

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

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

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Scientific data to be provided to the Commission

4. *Catch and effort data aggregated by time period and geographic area*

If the coverage rate of the operational catch and effort data that are provided to the Commission is less than 100%, then catch and effort data aggregated by time period and geographic area that have been raised to represent the total catch and effort shall be provided. Longline catch and effort data shall be aggregated by periods of month and areas of 5° longitude and 5° latitude. Purse-seine and ringnet catch and effort data shall be aggregated by periods of month, areas of 1° longitude and 1° latitude, and type of school association. Catch and effort data for other surface fisheries targeting tuna shall be aggregated by periods of month and areas of 1° longitude and 1° latitude.

If the coverage rate of the operational catch and effort data that are provided to the Commission is less than 100%, then unraised longline catch and effort data stratified by the number of hooks between floats and the finest possible resolution of time period and geographic area shall also be provided.

If the coverage rate of the operational catch and effort data that are provided to the Commission is less than 100%, then catch and effort data that have been raised to represent the total catch and effort shall also be aggregated by periods of year and areas of national jurisdiction and high seas within the WCPFC Statistical Area.

[Catch and effort data aggregated by periods of month and areas of 5° longitude and 5° latitude that have been raised to represent the total catch and effort, and unraised longline catch and effort data stratified by the number of hooks between floats and the finest possible resolution of time period and geographic area, covering distant-water longliners may also be provided for the Pacific Ocean east of the eastern boundary of the WCPFC Statistical Area.]

The statistical methods that are used to derive the aggregated catch and effort data shall be reported to the Commission, with reference to the coverage rates of the operational catch and effort data, and the types of data and method used to raise the catch and effort data.

CCMs are to provide, to the extent possible, the number of individual vessels per stratum and area covered by their operational data with the aggregated catch and effort data they submit to the Commission.

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.