



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
5-13 August 2015

Feedback on Purse Seine Species Composition Sampling

WCPFC-SC11-2015 ST-IP-09

The Commission's science services provider under Project 60 (Collection and evaluation of purse-seine species composition data), compared the existing grab sampling and the new spill sampling methods; the outcomes of which have been reviewed and evaluated by SC.

The main conclusions provided at SC10 were:

- Spill samples provide more accurate estimates of size and species composition than grab samples because there is no selection of individual fish, and sample sizes are larger;
- Species composition determined from spill samples are consistent with cannery container receipts in the Solomon Islands and from unloading data in Japan;

For a wide application of spill sampling, SC10 and WCPFC11 requested that CCMs provide feedback to SC11 and TCC11 regarding purse-seine species composition sampling protocols, spill bin size, and expectations of crew usage:

SCIO: Para 100.b) SC10 recommended that the information in SC10-ST-IP-02 regarding purse-seine species composition sampling protocols, spill bin size, and expectations of crew usage be forwarded to industry by CCMs to assess implications and operational constraints of wider use of spill sampling and report the feedback to SC11 and TCC11.

WCPFC I: Para 332. Regarding feedback from industry on purse seine catch sampling (paragraph 100.b, SC10 Summary Report), the WCPFC Chair urged CCMs and those industry groups present to contact the Secretariat to obtain information about the spill sampling approach, and to provide feedback to Secretariat on the implications and constraints to moving to such an approach.

To date, the Secretariat has received one response – attached.



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July 14, 2015

Ref: WP104-31

Mr. Anthony Beeching
Assistant Science Manager
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356, Kolonia
Phonpei, 96941, Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Mr. Beeching,

I am writing in response to the Circular 2015/20 dated 21 April, 2015 regarding feedback on purse seine species composition sampling.

Several Taiwan purse seine vessels have participated in the project 60 over the past few years. In accordance with the SC10 report, we forwarded the information in SC10-ST-IP-02 relating to purse seine species composition sampling, and some feedback were provided by our industry. Several owners expressed that the spill bin size is too large that may pose obstacle to the vessel. Furthermore, the proposed sampling size is so large that it takes long time for observers to identify the species of each fish and measure them, which may delay fishing operation of the vessel.

Recognizing the importance of identifying the true species composition of purse seine catches in regional tuna stock assessment, we do not oppose the idea of implementing spill sampling. We suggest that the spill bin size and the sampling size be decreased to achieve the sampling purpose and lower the obstruction as much as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Ding-Rong Lin

Director

Deep Sea Fisheries Division