



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE  
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**Proposed Revisions to the Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission**

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**WCPFC-TCC22-2026-34  
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**Submitted by  
SPC-OFP**

## 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.

### **TCC22 is invited to:**

- Review the proposal and consider the potential changes to SciData reporting; and
- Recommend the proposed SciData revisions be adopted by the Commission.

## Overview

Following the revisions recommended by SC22, the SSP proposes a further set of revisions to the SciData for consideration by TCC22. The revisions presented in this section are additional to, and build upon, the changes recommended by SC22. A tracked-changes version showing these additional revisions is provided in the accompanying supplementary document:

*SciData\_revisions\_sc22\_adopted\_tracked.docx*.

The key changes recommended by SC22 were around aligning the text in the SciData with the agreed templates and to simplify text, where applicable.

The proposed changes below are detailed for clarity, but this document is also accompanied by a tracked changes and a clean version of the modified SciData document (relative to the version recommended by SC22).

## Proposed revisions for review by TCC22

### 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 1.3: Information on operations by longliners

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 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 was proposed to be a mandatory field going forward. **During SC22, CCMs noted this would require operational changes and may take time. We have proposed it again here, for the review of TCC relative to operational changes. If this change is not possible this year, we encourage CCMs to consider this proposal for next year.**

### **A2.1.3, A2.2.4, A2.3.3: Catch information by gear**

Species code: Removed the table of key species to be reported to the Commission in each of the gear-specific catch tables and moved the table of key species to Annex 3.

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). Reporting of discarded catch is non-binding, unless otherwise specified through WCPFC CMMs.

Here, we added a sentence to specify that discarded catch is not currently a binding requirement, following comments received during SC22. Given the importance of discards, especially for bycatch species, CCMs are encouraged to consider whether it may be possible to consider this as a binding field in the future.

## **Proposed revisions recommended by SC22**

### **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.

### **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.

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

### **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: ‘searching’ and ‘no fishing - other’, the latter being a broad category to capture any number of activities, unrelated to fishing.

In addition, we initially 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. **During SC22, CCMs noted this would require operational changes and may take time; therefore, it has been removed for now, but we encourage CCMs to consider this proposal for next year.**

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. **During SC22, CCMs noted this would require operational changes and may take time; therefore, it has been removed for now, but we encourage CCMs to consider this proposal for next year.**

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.

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.

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 Commission<sup>1</sup> 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.

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). Reporting of discarded catch is non-binding, unless otherwise specified through WCPFC CMMs.

#### **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 searching’ 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.

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

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). Reporting of discarded catch is non-binding, unless otherwise specified through WCPFC CMMs.

### **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). Reporting of discarded catch is non-binding, unless otherwise specified through WCPFC CMMs.

### **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). Reporting of discarded catch is non-binding, unless otherwise specified through WCPFC CMMs.

## **Annex 4: Size data pro forma**

SC22 recommended including the proposed size data pro forma (presented as part of Project 127) as part of the SciData. Annex 4 has been developed to describe the reporting details and format. If adopted by the Commission, this data submission will be included as a standardized template to be submitted through the WCPFC web-submission portal in 2027.