

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
DATA AND STANDARDS REVIEW MEETING

MINUTES

La Jolla, California (USA)
April 29 – 30, 2005

AGENDA

1. Review of IATTC data systems and processing:
 - a. Logbook: Purse seine and longline
 - b. Observer
 - c. Length frequency and species composition sampling
 - d. Landings
2. Review of data systems and processing for data received by IATTC from cooperating non-parties and members and others
3. Data requirements:
 - a. IATTC [Resolution C-03-05](#) on Data Provision
 - b. Standards

DOCUMENTS

DC-1-02a	Documentation of Data Provision and Processing for the Japanese Tuna Fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean
DC-1-02b	The 2004 Canadian North Pacific Albacore Troll Fishery
DC-1-02c	U.S. Fisheries for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean
DC-1-02d	Documentación sobre el preparación de datos científicos de la pesquería española de pez espada (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) en las regiones del Pacífico, con especial referencia a los años más recientes 2002 y 2003
DC-1-02e	Korea's Data Collection and Processing for Distant-Water Tuna Fisheries
DC-1-02f	Review of Taiwanese Data Collection and Processing System, and Plans of Improvements for the Taiwanese Tuna Longline Fleet in the Pacific Ocean
DC-1-02g	Review of Chinese tuna data collection and processing system in the eastern Pacific Ocean

APPENDICES

1. List of attendees

The meeting opened at 9:30 A.M. on April 29, 2005, at the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Headquarters, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, California, USA. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Michael G. Hinton (IATTC); the participants are listed in Appendix 1. Following brief discussion, the meeting agenda was adopted.

1. Review of IATTC Data Systems and Processing

a. Logbook: Purse seine and longline

Ms. Jenny Suter presented a review of the IATTC logbook data systems and processing for longline, pole-and-line, and purse-seine vessels. A general discussion focused on the ability to identify the quality of longline logbook data. It was noted that in most instances landing data for individual trips are not available to compare to logbook data. This comparison would be complicated by the nature of the longline operation, particularly because vessels transship multiple times at sea while away from home ports for periods of time which may exceed a year.

b. Observer

Mr. Nick Vogel presented a review of the IATTC purse-seine observer data collection and processing program. There was a general discussion about the measurement of nets by observers. It was noted that the IATTC obtains details on the sonar systems of the vessels but that this is not entered into the observer data base, and thus the information is not readily available for use in standardization of fishing effort. It was noted that this has been important in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. It was also noted that there has not been a comparison of observer measurements of net dimensions to those obtained from net-plans maintained by the vessels, and that this should be done.

c. Landings

Mr. Ed Everett presented a review of the IATTC landings data collection and processing system. In discussion, it was noted that statistics from recreational fisheries are generally good for fisheries of the USA, but not well documented from other regions.

d. Length frequency and species composition

Ms. Suter presented a review of the process used by the IATTC staff to sample pole-and-line and purse-seine wells to obtain size-frequency and species composition data. There was particular interest in, and discussion of, sampling of wells that are sorted for species or size prior to or during the unloading process. A different sampling scheme is used for these wells. It was noted that a similar process of size-sorted-sampling is used by the United States in American Samoa, but that there they occasionally see mixed “buckets” of small yellowfin and skipjack tunas set aside during the unloading process, which would be problematic if not noted. At the present time in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) region, size sorting is only taking place at sampling locations in Mexico, and at these ports there is not significant landing of bigeye tunas. Thus species misidentification is not a significant issue presently at these locations, as it would likely be in more southern ports in landings coming from floating-object or non-associated sets made in areas from which produce bigeye catches. However, it was noted that if the unloading method changed in ports where bigeye tuna are unloaded, then the sampling program would need to be revised.

It was noted that the adjustment of catches resulting from information obtained from species-composition sampling was also being applied in the western Pacific. There was a short discussion of electronic data recording and reporting, and information may be presented in the future as it becomes available.

2. Review of data systems and processing for data received by the IATTC

Documents describing fisheries and data collection and processing were presented by various Members and Cooperating Non-Parties. Full text of documents may be found on the IATTC website at <http://www.iatcc.org/IATTCandAIDCPMeetingsApril29-30-05ENG.htm>.

a. Japan (Document DC-1-02a)

Dr. Naozumi Miyabe presented a review of the fisheries and data systems of Japan. During discussion it was noted that personnel from the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) are stationed in Shimizu where more than 70% of the longline catch is landed annually. They have checked the reported catches with the landing data. It was also noted that the current data provision and processing system requires nearly two years after the end of a calendar year and therefore there was a need to shorten the time required for this. The National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF) and FAJ are now making collaborative efforts to facilitate this process so that the complete annual statistics can be provided within a year or so. With regard to the precision of logbook data, catches for bycatch species such as sharks were generally less precise and probably under-reported.

b. Canada (Document DC-1-02b)

Dr. Max Stocker presented a review of the Canadian fisheries for albacore and the associated data system. During discussions it was noted that the length-frequency data for these fisheries were obtained by the United States when catches were landed at US ports. Detailed data for years prior to 1995 do not exist, but total catch data for north Pacific albacore are available.

c. USA (Document DC-1-02c)

Mr. Al Coan presented a review of the fisheries (purse seine, baitboat, troll, longline, gill net, harpoon and recreational) and data systems of the United States of America. During discussions it was noted that catch and effort data provided to others are not raised, but the coverage factor (percentage of catch) is provided so that the data may be raised by others if desired. There was some discussion concerning whether raising is best done by those collecting the data or those to whom the data is provided (length-frequency data are also unraised; coverage rates are provided). In general for the USA, the commercial landings data are covered at 100% by receipts. Logbook coverage is 100% for all fisheries except the albacore troll fishery, but this will change in 2005 to 100% coverage. Length-frequency coverage rates are low, at 1% to 2 % of the total catch.

d. Spain (Document DC-1-02d)

Dr. Javier Ariz presented a review of the fisheries and data systems of Spain. The presentation focused on the data systems, while the written document focused on the swordfish fishery. During discussion it was noted that the logbook system of the European Union (EU) is obligatory and used for all fisheries, but that it requires reporting only of catch retained by set. The Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) logbook is voluntary, but it does record fishing effort in number of hooks as well as catch, and it requests information on discards. In general, the catches of the Spanish longline fishery in the EPO are covered at 100%, and effort at about 40%, by the logbook programs. The Spanish longline fishery has about 10% observer coverage in the EPO. Information on size of fish or discards are available from observers and from onboard sampling.

e. Korea (Document DC-1-02e)

Dr. Jeong Rack Koh presented a review of the fisheries and data systems of Korea. During discussion it was noted that basic landings data are from radio reports which are summarized and provided annually by fishing companies. These serve as the basis for raising factors and total catch statistics of Korea.

f. Chinese Taipei (Document DC-1-02f)

Dr. Shui-Kai Chang presented a review of the fisheries and data systems of Chinese Taipei. Total catch of the fleet was estimated from several sources of commercial information. Catch and effort data were raised from logbooks by a constant raising factor to keep CPUE and species composition of the raised data consistent with the logbook data. In this regard, it was noted that the summed catches by species from the data are not necessarily the same as the total catch estimates. The revisions of total catches of albacore and sashimi species (such as bigeye) due to newly recovered information and adjustments on fishing year,

respectively, were discussed. It was reported that the observer program is going to be expanded from 2 observers in 2004 to 7 in 2005. It was noted that vessels are given incentives to carry observers in the EPO. A project has been undertaken to incorporate additional logbooks collected by the US National Marine Fisheries Service and re-raise the data separately for three latitudinal zones, rather than for an entire ocean. It was suggested that consideration be given to including other strata as well. At present size-frequency sampling for Chinese Taipei is done by fishermen. It was noted that a pilot port sampling program at landing ports is being established. There has been a change in restrictions on change in fishing area, which will allow estimation of number of vessels fishing in an area. There were also discussions on recent changes in operational practices of some parts of the fleet which may impact on standardization of fishing effort data.

g. China (Document DC-1-02g)

Dr. Dai Xiao-jie presented a review of the fisheries and data systems of China. During discussions it was noted that the longline fishery of China began operating in the EPO in 1999 and began submitting data to the IATTC in 2001. Since 2004 all vessels operating in the EPO have carried logbooks, which is the basis of China's tuna data collection program. Revised logbooks, requesting more detailed data, were introduced in 2004, and will be provided to some vessels operating in the EPO in 2004. This logbook will request individual weight data for major species as well as bycatch information in the EPO. Total catch is being estimated from regular radio reports by the vessels received via the fishing companies.

3. Data requirements

Dr. Robin Allen reviewed the Commission's Resolution [C-03-05](#) on data provision. There was a general discussion of the timing of data provision. The June 30 deadline was satisfactory for catch and effort data processing systems of distant water fishing nations. There was discussion of the "SPECIFICATIONS FOR DATA PROVISION" as forwarded by the Director. A general comment was made that sources of standard codes should be cited. Several specific recommendations were made to improve clarity and ensure that required information was obtained:

- a. Add an explicit Category I data request for total catch in the EPO by species and gear.
- b. Rephrase request for Pacific-wide reporting, anticipating data-sharing agreement with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.
- c. Reword length-frequency reporting to indicate, "Whenever possible submit set-by-set, ..., if not, report at the smallest possible grid level." This is to be done in order to eliminate aggregation, which is what was intended. As well, edit text to incorporate reporting of sample and raised length-frequency data.
- d. Edit Table 3. Vessel Types, to include all types. Also, check for most recent version of gear codes. Make recommendation to CWP concerning naming of "Tuna Longline" vis-à-vis "Hand longline."

Appendix 1.

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