

WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-WP05_Rev02 · SPC-OFP

Proposed Revisions to the Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission

Clarifying and consolidating SciData reporting requirements — without adding to CCM reporting burden

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Why revisit the SciData now?

1

Submission templates exposed the gaps

Building standardized data-submission templates against SciData surfaced ambiguity and missing options in the current text.

2

Goal is clarity, not volume

Most changes simplify and enhance guidelines — very few are new reporting fields

3

Categories of proposals

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

4

Full transparency for review

A tracked-changes version and a clean version accompany this proposal for SC22's review.

One consistent fix, repeated across gear types

The current text restates the same requirements separately for each gear — with small inconsistencies.
This proposal aligns them.

- **Trip & activity identifiers** Now mandatory for all gears — required to link trip, activity, and catch files under the standardized templates.
- **Two new activity codes** 'Searched, no sets made' and 'no fishing – other' close a long-standing gap; reporting a no-sets day becomes binding, not optional.
- **Noon position (no sets made)** Proposed to be mandatory, so activity records stay geographically complete even on non-fishing days.
- **Redundant 'set identifier' removed** Dropped for pole-and-line & purse seine — the activity identifier already uniquely covers each set.

Catch reporting text: shorter, and one clarifying flag

SIMPLER TEXT

Number & weight of fish caught

Before: provisions listed a specific subset of species by name. Now: “all key WCPFC species, at minimum” — one clear standard, same underlying data.

Removing the itemized list simplifies the text — it does not change what CCMs report.

NEW FIELD

'Is discarded' flag

A single binary flag on catch records: 0 = retained, 1 = released/discarded.

Added to longline, pole-and-line, purse seine, and troll provisions — it labels catch data CCMs already collect, rather than asking for new observations.

Longline

- **One time standard: UTC**

Drops the redundant time-zone reporting sentence — UTC is already the de facto standard the SSP applies.

- **Mainline length in nautical miles**

Switches from kilometers to the unit fishers actually use.

- **Branchlines: “-1” for N/A**

Allows a mandatory field to stay mandatory even on non-setting activities.

- **Hook size & type: standard lists**

As presented in EB-WP10, propose standardized options as opposed to free-text entries.

- **Bait type: up to 3 fields**

Optional primary / secondary / tertiary fields for CCMs whose fishers use multiple bait types.

- **Catch weight per set: now mandatory**

Recent reporting shows CCMs are able to provide this field — more accurate than an SSP-estimated average.

Pole-and-line, Purse seine & Troll

Pole-and-line

- Number caught per day is clarified to capture discarded individuals with no estimable weight — works together with the new 'Is discarded' flag.
- Dates - UTC

Purse seine

- School association gets an 'unknown' code for cases where it genuinely isn't known.
- Duplicate activity rows are combined — the second row was really a note, not a separate requirement.
- Dates - UTC

Troll

- Weight of fish caught per day (mt) is added as a new field — past submissions show CCMs are already able to report it.
- Dates - UTC

Text simplification and refinement

- **Annual Catch Estimates (Para 1)** All key species now explicitly reported for the WCPFC Statistical Area (WX) — removing the need to infer totals from sub-areas. Text is simplified with a new summary table. One optional new field flags catch inside/outside archipelagic waters, for the small number of CCMs it applies to.
- **Vessel identifiers (Para 1.1)** IMO number added — mandatory only where it exists — to reduce uncertainty around vessel identity.
- **Trip information (Para 1.2)** Trip identifier now mandatory for all gears. Vessel flag & fleet code added as optional cross-checks. Date of unloading is only mandatory once a trip has actually ended.
- **Aggregated catch & effort (Para 4)** Longline stratification gains ‘hooks between floats’. Unraised catch/effort provisions are dropped — logbook coverage is now high enough, and Eastern Pacific data already comes from IATTC.

GUIDANCE NEEDED [Suggest to remove]

One open question for SC22

Hooks between floats

Currently reported as raw, fine-scale values in aggregated longline catch and effort.

Should this move to binned categories, or continue at the current fine-scale resolution?

SC22 guidance will determine how this stratification field is finalized in the adopted text.

Clearer document, similar reporting effort, demonstrated ability to support most proposals

Alignment

Added clarity

Few proposed additions

SC22 is invited to:

- Review the proposal and consider any resulting changes to data reporting
- Provide guidance on hooks-between-floats reporting resolution
- Recommend the proposed SciData revisions for adoption by the Commission