

Proposed Standards, Specifications and Procedures for Unloading Data

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Background & Objectives

- Independent unloading data will verify South Pacific albacore catches, cross-checked against logbook estimates, to support catch limits
- Objectives: verify catch quantities by fishing zone (EEZ); compare unloading estimates to logbook catches; compare catches against agreed catch limits
- Key potential challenge: partial unloadings, transshipments, complications matching unloading events to logbook trips
- At-sea transshipment made up ~25% of the albacore catch in 2024, but these data are reported and held separately in WCPFC's database
- Scope: longline and troll vessels unloading directly to port-based processing/export docks (at-sea transshipment out of scope here)
- Question: Is there value for the Commission to monitor unloadings for other fisheries?

Data Standards & Collection

- Draft SSPs build on the existing SPC/FFA Data Collection Committee unloading forms, adding new fields to meet the monitoring objectives
- New/enhanced fields: gear code, unloading location (carrier vs in-port), catch location (EEZ/high seas), catch remaining onboard (for partial unloads), and market/country destination
- Existing Tufman2 unloading module can capture the data via manual web entry, or standardised CSV/JSON upload — avoiding a new system
- Alternative: a dedicated mobile unloadings app has been requested by CCMs, but needs guidance on user group, field vs office entry, and links/overlap with existing tools (e.g., ePSM)
- Open questions: how is catch location validated (logbook vs VMS)? How should partial-unload catch be disaggregated from subsequent trips (maybe a minor issue)?

Recommendations for SC22

- Favour approaches that reuse existing tools, where applicable
- SC22 is invited to NOTE the paper and guide the development of SSPs and data standards for unloading data
- Guidance sought on data fields: disaggregating partial unloadings, validating catch location, and the level of destination/market detail needed
- Guidance sought on scope: all ports/vessels vs Pacific Island CCMs only; fishing vessels only vs carrier vessels too; albacore only vs other fisheries/gears
- Guidance sought on governance: which entities manage, analyse and report unloading data, and on what timeframe (e.g., annual TCC vs near real-time)