

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

13-24 August 2007
Honolulu, United States of America

Scientific data to be provided to the Commission

3. *Operational level catch and effort data*

Operational level catch and effort data (e.g., individual sets by longliners and purse seiners, and individual days fished by pole and line vessels and trollers) shall be provided to the Commission, in accordance with the standards adopted by Commission at its second regular session. These are listed in [Annex 1](#).

It is recognised that certain members and cooperating non-members of the Commission may be subject to domestic legal constraints, such that they may not be able to provide operational data to the Commission until such constraints are overcome. Until such constraints are overcome, aggregated catch and effort data and size composition data as described in (4) and (5) below shall be provided.

It is also recognised that certain members and cooperating non-members of the Commission may have practical difficulties in compiling operational data for fleets comprised of small vessels, such as certain sectors of the fisheries of Indonesia, the Philippines and small island developing States.

6. *The roles of flag states and coastal states*

Flag states or entities shall be responsible for providing to the Commission scientific data covering vessels they have flagged, except for vessels operating under joint-venture or charter arrangements with another state such that the vessels operate, for all intents and purposes, as local vessels of the other state, in which case the other state shall be responsible for the provision of data to the Commission.

It is recognised that the ability of flag States or entities to provide scientific data to the Commission may be constrained by the terms of bilateral or regional arrangements, such as the Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America.

Scientific data compiled by coastal states shall also be provided to the Commission.

7. *Time periods covered and schedule for the provision of data*

Estimates of annual or seasonal catches should be provided to the Commission from 1950 onwards or, if the fleet began operating after 1950, from the year in which the fleet began operating.

Operational catch and effort data, and size composition data, should be provided for all years, starting with the first year for which the data are available.

For all gear types, except trollers targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, estimates of annual catches, the number of vessels active, catch and effort data, and size composition data, covering a calendar year should be provided by April 30 of the year following the calendar year (e.g., data covering calendar year 'x' should be provided by 30 April of year 'x+1').

For trollers targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, estimates of annual catches, the number of vessels active, catch and effort data, and size composition data, covering a fishing season (July to June) should be provided by April 30 of the year following the year in which the season ends (e.g., data covering the season from July of year 'x' to June of year 'x+1' should be provided by 30 April of year 'x+2').

Estimates of annual catches, the number of vessels active, catch and effort data, and size composition data should be revised, and the revisions provided to the Commission, as additional data become available.

8. *Definition of the WCPFC Statistical Area*

The WCPFC Statistical Area is defined as follows: from the south coast of Australia due south along the 141° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 55° parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 55° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150° meridian of east longitude; thence due south along the 150° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 60° parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 60° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 130° meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 130° meridian of west longitude to its intersection with the 4° parallel of south latitude; thence due west along the 4° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150° meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 150° meridian of west longitude; and from the north coast of Australia due north along the 129° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 8° parallel of south latitude, thence due west along the 8° parallel of south latitude to the Indonesian archipelago; and from the Indonesian peninsula due east along the 2°30' parallel of north latitude to the Malaysian peninsula.

9. *Periodic reviews of the requirements for scientific data*

The Commission, through its Scientific Committee, shall periodically review the requirements for scientific data and shall provide the Commission with revised versions of this recommendation, as appropriate.

Annex 1. Standards for the Provision of Operational Level Catch and Effort Data

1. Data items that shall be reported to the Commission

1.1 Vessel identifiers, for all gear types

Name of the vessel, country of registration, registration number, international radio call sign: The registration number is the number assigned to the vessel by the State that has flagged the vessel. A code may be used as a vessel identifier instead of the name of the vessel, registration number and call sign for vessels that have fished and that intend to fish only in the waters of national jurisdiction of the State that has flagged the vessel.

1.2 Trip information, for all gear types

The start of a trip is defined to occur when a vessel (a) leaves port after unloading part or all of the catch to transit to a fishing area or (b) recommences fishing operations or transits to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea (when this occurs in accordance with the terms and conditions of article 4 of Annex III of the Convention, subject to specific exemptions as per article 29 of the Convention).

Port of departure, date of departure, port of unloading, date of arrival in port of unloading: If the start of a trip coincides with recommencing fishing operations or transiting to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “Transshipment at sea” shall be reported in lieu of the port of departure, and if the end of a trip coincides with transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “Transshipment at sea” shall be reported in lieu of the port of unloading.

1.3 Information on operations by longliners

Activity: This item should be reported for each set and for days on which no sets were made, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a set”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date of start of set and time of start of set: The date and start of set time should be GMT/UTC. If no sets are made, the date and main activity should be reported.

Position of start of set: The position of start of set should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude. If no sets are made, the noon position should be reported.

Number of hooks per set.

Number of branch lines between floats. The number of branch lines between floats should be reported for each set.

Number of fish caught per set, for the following species: albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), blue marlin (*Makaira mazara*), black marlin (*Makaira indica*) and swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), and other species as determined by the Commission.

If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set have been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set, by species, should also be reported. If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set have not been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set, by species, should be estimated and the estimates reported. The total weight or average weight shall refer to whole weights, rather than processed weights.

1.4 Information on operations by pole-and-line vessels and related gear types

Activity: This item shall be reported for each day, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a day fishing or searching with bait onboard”; “no fishing — collecting bait”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date: The date should be GMT/UTC.

Noon position: The noon position should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude.

Weight of fish caught per day, for the following species: albacore, bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin, and other species as determined by the Commission.

1.5 Information on operations by purse-seiners and related gear types

Activity: This item shall be reported for each set and for days on which no sets were made, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a set”; “a day searched, but no sets made”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date of start of set, time of start of set and time of end of set: The date and time of the start of set and the time of end of set should be GMT/UTC. If no sets are made, the date and main activity should be reported.

Position of set or noon position: If a set is made, then the position of the set shall be reported. If searching occurs, but no sets are made, then the noon position shall be reported. The position should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude.

School association: All common types of school association should be reported, while uncommon types of association should be reported as “other”. Common types of school association are “free-swimming” or “unassociated”; “feeding on baitfish”; “drifting log, debris or dead animal”; “drifting raft, FAD or payao”; “anchored raft, FAD or payao”; “live whale”; and “live whale shark”.

Weight of fish caught per set, for the following species: albacore, bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin, and other species as determined by the Commission.

1.6 Information on operations by trollers and related gear types

Activity: This item shall be reported for each day, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a day fished”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date: The date should be GMT/UTC.

Noon position: The noon position should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude.

Number of fish caught per day, for the following species: albacore, bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin, and other species as determined by the Commission.

If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day have been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day, by species, should also be reported. If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day have not been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day, by species, should be estimated and the estimates reported. The total weight or average weight shall refer to whole weights, rather than processed weights.

2. *Geographic area to be covered by operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission*

The geographic area to be covered by operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission shall be the WCPFC Statistical Area, except for fisheries targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, for which the geographic area should be the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator.

3. *Target coverage rate for operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission*

The target coverage rate for operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission is 100%.

4. *Procedures for the verification of operational catch and effort data*

Operational catch and effort data should be verified as follows:

- a) The amount of the retained catch should be verified with records of unloading obtained from a source other than the crew or owner or operator of the fishing vessel, such as an agent of the company responsible for unloading or onward shipping or purchasing of the catch.
- b) Positions of latitude and longitude should be verified with information obtained from vessel monitoring systems.
- c) The species composition of the catch should be verified with sampling conducted by observers during fishing operations or by port samplers during unloading.