

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

4th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting

(30 August – 3 September 2004, Noumea, New Caledonia)

Background Paper 11

Original: English

**Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Standing Committee
on Tuna and Billfish**
Extract: Issues Concerning the Coordination of Data Dissemination



Anonymous. 1998. Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish, 28 May – 6 June 1998, Honolulu, Hawaii, United States of America, pp: 25–27.

Extract

4.3 Issues Concerning the Coordination of Data Dissemination

Dissemination of catch and effort data

In summary, the meeting indicated that the policy for disseminating catch and effort data should be as follows:

- Catch and effort data grouped by 5° longitude by 5° latitude by month for longline and 1° longitude by 1° latitude by month for surface fisheries, for all fishing nations combined, are considered to be in the public domain.
- Catch and effort data grouped by 5° longitude by 5° latitude by month for longline and 1° longitude by 1° latitude by month for surface fisheries, stratified by fishing nation, are available for release at the discretion of the Coordinator of the SCTB Statistics Working Group, for those sources of data which have so authorised the SWG Coordinator. For those sources of data that have not authorised the SWG Coordinator to release data at his discretion, authorisation for the release of data must be obtained from the sources of the data.
- Catch and effort data grouped at a finer level of time-area stratification may be released with authorisation from the sources of the data.
- Catch and effort data are released for research purposes only, and to individuals who can be trusted to use the data responsibly. The person requesting the data is required to provide a description of the research project. The data are released only for use in the specified research project and the data must be destroyed upon completion of the research project. However, catch and effort data may be released for long-term usage for research purposes, such that the data need not be destroyed, with authorisation from the sources of the data.
- The person requesting the data will be asked to provide a report of the results of the research project to the SWG Coordinator, for subsequent forwarding to the sources of the data.

Dissemination of length data

Mr Lawson noted that requests for length-frequency data occur much less frequently than requests for annual catch statistics or catch and effort data. The current OFP policy with respect to releases of length-frequency data is similar to that for catch and effort data. He suggested that the SWG may wish to adopt a policy for the dissemination of length-frequency data that is similar to that for the dissemination of catch and effort data, and the meeting agreed with this suggestion.