

WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-WP-01

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Scientific data available to the Commission (Data Gaps)

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Overview

1

Review data gaps and submission summary

Gaps have diminished through time. Standardized templates and validation routine has further reduced gaps.

2

Review of SC21 data-related tasking

Summary of progress made toward Commission requests related to data

3

Future planning

- Simplification & alignment*
- Specific needs (e.g., ACE/ACE by EEZ)*
- Sea turtle review
- Suggestions from staff/CCMs

4

Related papers of interest

Data Submission Summary & Gaps

Timeliness: Most CCMs submitted data by the deadline, one had challenges with portal access, and initially submitted via email, and one has not yet submitted data

- **ACE**
 - Not reporting catches for all areas
 - Not reporting catches in mt
 - Potential under-reporting of sharks
- **Aggregate Data**
 - Low logbook coverage for one CCM
 - Potential under-reporting of sharks
- **Operational Data**
 - Coverage generally >80%, and often 100%
 - Continued low coverage for 3 CCMs (WPEA projects underway*)
 - Submission of vessels that don't align with the RFV
- **Size Data**
 - Lack of metadata – additional reporting on size data in P127a

Review of SC21 tasking

SC21 Statistics and Data Theme Recommendations	Summary of Progress
Data Gaps of the Commission⁵	
1. [54] SC21 recognized the importance of reconciling size composition data for stock assessments and recommended continuation of the projects identified as part of phase 2 of this project (Project 127)	This project has been ongoing over the past year with notable updates provided in Hamer et al. (2026) .
2. [55] SC21 requested the SSP circulate a draft pro forma of supporting information to accompany non-ROP size data submissions, for CCMs to review and provide feedback to the SSP.	A pro forma has been developed and circulated to relevant CCMs for input.
3. [57] SC21 requested that the SSP provide a report to SC22 on the development of the pro forma and a summary of CCM responses, with the objective of working towards implementing a standardized pro forma (consistent with the requirements for size data provisions contained in the SciData guidelines) by 2027.	Hamer et al. (2026) reports on the progress of this work and the pro forma development.

Review of SC21 tasking

SC21 Statistics and Data Theme Recommendations Data Gaps of the Commission ⁵	Summary of Progress
4. [69] 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. SC21 encouraged CCMs to work with the SSP as it prepares revised templates for consideration at TCC21.	Although the templates were not adopted until WCPFC22, this is included here given its importance. Standardized reporting templates were developed, adopted and ultimately implemented in 2026. This paper details some of the data gaps identified as part of that process and Schattschneider et al. (2026) provides a more comprehensive report on the process and systems developed to support the implementation.
5. [78] SC21 requested the SSP to plan a dedicated workshop in October 2025, to include participation by all interested CCMs, and particularly those CCMs that may have significant cannery data. The workshop objectives are to discuss existing and potential cannery data collections and to develop agreed WCPFC standards for using these data to adjust species composition and catch estimates from the purse seine fishery. Korea has generously offered to host this workshop.	Initial planning discussions for this workshop indicated that in order to get the right people in together to ensure success of this work, additional planning was necessary; hence, the workshop was postponed. SPC-OFP (2026) provides an update on the progress of this project.

Review of SC21 tasking

SC21 Statistics and Data Theme Recommendations Data Gaps of the Commission ⁵	Summary of Progress
6. [96] SC21 endorsed the formation of an informal intersessional working group led by the United States to review CMM 2018-04 for sea turtles, noting that an examination of sea turtle data reporting requirements could be undertaken as part of this review. SC21 requested that this informal intersessional working group report back to SC22 and TCC22 on the outputs of its discussions.	A review of this measure has been undertaken by the US and will be presented during this meeting (WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP09) .
7. [107] SC21 acknowledged the importance of developing a FAD logbook and generally supported the proposed minimum FAD logbook data fields, but recognized the concerns about the logical consistency, redundancy, and availability among logbook data fields. SC21 encouraged CCMs to work through the FAD MO IWG to refine the proposed minimum FAD logbook data fields.	The FAD MO-WG is expected to provide an update on these developments during this meeting (WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP04).
8. [122] SC21 recommended revising section 1.5 in Annex 1 of the SciData guidelines as follows: • ‘Weight of fish caught per set’ to be replaced by ‘Weight of catch per set’ • Add ‘Number of discarded/released individuals per set’ to capture interactions with cetaceans	The SciData document was updated following WCPFC22.
9. [123] SC21 recommended revising the SciData guidelines in Annex 2 table A2.2.4 to add footnotes to the text ‘and other species as determined by the Commission’ in the SPECIES CODE reference text field and in the NOTES columns for the following field: • DISCARDED/RELEASED NUMBER field to align with the requirements for reporting catches of cetaceans under CMM 2024-07 (table A2.2.4).	The SciData document was updated following WCPFC22.
10. [156] SC21 noted that WCPFC21 tasked the ERandEM IWG to develop advice on potential changes to the interim EM standards to improve harmonization across RFMOs, and recommended forwarding SC21-ST-WP-12, ‘Report of the Electronic Monitoring Minimum Standards Harmonization Workshop,’ to the ERandEM IWG for its consideration.	The ERandEM IWG will provide an update on this topic to this meeting (WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-WP08).

Progress and planning

Progress

- Standardized data submissions enables greater automation and transparency around data gaps and submission timelines
- Data Gaps are very few in recent years

Planning

- Improving user experience around data submissions
- Increase CCM access to data and data products
- Refocus more on data quality versus gaps, as they have been assessed in previous years

Supporting Papers

- **ST-IP-02:** Coverage of operational data fields
- **ST-IP-03:** ROP data management [growing backlog]
- **ST-IP-04:** Commission scientific data products [Public domain]
- **ST-IP-05:** WPEA data improvements [handline details]
- **ST-IP-06:** Cannery data