



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION**
Fukuoka, Japan
29 August – 2 September 2016

**ISC 16 Report (Annex 11)
Statistics Working Group Workshop Report (July 2016)**

WCPFC-NC12-2016/IP-12

ISC¹

¹ International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

Annex 11***REPORT OF THE STATISTICS WORKING GROUP***

*International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species
in the North Pacific Ocean*

July 13-18, 2016
Sapporo, Japan

1.0 Welcome and Introduction

A two-day meeting of the Statistics Working Group (STATWG) was held on July 8-9 in Sapporo, Japan in conjunction with the 16th Meeting of the ISC Plenary.

Ren-Fen Wu, ISC STATWG Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed 12 participants from Canada, Chinese-Taipei, Japan, U.S.A., and WCPFC (Attachment 1). Gerard DiNardo, ISC Chairman, and Sarah Shoffler, Office of the ISC Chair, also participated in the meeting. The group also welcomed Kirara Nishikawa (Japan) as the new ISC Webmaster.

2.0 Appointment of Rapporteurs

Wei-Jen Wang (Chinese-Taipei) and Darryl Tagami (U.S.A.) were appointed as rapporteurs.

3.0 Adoption of Agenda and Tabling of Documents

The agenda for the Statistics Working Group workshop was considered and adopted for the meeting (Attachment 2).

Three Information Papers were distributed electronically, and reviewed at the meeting (Attachment 3). Five presentations were also made by the ISC Data Administrator (DA), ISC Web master, and the U.S. Data Correspondent.

4.0 National Data Correspondents

National Data Correspondents were identified as follows:

Canada – John Holmes
China – Xiaojie Dai (not present)
Chinese-Taipei – Wei-Jen Wang
Japan – Koji Uosaki
Korea – Yujung Kwon (not present)
Mexico – Michel Dreyfus (not present)
U.S.A. – John Childers
IATTC – Nick Vogel (not present)
WCPFC – Peter Williams (not present)

Data Managers for species Working Groups were identified as follows:

ALBWG – John Childers
BILLWG – Darryl Tagami
PBFWG – Osamu Sakai
SHARKWG – Suzy Kohin

5.0 STATWG Inter-sessional Activities

Since the ISC15 Plenary, no STATWG intercessional meeting was held. The STATWG Steering Group meeting scheduled for May, 2016, in Taipei was cancelled due to insufficient participation.

6.0 Status of STATWG 2015 Work Plan

The STATWG chair reviewed the 2015 STATWG Work Plan proposed at ISC15 Plenary (Attachment 4). It was reported that 5 of 6 items of the work plan were completed successfully in the past year; 1 item regarding holding a STATWG Steering Group meeting in 2016 was not completed.

The group agreed that continuing to distribute a comparison report between the data inventory of the ISC and other RFMOs for review by the Chairs of the species Working Groups was not necessary.

7.0 Performance of Member Countries

7.1 A comparison between Member data re-submission and historical data in the ISC database

In order to correct inconsistencies and errors in the ISC database, Members were asked to submit online the entire historical time series of Category I and II data by 2013, and Category III data by 2014. The DA conducted a data comparison between the Member data resubmission and the historical data in the ISC database (ISC14/STATWG/WP-2). The DA updated the data comparison report for the STATWG meeting in July, 2015.

For CAT I data, the resubmitted data were checked to determine if it matched, was greater, or was less than the value of the original data. For CAT II and CAT III data, the data were checked to determine whether they were present in the historical data, and whether they matched the historical data.

7.2 Submission of 2015 Data - Presentation by Izumi Yamasaki

The DA reviewed the submission of 2015 data by Member countries by July1, 2016 for Category Ic, Ie, II, and III.

Table 1. Submission of data (denoted by *) by Members for CAT Ic, Ie, 2, and 3 by fishing gear.

Country	CAT	Gear													
		FPN	GN	GND	HAR	LH	LLD	LP	LTR	LX	MIS	NK	PS	RG	TX
CAN	1c								★						
	1e								★						
	2								★						
	3								★						
JPN	1c	★		★				★	★	★		★	★	★	
	1e							★	★	★			★		
	2							★	★				★		
	3			★				★	★						
KOR	1c	★						★					★		★
	1e							★					★		
	2							★					★		
	3							★					★		
TWN	1c	★	★		★			★			★		★		
	1e							★					★		
	2							★					★		
	3							★					★		
USA	1c			★	★	★	★		★		★		★	★	
	1e			★	★	★	★		★				★		
	2			★	★		★		★					★	
	3						★		★						

ISC Gear Codes*

Code	Gear	Name
FPN	Set-net	Stationary uncovered pound nets
GND	Gill-net	Driftnets
GN	Gill-net	Unspecified Gill-net
HAR	Harpoon	Harpoons
LH**	Handline	Handline gear
LLD	Longline	Drifting longlines
LP**	Pole-and-line	Pole-and-line
LTR	Troll	Trolling lines
LX	Hook-and-line	Hooks and lines (not specified)
MIS	Other gears	Miscellaneous gear
NK	Not specified	Gear not known or not specified
PS	Purse-seine	Supporting nets with purse lines (purse-seine)
RG	Sport	Recreational fishing gears
TX	Trawl	Trawl (not specified)

* FAO 1999. Definition and classification of fishing gear categories. FAO Fish. Tec. Pap. 222 Rev.1.

** IATTC code.

The DA noted a few examples from Japan and the U. S. in which the data submitted in previous years were not submitted in 2016. Japan clarified that while CAT III data for their gill net and harpoon fisheries were submitted in previous years, data were not available for gillnet in 2014, and for harpoon in 2014 and 2015 because size measurements for such small-scale fisheries is opportunistically collected. Japan also noted that historical gillnet data were submitted as GN (unspecified gill net) and more recent data were submitted as GND (drift gill net). The U. S. clarified that CAT I effort data for the skipjack pole and line fishery was not submitted due to confidentiality as there have been less than 3 vessels operating since 2010. Also, CAT I effort data

for the albacore pole and line fishery were not submitted since 2010 because the data were reported with the albacore troll data. The DA noted that Korea has submitted CAT I catch data for set net and trawl fisheries for the first time in 2015 and 2016. Mexico last submitted data to the ISC in 2013.

The group discussed whether confidential fishery data should be suppressed and not reported, or aggregated into a “miscellaneous” gear category. The group concluded that further discussions would be needed. And for any resulting recommendation, guidelines and procedures would need to be developed, approved, and documented in the ISC online data submission manual.

7.3 Member Report Card - Presentation by Izumi Yamasaki

The DA presented the 2016 report card for Members (see Attachment 5) based on submission of 2015 data by the July 1, 2016 deadline. Timeliness grades were assigned for Category Ic, Ie, II, and III; and completeness grades were assigned for all required fisheries.

- Canada, Chinese-Taipei, Japan, Korea, and United States submitted all 2015 data on time and were complete for all fisheries
- China and Mexico did not submit any Category I, II, and III data for 2015

8.0 Member Issues with Online Data Submission

It was noted at ISC15 that some Members experienced issues with the online data submission to the ISC database. A presentation was given that addressed these issues in detail for the group to consider.

8.1 Improvements to the ISC database – presented by Izumi Yamasaki

In response to the issues presented at ISC15, the DA implemented modifications to the ISC online data submission system in March, 2016 which were documented in the User’s Manual but only distributed to the Steering Group for review in June, 2016. The Data Correspondents were provided with more options to insert, over-write, and delete records when submitting data online in July 2016. This was done to prevent unintended over-writing of database records, particularly when submitting historical data. Permissions were also granted to Chairs of species Working Groups to access their archived stock assessment files which included upload, download, and delete functions.

8.2 Common Data Issues for ISC Data Correspondents – Info-1 and Info-2 presented by John Childers

Following up with his presentation at ISC15, Childers gave an updated presentation to address recurring issues with submitting data online, suggestions for improving the ISC database and data management, and suggestions for improving the STATWG web pages.

On the second day of the STATWG meeting, Childers presented a list of 20 recommendations (Attachment 6) based on his presentation which the group discussed and prioritized (High, Medium, or Low), and identified due dates and leads. These recommendations will form a work plan for improvements to the database and online data submission system. The Steering Group will be responsible for overseeing and

9.0 Improvements of the ISC website - presentation by Kirara Nishikawa

The new ISC Webmaster, Kirara Nishikawa, gave an overview on improvements to the ISC website in the last two years primarily by the former Webmaster Yumi Okochi who departed in April 2016. Okochi and Nishikawa worked together in 2016 to publish regular updates for meeting schedules, working group documents, and ISC news. The Webmaster reminded the group that since the ISC website moved to a new server in November, 2015, redirection from the old domain name to new domain name will end in November, 2016. The ISC website is at <http://isc.fra.go.jp/> The Webmaster also wanted to prioritize updating the photos on ISC home page.

The group recognized the need to develop a formal update process and schedule for the ISC website. The Webmaster and Shoffler agreed to work on this issue, and to serve as points of contact for receiving web content from the ISC Working Groups.

10.0 Data Revision Reports from Members

Revising data in databases is necessary for a variety of reasons, including removing duplicate records, correcting errors detected in the data, updating data due to improved estimation procedures, and availability of new data. In order to initiate the data revision process in the ISC database, Data Correspondents are required to submit a Data Revision Report to the STATWG that provides the reasons for the data revision, detailed documentation of the data revision, and comparisons of the original and revised values, in accordance with Working Paper (ISC14/STATWG/WP-1).

The STATWG decided last year that a Data Revision Report for CAT I data would not be required if the revisions were limited to 2 years prior to the most recent year of data submission and the change in catch or effort values were less than 5% relative to the original value. For CAT II and III data, it would not be required to submit a Data Revision Report if the revisions were limited to 3 years prior to the most recent year of data submission and the change in values were less than 5%.

No Data Revision Reports were submitted to the STATWG by Members in 2016.

11.0 Member Data Collection Systems

The STATWG chair asked the group for any updates to Member's data collection systems or port sampling programs.

- US reported that electronic logbooks have been developed for the Hawaii longline fishery and are being tested in 2016.
- Chinese Taipei reported that electronic logbook reporting was implemented on longline and distant water purse seine fleets in 2015. They expect to have 100% coverage for large-scale longline vessels in 2016.

12.0 Review of the ISC Catch Tables and Data Inventory - presentation by Izumi Yamasaki

In order to correct inconsistencies and errors in the ISC database, Members were asked to submit online the entire historical time series of Category I and II data by 2013, and Category III data by 2014. The DA conducted a data comparison between the Member data resubmission and the historical data in the ISC database (ISC14/STATWG/WP-2). The DA updated the data comparison report for the STATWG meeting in July, 2015. However, there are still inconsistencies and discrepancies in the data for each Member. These discrepancies were also evident when comparing the data submitted by Members to the ISC database with the data presented by Members in their National Reports to the ISC.

The DA presented catch tables (Attachment 7) by year, country, and gear for the following ISC species: swordfish, striped marlin, Pacific Bluefin tuna, albacore, black marlin, blue sharks, and mako sharks. The DA also presented a comparison report for the catch tables based on the data submitted to the ISC database by July 1, 2016 against the data presented in the National Reports of Members. This report identified discrepancies by fisheries and species from 2010 to 2015.

The catch tables were reviewed in the STATWG meeting, and the Member Data Correspondents were asked to explain the discrepancies and to select the correct values to be used in the catch tables of the ISC16 Plenary Report and to serve as the official ISC catch tables.

Based on this review, Canada will be developing a data revision report for the STATWG meeting in July 2017 to address incorrect Category I troll catch data for 2011 and 2012 and the absence of 1 t of released albacore in 2013. Chinese Taipei and the U.S. also agreed to revise the catch tables in their respective National Reports to the ISC.

The group discussed whether South Pacific data from Members should be included in the ISC Plenary catch tables. The ISC Chair clarified that the ISC Plenary catch tables are for North Pacific data only.

13.0 Work Linkages with Species Working Groups

- Access to the ISC Database

Chairs of the species Working Groups were granted access by the DA to their archived stock assessment files which included upload, download, and delete options.

- SHARKWG data issues

Issues with shark data or the lack thereof remains unresolved. The quantity and quality of the data is often poor, and metadata on the data collection process is not available. The needs of the fisheries scientists for assessments cannot be easily met by the Data Correspondents to provide requested data from Member's current data collection systems.

- Data used in stock assessments

ISC16/STATWG/INFO-3: Assessment Data Report of the Billfish Working Group was presented by Jon Brodziak which summarizes the data used in the Pacific blue marlin assessment. The group agreed that this a best practice that provides transparency and ease of access to the data.

- Archival of stock assessment files from species Working Groups

The Chair reviewed the process for archival of stock assessment files from the species Working Groups, which is documented in ISC13-STATWG-WP1. The group discussed which stock assessment files for archival should be required or recommended, and whether the list in the Working Paper needs revision. It was concluded that the species Working Group Chairs should make the decisions on assessment files to be archived with the ISC.

The BILLWG Chair provided to the DA, Pacific blue marlin and western and central Pacific striped marlin stock assessment files for archival in 2016.

14.0 Species Working Groups' Needs

The chairs of the species Working Groups for Albacore, Billfish, Pacific Bluefin, and Sharks were provided with an opportunity to present their data needs and concerns to the STATWG. Only the chairs of the Albacore and Billfish Working Groups were present in this meeting. Their needs are presented in the following list:

- Obtaining CAT I, II, and III data from China and Mexico annually, with improved documentation
- Clarification and validation of data from RFMOs, particularly albacore catches in the NPO by Vanuatu from the IATTC, and albacore catches in the NPO by China from the WCPFC
- Sex specific size composition data for ISC species of interest
- Improved collection of shark data (catches and discards) by species and unspecified shark categories (including historical data) by Members

15.0 Other Matters

15.1 Generate new Member metadata reports

The DA provided Member metadata reports for the first time in 2012. The Chair informed the group that the DA will generate again each Member's metadata report and distribute to the Data Correspondents by May 30, 2017. The Data Correspondents will review and update their metadata by July 2017.

16.0 Conclusions, Future Work Plan, and Recommendations to Plenary

16.1 Future Work Plan

1. DA will distribute the ISC data inventory for CAT I, II, and III to ISC Data Correspondents for review by August 1, 2016. DA will then distribute the ISC data inventory to Chairs of the species Working Groups by September 30, and publish on the ISC website by October 15, 2016.
2. Data Correspondents will provide by November 1, 2016 appropriate explanations for any discrepancy identified in the DA's comparison report which was distributed in September, 2015. The comparison report compared the re-submission of the Member time series data in 2013-2014 and the historical data in the ISC database.
3. DA will continue to archive stock assessment files from 2013-2015 ISC assessments which have not yet been submitted by Chairs of species Working Groups by November 1, 2016. DA will archive the stock assessment files according to the procedures documented in ISC13-STATWG-WP1.
4. DA will generate and distribute a Member's metadata report by May 30, 2017. The Data Correspondents will review and update their metadata report by July, 2017 prior to the ISC17 Plenary.
5. STATWG will develop a work plan with prioritized recommendations and revisions for the ISC online data submission system and User's Manual by September 30, 2016. DA will distribute a proposal of revisions to Data Correspondents for review by October 31, 2016. DA will request any necessary ISC database modifications to the database contractor by November, 2016. DA will revise and update the User's Manual, including the data codes, and distribute to the Data Correspondents by May 1, 2017.
6. STATWG Steering Group will meet in January, 2017 in San Diego, U.S.

16.2 Recommendations to the Plenary

1. China's performance with data submission continues in 2016. It is recommended that the ISC Chair follow-up with China on its data submission obligations.
2. Since Mexico did not submit any CAT I, II, or III data in 2016, it is also recommended that the ISC Chair follow-up with Mexico on its data submission obligations.
3. Species Working Groups should submit a Data Report after each assessment that summarizes the data used in the assessment (ISC16/STATWG/INFO-3: Assessment Data Report of the Billfish Working Group was presented as a Data Report for the Pacific blue marlin assessment). The STATWG endorses this as a best practice that provides transparency and ease of access to the data.
4. STATWG requests the scheduling of a 2-day meeting prior to the ISC17 Plenary in July, 2017.

17.0 Adjournment

The next STATWG meeting is planned to be held prior to ISC17 for 2 days in July, 2017, at a time and place to be determined.

The Chairman expressed his appreciation to all participants for their contributions and

cooperation in completing a successful meeting. The STATWG recognized the efforts and contributions of the ISC Database Administrator, Izumi Yamasaki, and the former ISC Webmaster Yumi Okochi. The STATWG collectively thanked the hosts (Japan) for their hospitality and overall support for the meeting.

The meeting of the ISC STATWG was adjourned at 13:40 pm on July 9, 2016

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Attachment 2

AGENDA

International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

Statistics Working Group

ANA Hotel Sappoo

Sapporo, Japan

8-9 July 2016

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Appointment of Rapporteurs
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Tabling of Documents
5. Performance of Member Countries
 - i. Data submission for 2015
 - ii. Report card
6. Common data issues for the Data Correspondents
7. Status of STATWG Work Plan and Inter-sessional Activities
8. Data revision report of member and Data Collection System (if any)
9. Reviewing catch tables
10. Works Linkage with Species Working Groups
11. Other Matter
12. Conclusions, Future Work Plan, and Recommendations to Plenary
13. Adjournment

Attachment 3**List of Papers and Presentations****INFORMATION PAPERS**

1. ISC16/STATWG/INFO-1: User's Guide for Online Submission of Fishery Statistics to the ISC Database - by Ren-Fen Wu
2. ISC16/STATWG/INFO-2: Common data issues for the Data Correspondents - by John Childers
3. ISC16/STATWG/INFO-3: Assessment Data Report of the Billfish Working Group - by Jon Brodziak

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation 1 – Improvement to the ISC Database – presented by Izumi Yamasaki
2. Presentation 2 – Common Data Issues for ISC Data Correspondents – presented by John Childers
3. Presentation 3 – Member Submission of 2015 Data and Member Report Card - presented by Izumi Yamasaki
4. Presentation 4 – Improvements of the ISC Website - presented by Kirara Nishikawa
5. Presentation 5 – Review of the ISC Catch Tables - presentation by Izumi Yamasaki

Attachment 4**2015 Future Work Plan**

7. DA will distribute the ISC data inventory for CAT I, II, and III to ISC Data Correspondents for review by August 1, 2015. DA will then distribute the ISC data inventory to Chairs of the species Working Groups by September 1, and publish on the ISC website by September 30, 2015.
COMPLETED
8. DA will distribute a comparison report between the Member data submitted in 2014 and historical data in the ISC database to the Data Correspondents by September 1, 2015. Data Correspondents will provide appropriate explanations for any discrepancy identified in the DA's comparison report by November 1, 2015.
COMPLETED
9. Chairs of species Working Groups will submit stock assessment files from 2013-2015 assessments which have not yet been archived to the DA by November 1, 2015. DA will archive the stock assessment files according to the procedures documented in ISC13-STATWG-WP1.
COMPLETED
10. Data Correspondents of Members will provide their recommendations and revisions for the ISC online data submission system and User's Manual by September 30, 2015. DA will distribute a proposal of revisions to the ISC online data submission system and User's Manual to Data Correspondents for review by October 31, 2015. DA will request any necessary ISC database modifications to the database contractor by November, 2015. DA will revise and update the User's Manual, including the data codes, and distribute to the Data Correspondents by March 31, 2016.
COMPLETED
11. DA will distribute a comparison report between the data inventory of the ISC and WCPFC, and between the data inventory of the ISC and IATTC, to chairs of the species Working Groups by March 31 annually to identify overlaps and gaps in the data holdings of the RFMOs.
COMPLETED
12. STATWG Steering Group will meet in January, 2016 in Taipei, Taiwan.
NOT COMPLETED

Attachment 5

2016 Data Submission Report Card for ISC Members

Member	CAT Ic	CAT Ie	CAT II	CAT III
CAN				
CHN				
JPN				
KOR				
MEX				
TWN				
USA				

	On Time and Complete
	On Time but Incomplete and/or not in ISC format
	Submitted Late but Complete
	Submitted Late and Incomplete and/or not in ISC format
	Not Provided

Attachment 6

ISC Database Issues: 2016 recommendations

Reviewed and prioritized by STATWG members at ISC16 in July 2016.

Priority	Time Frame and Lead	Recommendations
H	Jan. 2017. Ren-Fen & Darryl	Draft a terms of reference for the STATWG based on those outlined in the ISC operations manual.
H	May 1 st annually. Izumi	Distribution of revised user guide. Update manual in March then distribute to WG members and post on ISC web site.
H	May 1 st 2017. Izumi	Update user guide with instructions for units of measure (kg, cm) for cat 3
H	May 1 st 2017. Izumi	Clarify user guide to ensure retained and non-retained catches are submitted in the same file.
M	July 2017. Izumi	Explore if versioning is possible in ISC database
H	Oct 31 2016. Childers & Izumi	Determine if it's possible and implement to prevent overwriting of existing records when submitting ISC data.
L	July 2017. Izumi	Do range of values for submitted values need to be changed (validation rules)?
L	July 2017. Izumi	Does cat 3 validation need to be updated to allow for weight class values over 999?
H	Oct 31 2016. Childers & Izumi	Can database allow uploading values with more precision and members update previous years' data with increased precision to existing values?
M	Jan 2017. Ren-Fen & Childers	Describe and propose a convention for handling catches from less than 3 vessels: combine catches with another gear and footnote. (see descriptions from IATTC and WCPFC)
L	Jan 2017. Ren-Fen & Childers	Can database be modified to allow +/- latitudes and longitudes instead of using ocean code and quadrant code? Is this needed?
L	March 2017. Data Correspondents	Category 3 data need to be either # fish or frequency, but not both. DCs need to check data. May be needed to update the manual of user guide.
H	Jan 2017. Darryl & Ren-Fen	Update the STATWG web page. Assign owners and needed updates to STATWG web pages
Recommendations: CODES		
H	July 2017. Izumi & DCs	Update the time series with current codes in the ISC database.
M	July 2017. Izumi & DCs	Standardize ISC codes for missing or non-existing data (e.g. OTH, 99, etc.)

M	Jan 2017. Darryl, Ren-Fen & Childers	Do we need to change the codes for representing no catches in Cat 1? Explain/document zero catch convention
L	Jan 2017. Darryl, Ren-Fen, Childers & Izumi	Do length and weight codes need to be combined?
M	Jan 2017. Darryl, Ren-Fen, Childers & Izumi	Do we need to add an explanation of rounding Codes?
M	Jan. 2017. Darryl, Ren-Fen, Childers & Izumi	Drop the code 4 for immature in sex codes