association is not known.

Set identifier: This field is proposed to be removed as it is understood to be redundant. Each activity is to have a unique activity identifier, and setting is one of the possible activities, therefore, each set would have a unique activity identifier.

Weight of fish caught per set (mt): simplify the text as all key WCPFC species and others determined by the Commission are to be reported, at a minimum (reporting of bycatch species is encouraged)

Number of fish/animals caught per set: This field is intended to capture discarded/released individuals, including cetaceans, for which an estimated weight cannot be obtained.

Is discarded: This field is a flag to indicate whether the associated catch weight and numbers are associated with retained catch (0) or released/discarded catch (1).

Para 1.6: Information on operations by trollers and related gear types

Trip identifier: A unique trip identifier key must be provided for each activity in order to appropriate link between these two data sources. A trip identifier in the activity data set must match the trip-level data submission.

Activity identifier: A unique id key for each activity must be provided. The activity identifier is used to distinguish individual activities, but also link to the catch data, as this same field is required to be included in the catch data sets.

Activity: Similar to other gears, we propose adding a couple reporting options to cover the range of activities vessels may experience to include ‘a day searched, but no sets made’ and ‘no fishing - other’.

Position at start of set (when no sets made): We propose reporting of the noon position to be mandatory.

Weight of fish caught per day (mt): This data field is added as catch weights are important for the scientific work of the Commission, and based on past submissions, it appears to be a data field that CCMs are able to report.

Is discarded: This field is a flag to indicate whether the associated catch weight and numbers are associated with retained catch (0) or released/discarded catch (1).