

Scientific Data Available to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (Data Gaps)

SC21-2025 / ST-WP-01

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SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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Overview

Summary of data reporting to the WCPFC, noting any issues or gaps in data submissions

- Review 2024 provisions of Sci Data to the WCPFC
- Review SC20 Recommendations
- Highlight any other data gap matters

Brief takeaways:

- Data gaps have continued to decline

Relevant SC21 Papers

| | |
|--|---|
| Estimates of annual catches in the WCPFC statistical area | WCPFC-SC21-2025 ST-IP-01 rev2 |
| Coverage levels of operational data fields submitted to the WCPFC | WCPFC-SC21-2025 ST-IP-02 rev1 |
| ROP Data Management | WCPFC-SC21-2025 ST-IP-05 rev1 |
| PROJECT 90 update: Better data on fish lengths and weights for scientific analyses | WCPFC-SC21-2025 ST-IP-03 |
| Working Papers to be presented during SC21 ST Theme Session | |
| Review and Reconciliation of size data collected in the WCPFC-CA for stock assessment purposes (Project 127) | WCPFC-SC21-2025 ST-WP-02 rev2 |
| Proposed data standardization approaches for improved efficiency | WCPFC-SC21-2025 ST-WP-03 |
| Project 114 Update: Progress in improving Cannery Receipt Data for the WCPFC scientific work | WCPFC-SC21-2025 ST-WP-04 |
| Strengthening Scientific Data Reporting to Support Sea Turtle Conservation (CMM 2018-04) | WCPFC-SC21-2025 ST-WP-05 |
| Cetacean interaction data reporting requirements | WCPFC-SC21-2025 ST-WP-08 |

2024 Sci Data Submissions

- Annual Catch ✓
 - Failure to report catches by ocean area
 - ACE values lower than logbook catches
- Aggregate Catch and Effort ✓
- Operational Catch and Effort ✓
 - Two CCMs have low coverage, noting challenges associated with small-scale vessels
 - One CCM still missing several required longline fields
 - Improvements in reporting of shark catches
- Size Data – all but one CCM provided size data ✓
 - Absence of metadata describing statistical and sampling methods to derive size comps

29/34 CCMs satisfied 100% of the binding reporting requirements

32/34 CCMs satisfied 99% of the binding reporting requirements

All others met at least 75% of the binding reporting requirements

Data Gaps and Notes

| COUNTRY / TERRITORY / ENTITY | GEAR(s) | Date submitted | DATA-GAP Notes | General NOTES | TIER-SCORING EVALUATION LEVEL |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Australia | LL, PS, PL, HL, TR | 30 Apr 2025 | | G, H | III |
| Canada | TR | 29 Apr 2025 | | D | III |
| China | LL, PS | 30 Apr 2025 | 14 | | III |
| Cook Islands | LL, PS, TR | 30 Apr 2025 | | G, H | III |
| Ecuador | PS | 15 May 2025 | | | III |
| El Salvador | PS | 30 Apr 2025 | | | III |
| European Union | LL, PS | 30 Apr 2025 | | | III |
| Federated States of Micronesia | LL, PS | 30 Apr 2025 | | G, H | III |
| Fiji Islands | LL, PL | 30 Apr 2025 | | G, H | III |
| French Polynesia | LL, PL, OT | 30 Apr 2025 | | G, H | III |
| Indonesia | LL | 30 Apr 2025 | | F | III |
| | PS, PL, HL, TR, GN, OT | 30 Apr 2025 | | F, J | III |
| Japan | PS, LL | 30 Apr 2025 | | F, C | III |
| | PL, TR, OT | 30 Apr 2025 | | F | III |

SC20 Recommendations

| SC20 Statistics and Data Theme Recommendations Data Gaps of the Commission ³ | Summary of Progress |
|---|---|
| 1. [37] SC20 requested that SSP develop a subset of the key species, expected to be encountered by each gear type, to improve the evaluation of operational data reporting of key species, as reported in SC20-ST-IP-02 (e.g., Table 14). Currently, the coverage estimation assumes all key species in the “Scientific Data to be Provided by the Commission (SciData)” are encountered by all gear types and evaluates reporting coverage based on that assumption. | The SSP has implemented an approach where species that were reported in at least 10% of all fishing sets by gear and year, since the time where near full operational data have been provided to the Commission (2018), are expected to be reported in the operational data (see SPC-OFP (2025a)). This is considered a conservative approach and will not identify reporting gaps for the less frequent captures of more rare species (e.g., some shark species). |
| 2. [38] SC20 requested that SSP develop a proposal to improve data submission workflows through development of data submission standards and templates for consideration by SC21. | A paper addressing this topic has been prepared for the consideration of SC21 (Vidal and Loganimoce, 2025). |
| 3. [76] SC20 requested SSP to prepare a paper for SC21 on possible sea turtle data reporting requirements for vessels to record during fishing operations, for longline and purse seine vessels, to be incorporated in the annual reporting of Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission (SciData). | A paper addressing this topic has been prepared for the consideration of SC21 (SPC-OFP, 2025b). |
| 4. [78] SC20 recommended that SSP and the WCPFC Secretariat develop a paper for TCC20’s and the FADMO-IWG’s consideration, responding to the request to identify the needs for the FAD data fields for the work of the WCPFC (science, management and monitoring). | This topic was discussed at TCC20 (SPC-OFP, 2024) and may be progressed through the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group. |

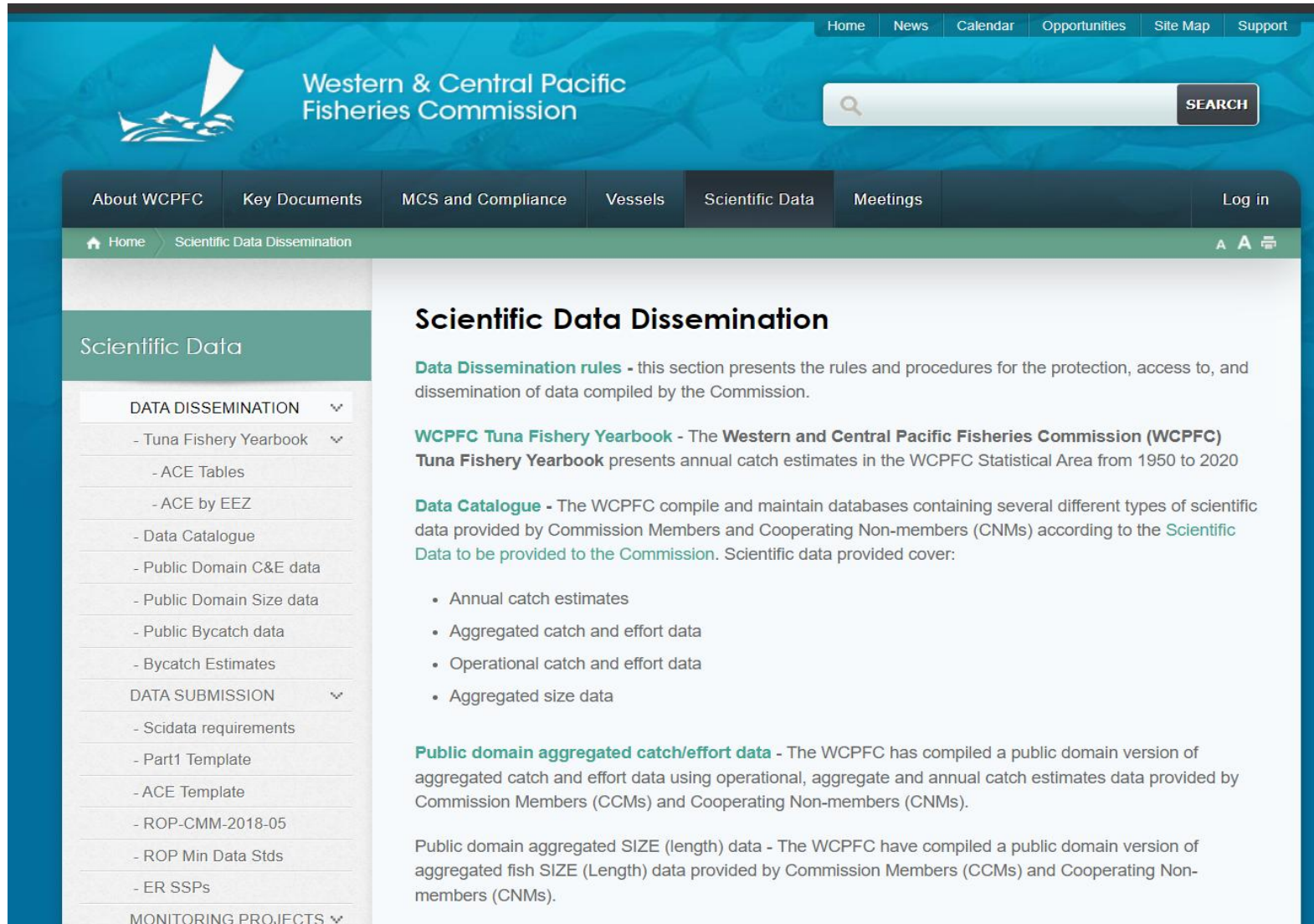
Regional Observer Programme

- Purse seine observer data submissions
- ROP longline coverage by fleet
- Overall longline coverage (6.1% in 2024)
- Transshipment observer data submissions

SC21 ST-IP-05

| REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (ROP) DATA COVERAGE | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------|------------------------|------------------------|-------|---------------|
| (minimum required for ROP is 5%) | | | | | | | | | |
| CCM Fleet | Fishery | Metric selected for Coverage | Total estimated effort | As reported by flag state | | Total estimated effort | As per data submission | | See NOTES |
| | | | | Observer | % | | Observer | % | |
| AUSTRALIA | Domestic | No. of Hooks | – | – | – | – | – | – | 2, 17 |
| CHINA | Ice/Fresh | Days fished | 42,024 | 3,578 | 8.5% | 42,024 | 3,013 | 7.2% | 3, 10, 11, 22 |
| | Frozen | | | | | | | | |
| COOK ISLANDS | Pacific Islands | Days at Sea | 434 | 56 | 12.9% | 434 | 56 | 12.9% | 8 |
| EUROPEAN UNION | Distant-water | No. of Trips | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| FSM | Pacific Islands | No. of Trips | – | – | – | – | – | – | 26, 27 |
| FIJI | Pacific Islands | No. of Trips | 581 | 118 | 20.3% | 539 | 114 | 21.2% | 7 |
| FRENCH POLYNESIA | Pacific Islands | Days at Sea | – | – | – | – | – | – | 2 |
| INDONESIA | Domestic | No. of Trips | – | – | – | – | – | – | 2, 19, 21 |
| JAPAN | Ice/Fresh, short-trip | Days fished | 18,726 | 878 | 4.7% | 18,726 | 0 | 0.0% | 10, 18 |
| | Frozen, long-trip | Days fished | 6,470 | 556 | 8.6% | 6,470 | 0 | 0.0% | 10, 18 |

WCPFC Data Products



The screenshot shows the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) website. The header includes navigation links: Home, News, Calendar, Opportunities, Site Map, and Support. The main navigation bar lists: About WCPFC, Key Documents, MCS and Compliance, Vessels, Scientific Data, Meetings, and Log in. The breadcrumb trail shows: Home > Scientific Data Dissemination. The left sidebar is titled 'Scientific Data' and contains a list of links under 'DATA DISSEMINATION' and 'DATA SUBMISSION'. The main content area is titled 'Scientific Data Dissemination' and contains three sections: 'Data Dissemination rules', 'WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook', and 'Data Catalogue'. The 'Data Dissemination rules' section states that it presents the rules and procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data compiled by the Commission. The 'WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook' section states that it presents annual catch estimates in the WCPFC Statistical Area from 1950 to 2020. The 'Data Catalogue' section states that the WCPFC compile and maintain databases containing several different types of scientific data provided by Commission Members and Cooperating Non-members (CNMs) according to the 'Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission'. The 'Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission' section lists four types of data: Annual catch estimates, Aggregated catch and effort data, Operational catch and effort data, and Aggregated size data. The 'Public domain aggregated catch/effort data' section states that the WCPFC has compiled a public domain version of aggregated catch and effort data using operational, aggregate and annual catch estimates data provided by Commission Members (CCMs) and Cooperating Non-members (CNMs). The 'Public domain aggregated SIZE (length) data' section states that the WCPFC have compiled a public domain version of aggregated fish SIZE (Length) data provided by Commission Members (CCMs) and Cooperating Non-members (CNMs).

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Home Scientific Data Dissemination

Scientific Data

Scientific Data Dissemination

Data Dissemination rules - this section presents the rules and procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data compiled by the Commission.

WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook - The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Tuna Fishery Yearbook presents annual catch estimates in the WCPFC Statistical Area from 1950 to 2020

Data Catalogue - The WCPFC compile and maintain databases containing several different types of scientific data provided by Commission Members and Cooperating Non-members (CNMs) according to the [Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission](#). Scientific data provided cover:

- Annual catch estimates
- Aggregated catch and effort data
- Operational catch and effort data
- Aggregated size data

Public domain aggregated catch/effort data - The WCPFC has compiled a public domain version of aggregated catch and effort data using operational, aggregate and annual catch estimates data provided by Commission Members (CCMs) and Cooperating Non-members (CNMs).

Public domain aggregated SIZE (length) data - The WCPFC have compiled a public domain version of aggregated fish SIZE (Length) data provided by Commission Members (CCMs) and Cooperating Non-members (CNMs).

DATA DISSEMINATION

- Tuna Fishery Yearbook
- ACE Tables
- ACE by EEZ
- Data Catalogue
- Public Domain C&E data
- Public Domain Size data
- Public Bycatch data
- Bycatch Estimates

DATA SUBMISSION

- Scidata requirements
- Part1 Template
- ACE Template
- ROP-CMM-2018-05
- ROP Min Data Stds
- ER SSPs

MONITORING PROJECTS

Other matters and developments

- Processing ‘non-standard’ data remains a key challenge for the SC schedule – proposal for standardized submissions to be discussed later
- SSP working to develop a new data dissemination platform to enhance access to data for greater transparency, data quality, and to facilitate CCMs’ and Commission work
 - This is a longer-term project due to resource limitation (~2 yrs)

Actions

- Please **review the status of your scientific submissions and any gaps identified** in this and companion papers
- Contact SPC if there are **updates or corrections** required
- The SSP is **available to assist** as necessary to improve gaps or develop efficiencies for data submissions and review
- Revision to this, and accompanying papers, will be made following this session, as necessary

Thank you