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Streamlining Scientific Data Reporting to the Commission

Year one of the SciData portal: what was built, how it performed, and where to focus next

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Apia, Samoa

Data timing contribution to SC bottlenecks

Timeliness of scientific results to SC has been a growing concern for several years — and data preparation is a key bottleneck.

Before 2026

CCMs submitted data by email, in a wide variety of formats. The SSP absorbed a heavy, bespoke burden reshaping each submission before quality review could even start.

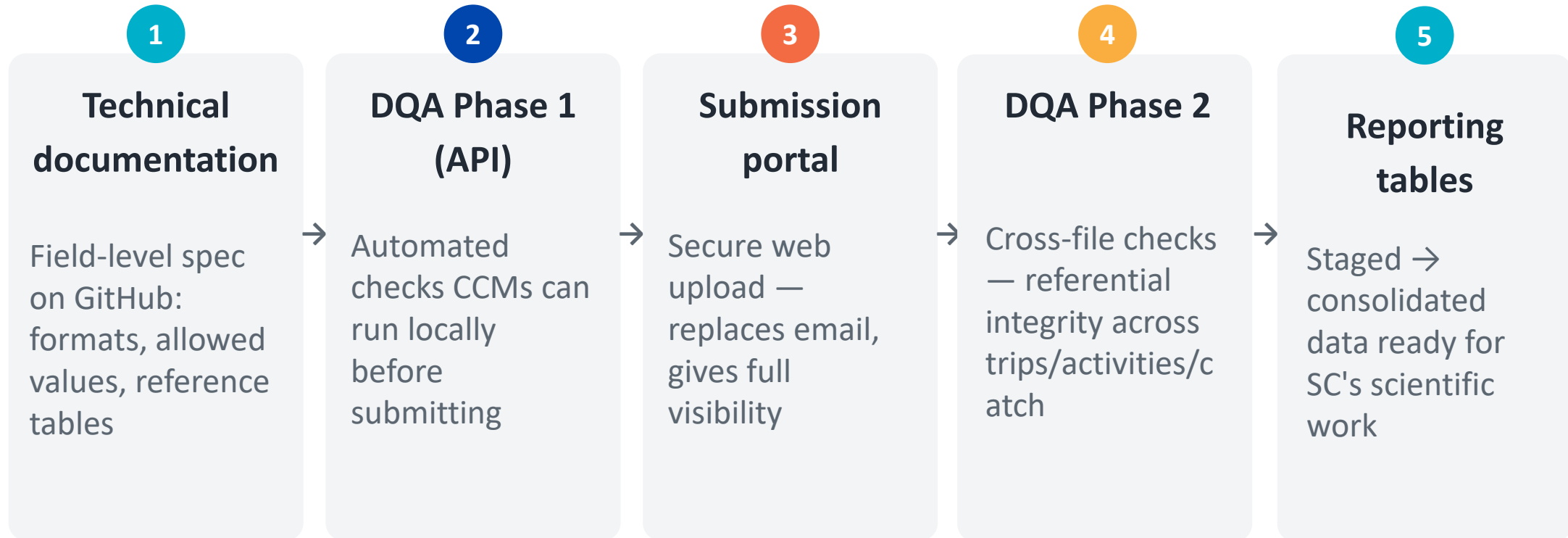
The cost

Time spent reshaping data left limited time for data-quality dialogue with members — and even less time for the scientific analysis SC relies on.

The adopted solution

The Commission adopted standardised SciData submission templates, aiming to cut manual handling and speed up both data availability and data quality.

A data pipeline replaces manual data processing



New this year: version-controlled documentation, automated validation, and a secure portal with a full data-submission registry.

Strong uptake — some delays in finalization

32

CCMs submitted through the
new portal

46%

of submissions needed no edits
after the DQA Phase 1

18 days

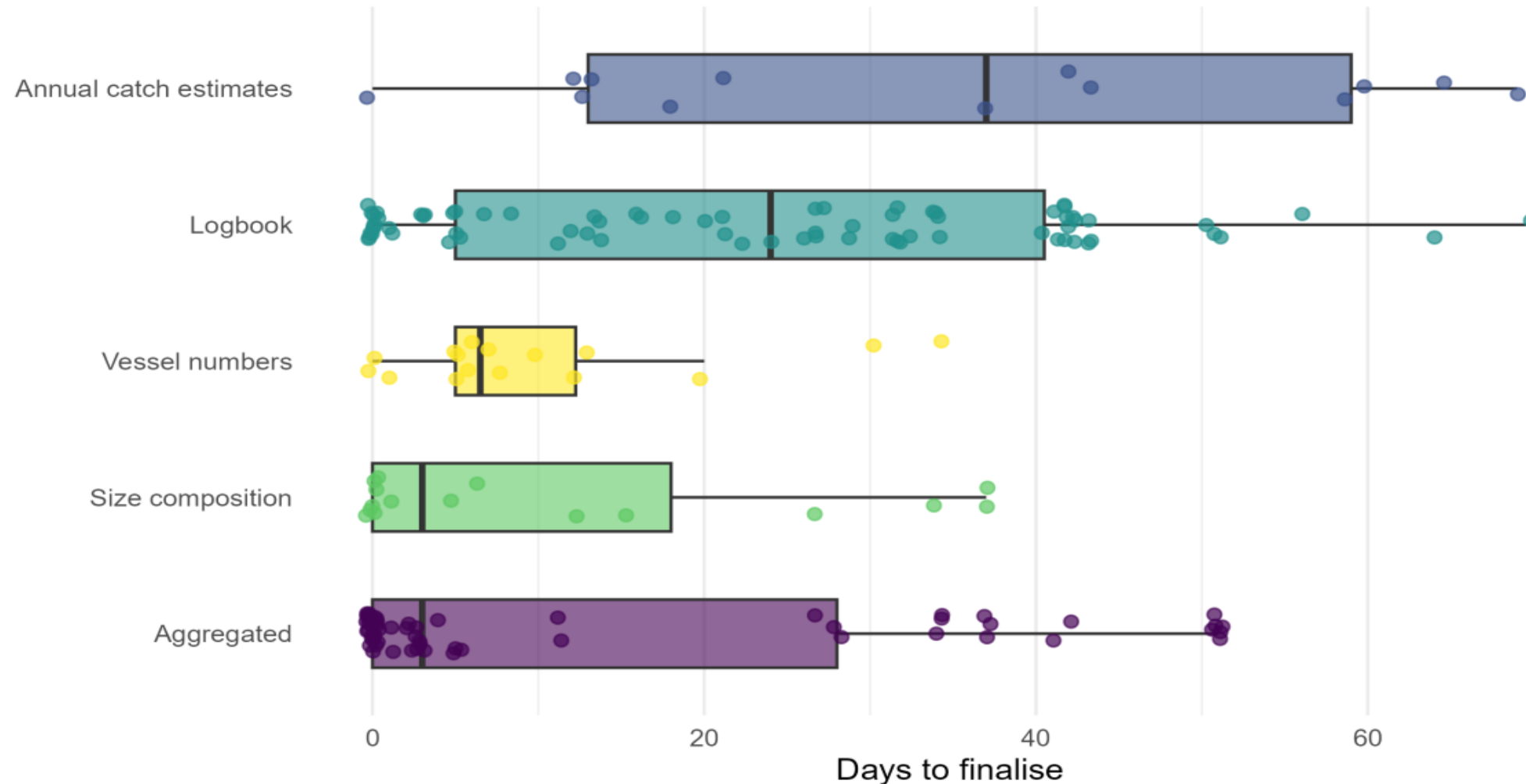
average time from first
submission to final acceptance
(up to 70 days for some)

- ACE and logbook submissions took the longest to finalise and showed the most variability — everything else (vessel numbers, size composition, aggregated data) wrapped up earlier and more consistently.
- Members who reached out to the SSP early — before the portal even launched — finished sooner and needed fewer revisions.

Data registry and analytics

Days to finalise by data type group

Non-PICTs file uploads · from first submission to last change



Positive overall — noting the transition costs

WHAT WORKED

86% rated the new process an improvement over email

All respondents: improved SSP support & availability.

All respondents: positive experience with portal data checks.

6 out of 7 found the new templates “helpful” or “very helpful”.

ONE-OFF COST

29% found formatting harder

Their own comments framed this as the one-time cost of moving from a flexible to a standardised format — not dissatisfaction with the new approach.

Members expect the process to get easier now that scripts and workflows are in place — and asked that future template changes come with plenty of notice.

Added benefits around data exchange

- Enhanced data access for Part 1 Reports
 - R training workshops + T2 APIs
- Semi-automated data exchange around compliance summaries
 - All CMM evaluations in a single query – exchanged via an API
 - Secretariat can process these data programmatically

README

Part1, Addendum and Artisanal Report Templates

This repository maintains the pipeline to generate Part 1, Addendum and Artisanal reports using `.qmd` (Quarto) templates.

To get started, follow the *Setup Instructions* below, then run `main.R` where the key parameters (defined in **Step 2**) include:

- `country_codes` — 2-letter country codes for which reports will be generated. You must have T2 data access permissions for each country.
- `r_year` — reporting year
- `rewrite_files` — if `TRUE`, all T2 and Ikasavea data are re-downloaded from source; if `FALSE`, existing files in data/ are reused (only missing files are downloaded)
- `reports_list` — controls which report types are generated (*part1, addendum, artisanal*)
- `aceman` — If `TRUE`, ACE data generated by your country (usually during TDW, available in T2 report `3619`) will be used in the reports. If `FALSE` the report will use data from *yearbook* (T2 report `3605`) which includes all data from last 5 years (if available) and after species composition (usually available around August of every year).

Priorities for next year's cycle

1 Early engagement

Pre-submission check-ins — members who reached out early finished fastest.

2 Streamlined review

Auto-generated reports at each stage, reducing back-and-forth.

3 Provisional data pipeline

Enhance accessibility for data available for Part 1 report, easing end-of-cycle pressure.

4 Enhanced validation rules

Revisit conditional & reference-table rules (e.g. port codes) that fail valid submissions.

5 Clearer documentation for ACE & logbooks

Improved reporting guidelines and FAQs for the two data types that took longest to finalise.

6 Wider promotion of R validation tools

Improve tools available for review and visualization of data prior to submission

A strong foundation to build upon

The portal replaced ad hoc email exchange with a transparent, version-controlled, auditable process — and for the first time gives the SSP quantitative visibility into submission timing, revisions, and member engagement.

Transition friction this year was expected given the scale of change — the SSP expects notable timeliness gains as early as 2027.

SC22 is invited to:

- NOTE the progress made implementing standardised SciData reporting
- CONSIDER desired improvements and engage with the SSP
- SUPPORT continued investment in data systems for efficiency, timeliness & accuracy