

Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission



Improving species and catch data reporting

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SAC-12-09

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Rationale for revising C-03-05

- **Target species**
- Recent challenges with assessing the stock status of target species
 - 2018 (BET) and 2019 (YFT) assessments unsuitable for management advice, indices overly sensitive to new CPUE data
 - Collaborative project with longline CPCs
 - New techniques for estimating indices, need fine-resolution data CPUE and size data
 - Operational-level longline logbook data only available through MoUs
 - Workplan to continue improving the assessments starts with longline work to improve indices, this depends on data availability
- **Non-target species (bycatch)**
- Staff identify, prioritize and conduct research to assess ecological sustainability (*e.g.* EASI-Fish) and guide development of potential CMMs
- Basic needs by gear type:
 - List of species caught (ERAs)
 - Total species-specific catch (annual reporting)
 - Retained and discarded species-specific catch (ecosystem models)
- Reporting of bycatch is not mandated

General data provision: background and recommendation

- Scope of research has broadened under the Antigua Convention
- Scientific and political drivers have required the staff's activities to be reassessed, including the data on the fisheries (C-03-05)
 - Scientific driver: technical issues with tuna stock assessments (SAC-11-06; SAC-11-07; IATTC-95-05)
 - Political driver: public awareness of potential ecological impacts of tuna fishing
 - Other drivers: advances in science and technology, the increasing number and range of tasks requested of IATTC staff, and changes in the fisheries (e.g. increase in FAD sets)

Recommendation:

Through a series of workshops planned and facilitated by the staff, revise resolution C-03-05 in consultation with CPCs, taking into consideration the elements presented in SAC-12-09. These workshops will be organized by main fishery with the purpose of discussing improvements in data collection, any required additional resources and capacity building activities.

Staff recommendations: Large longline vessels (>20m LOA)

- Recommend CPCs provide:
 - “TASK II” Operational-level logbook data by set, for catch and operational characteristics
 - Size-frequency statistics of target and non-target species
 - “TASK I” catch for target and not-target species (required for scientific purposes research and quality control checks)

Recommendation:

Each CPC to submit in 2021 to the IATTC set-by-set catch and effort (TASK II ‘level 1’ data) and ancillary operational information, from longline logbooks for both historical and current periods, and updates thereafter. All data fields requested are listed in SAC-12-09 Annex 1, Appendix 2 TASK II. However, at a minimum, the following fields must be provided (unless unavailable): Vessel unique identifier, date and time of start and end of set, latitude and longitude of start and end of set, number of hooks used, number of floats used, maximum fishing depth of the hooks, number of light sticks used, length of the mainline, material of the mainline, length of the branchline, material of the branch line, length of the float line, material of the floatline, bait, species caught (all), number of fish (by species). Each CPC to submit to the IATTC size composition data by sex with date of collection and fine-resolution location information, both historical and current periods.

Staff recommendations: Small purse-seine (≤ 363 t)

- Data source of most catch information is set-by-set logbook data, but only retained
- Logbook data contains limited to no data on bycatch
- “TASK II” operational-level catch and effort data be submitted for
 - Tuna and tuna-like species
 - Principal bycatch species (*e.g.* dorado, wahoo)

Recommendation:

Each CPC should ensure that its competent authority collects the logbook and other pertinent data from every fishing trip made without an observer aboard at the end of the trip, and provides them to the IATTC staff as soon as possible afterwards.

Staff recommendations: Other gears

- Includes:
 - Multi-gear, multi-species fisheries of short- to medium-range vessels (EPO coastal states), Pole and line, Trolling, Recreational (rod and line), Miscellaneous gears (*e.g.*, gillnet, harpoon, “other gears” not specified)
- Data from these fisheries are compromised by:
 - Variable fleet coverage
 - Incomplete species-specific catch and effort data for bycatch
 - Lack of identification of gear used

Recommendation:

“TASK I” catch and effort statistics of gross annual removals of retained and discarded target and non-target species be reported along with number of active fishing vessels in the Antigua Convention area; total number of days where the gear was deployed at least once, or total number of days at sea. Strengthen capacity building opportunities through workshops with CPCs to discuss the possibility of providing “TASK II” operational-level logbook data by fishing day or fishing trip.

Summary and next steps

- SAC-12-09: background paper highlighting need for updating C-03-05
- Next steps – recommend workshops with CPCs to:
 - discuss improvements in data collection
 - develop standard data reporting templates (*e.g.* similar to appendices)
 - modernize C-03-05 to align data reporting requirements with the Antigua Convention, SSP and to harmonize with FAO standards and other t-RFMOs
- EM may resolve many difficulties with data collection (**SAC-12-10, SAC-12-11**)
- Operational-level logbook data will still be necessary for:
 - verifying human observer and EM data
 - evaluating the necessary level of observer coverage



Questions