

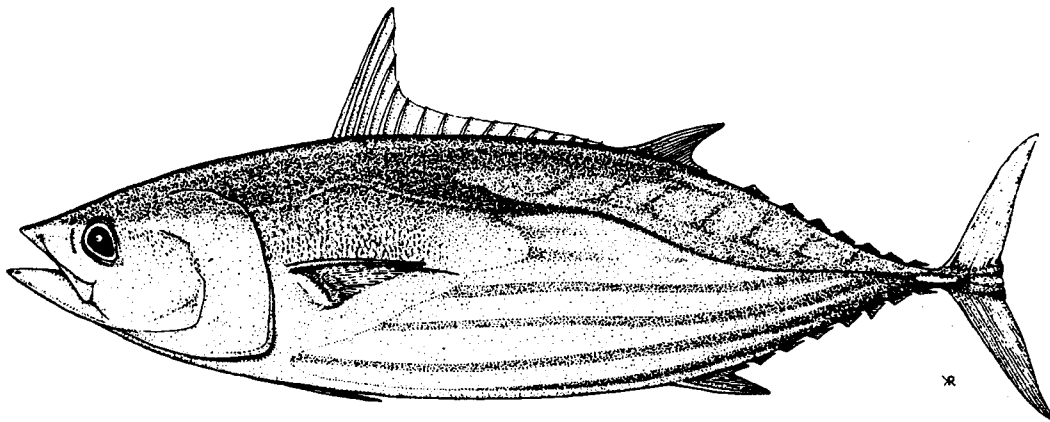
STANDING COMMITTEE ON TUNA AND BILLFISH

SCTBS

17-19 June 1992
Honolulu, Hawaii
United States of America

WORKING PAPER 4

STATUS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE DATABASE



**Tuna and Billfish Assessment Programme
South Pacific Commission
Noumea, New Caledonia**

June 1992

INTRODUCTION

Action Item 3 from the Fourth Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish, held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 17 to 19 June 1991, states:

SPC to develop a list of data gaps in the Standing Committee database, identifying the parties holding the missing data, and contact each party to remind them of their responsibility/commitment to providing data for scientific purposes. The SPC should also inform member countries and regional organisations on the status of the Standing Committee database, the difficulty so far encountered in closing the data gaps and to seek advice on further actions.

The present document was prepared in response to the above Action Item. After a brief discussion of the origin of the Standing Committee database in the remainder of this introduction, the status of each component of the database is presented. A catalogue of components of the Standing Committee database is given in Table 1. The appendix lists all database-related action items from Standing Committee meetings, with a discussion of actions taken and updates for each action item where applicable.

At the meeting of the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish (SCTB 2) held in Suva from 19 to 21 June 1989, the Committee considered the problem of inadequate statistical coverage of the fishing activities of distant-water fishing nations (DWFNs) in the region, including Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan and the former Soviet Union. The Standing Committee is an advisory sub-committee of the Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries and includes scientists from several DWFNs which fish for tuna in the South Pacific, as well as scientists from SPC member countries. At SCTB 2 there were representatives of Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and Taiwan, as well as several SPC member countries in attendance. It was concluded that

- (1) "SPC had succeeded in gathering most of the daily catch and effort logsheet data available through SPC member countries" for the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database (RTFD), but
- (2) "these data from local fleets, or collected under access agreements, still did not adequately cover the activities by DWFNs in the region".

SCTB 2 therefore discussed the establishment of a common database consisting of aggregated data provided by all fishing nations (including DWFNs), which would be separate from the data currently assembled by SPC in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database (which are contributed only by SPC member countries). The tuna fishing nations which have operated on an industrial scale in the region include: Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Mexico, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Soviet Union, Taiwan, Tonga, Tuvalu and the United States.

After much discussion, the following points represented the consensus:

- (1) "The establishment of a common database would be extremely useful and would solve current problems of inadequate coverage of the tuna fisheries in the region;

- (2) "Data should be provided at a level of aggregation consistent with levels of aggregation used by other tuna research organizations, i.e. by five-degree square and month for longliners and gillnetters and by one-degree square and month for other gear types;
- (3) "Data held in the common database should be made available to all countries that provide data to the common database, subject to the minimum level of aggregation (i.e., five-degree square and month for longliners and gillnetters and one-degree square and month for other gear types)".

SCTB 2 recommended that "SPC work towards the implementation of a common regional tuna database, holding data aggregated to an acceptable level, which would be available to all contributing partners via a defined distribution network." Representatives at the Twenty-First Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries, held in Noumea from 7 to 11 August 1989, recognized that "the proposed common regional scientific tuna database will considerably improve scientific studies and assessments of regional tuna fisheries" and strongly recommended that it be implemented as soon as possible.

The Standing Committee database was implemented prior to the third meeting of the Standing Committee, held from 6 to 8 June 1990 in Noumea. At present, data have been provided for the Standing Committee database by Australia, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Republic of Korea, Solomon Islands and the United States of America.

COMPONENTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE DATABASE

AUSTRALIA

Longline

Domestic Australian vessels, including wholly Australian-owned ex-Japanese vessels (*D-Three*, *Elida*, *Sharon I*, *Sharon II* and *Rita*) and excluding Japanese joint-venture and Taiwanese charter vessels. Aggregated from daily logsheet data provided to the RTFD by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA). Coverage has been estimated at 50 per cent for 1987—1988, 70 per cent for 1989 and 85—90 per cent for 1990—1991.

Pole-and-line

Aggregated from daily logsheet data provided to the RTFD by AFMA. Coverage has been estimated at 30—35 per cent in 1990 and 20—25 per cent in 1991.

Purse seine

Data covering activities inside the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) are aggregated from daily logsheet data provided to the RTFD by the AFMA. Coverage has been estimated at 80—90 per cent in 1990 and 30—35 per cent in 1991.

AFMA currently does not collect data covering Australian purse seiners that have operated outside the AFZ (i.e. Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands). However, much of these data are available through the SPC member countries which have implemented access agreements with Australian vessels.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Longline

Federated States of Micronesian (FSM) registered vessels. Currently only two vessels, *Amber Dawn* and *Mutunte*. Aggregated from daily logsheet data provided to the RTFD by the Micronesian Maritime Authority (MMA). Coverage is complete. MMA has been requested to authorise transfers from the RTFD.

Purse seine

FSM-registered vessels (*Gapilmogol*, *Mathawmal* and *Mathawolwol*). Excludes Australian joint-venture vessels (*Eastern Pacific*, *Queen Mary* and *Trinidad III*) operating under the Caroline Fishing Company. Daily logsheet data are provided to the RTFD by the Micronesian Maritime Authority (MMA). Coverage is unknown, however MMA has indicated that an attempt will be made to determine coverage and if necessary obtain missing data. MMA has been requested to authorise transfers from the RTFD.

FIJI

Longline

Fijian-registered vessels, i.e. excludes Taiwanese and Korean charter vessels which are considered separately. Coverage for 1988—1990 is low; coverage for 1991 is high. An SPC-funded port sampler is currently compiling missing data available through the fish processing company, Fresh Fish (Fiji) Ltd.

Pole-and-line

Fijian-registered and Japanese and New Zealand charter vessels. Excludes Kiribati and Tuvalu charter vessels, which are covered separately. Aggregated from daily logsheet data provided to the RTFD by the Fisheries Division. Coverage is roughly 50 per cent. The Fisheries division has indicated that attempts will be made to improve the coverage.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Longline

Local longliners have been active since 1970 taking small catches, however data prior to 1991 are nonexistent. Two multi-purpose, France-built, 25 metre vessels, *Arevananu*

and *Tahiti Nui*, have been active since 1991; *Établissement pour la valorisation des activités aquacoles et maritimes* (EVAAM) has collected data for these two vessels. Total catches for all vessels in 1991 was 245 mt. Transfer of data to the Standing Committee database is pending receipt of daily catch and effort logsheet data for the RTFD.

Pole-and-line

Data for the *bonitier* fleet have been compiled by ORSTOM since 1975. These data will be requested for the RTFD and the Standing Committee database.

INDONESIA

Gillnet

Originally developed in Pelabuhan Ratu (West Java), now in Muncar (East Java). Target species is skipjack. Fleet increased from 621 vessels (3 to 6 GRT with 40 hp outboards) in 1988 to 909 in 1989. Monthly catch and effort data exist from 1989. Data processing currently underway by Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF). RIMF has indicated these data will be made eventually, pending completion of data processing.

Handline

Vessels using fish aggregating devices (FADs) in Irian Jaya, Maluku, Sulawesi and Nusa Tenggara. Monthly catch and effort data exist from 1987. Data processing currently underway by Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF). RIMF has indicated these data will be made eventually, pending completion of data processing.

Longline

First trials back in 1950. State enterprise established in Bali in 1972, with 3 vessels, increasing to 20 vessels in 1981. Increased to 167 vessels in 1989. Fresh sashimi exported to Japan. Monthly catch and effort data exist from 1976. Data processing currently underway by Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF). RIMF has indicated these data will be made eventually, pending completion of data processing.

Pole-and-line

Vessels in Irian Jaya, Maluku, Sulawesi and Nusa Tenggara, using fish aggregating devices (FADs). The sector includes state fishing companies, private companies, joint-ventures and artisanal fleets. State enterprises established in Ambon in 1961, Sorong in 1973 and Bitung. Vessels range from 30 to 300 GRT. Monthly catch and effort data exist from 1967. Data processing currently underway by Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF). RIMF has indicated these data will be made eventually, pending completion of data processing.

Purse seine

Artisanal purse seine in Banda Aceh. Existence of catch and effort data for artisanal purse seiners is unknown. Industrial purse seiners are based in Biak (PT Multi-Transpêche Indonesia). Data covering industrial purse seiners operating in Federated States of Micronesia and Papua New Guinea available from RTFD, though coverage is unknown.

JAPAN

Driftnet

Albacore catch data for 1988/89—1989/90 provided to SPC in October 1990. SPC received authorisation in February 1992 to release these data. Existence of catch and effort data by time-area strata for 1983/83—1987/88 is unknown, though estimates of annual catches are available. No fishing occurred following the 1989/90 season.

Longline

Existence of data for 1952—1961 or earlier is unknown. Data for 1962—1980 available through statistical bulletins published by the Fisheries Agency of Japan. SPC was notified by the Fisheries Agency in February 1992 that data for 1981—1990 would be provided by summer 1992, on the condition that "access by other fishing nations is conditioned on the access to these nation's data by the Japanese." Provision of data for 1991 is under discussion.

Pole-and-line

Existence of data for 1952—1968 or earlier is unknown. Data for 1969—1980 available through statistical bulletins published by the Fisheries Agency of Japan. SPC was notified by the Fisheries Agency in February 1992 that data for 1981—1990 would be provided by summer 1992, on the condition that "access by other fishing nations is conditioned on the access to these nation's data by the Japanese." Provision of data for 1991 is under discussion.

Purse seine

SPC was notified by the Fisheries Agency in February 1992 that data for 1967—1990 would be provided by summer 1992, on the condition that "access by other fishing nations is conditioned on the access to these nation's data by the Japanese." Provision of data for 1991 is under discussion.

KIRIBATI

Pole-and-line

Data for 1981—1985 are nonexistent. Data for 1986—1990 are complete. Provision of data for 1991 is under discussion.

KOREA

Driftnet

Only one experimental vessel active during the 1988/89 season. Existence of data is unknown.

Longline

Existence of data for 1954—1974 and 1981—1983 is unknown. Data for 1975—1980 and 1983—1987 have been published by the National Fisheries Research and Development Agency (NFRDA). Provision of data for 1988—1991 is under discussion.

Purse seine

Provision of data by NFRDA is under discussion.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Longline

Two Japanese charter vessels, *Kiokichi* and *Kaisei* operated during 1989—1990. Vessels registered in the Marshall Islands in 1991 include *Captain Peter*, *Flying Cloud*, *Pan Am II* and *Yu Chuan*. Provision of data for these vessels is pending receipt of daily catch and effort logsheets for the RTFD. Several small Taiwanese longliners operated out of Majuro during 1990—1991; these vessels are considered under Taiwan Longline below.

Purse seine

Two purse seiners have operated under the multilateral treaty with the United States. See *United States purse seine* below.

NEW CALEDONIA

Longline

Aggregated from daily logsheet data provided to the RTFD by the *Service territorial de la marine marchande et des affaires maritime*. Coverage is variable.

Pole-and-line

Fleet operated during 1981—1983. Aggregated from daily logsheet data provided to the RTFD by the *Service territorial de la marine marchande et des affaires maritime*. Coverage is complete.

NEW ZEALAND

Longline

Catches primarily of bigeye with some albacore and yellowfin. Data for 1989—1991 is forthcoming from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF).

Purse seine

New Zealand registered vessels only; excludes chartered American vessels, which are considered separately. Data are transferred from RTFD. Coverage for 1975—1988 is high. Provision of data for 1989—1991 is forthcoming from MAF.

Troll

Data for 1968/69—1981/82 are nonexistent. Data for 1982/83—1990/91 transferred from RTFD.

PALAU

Pole-and-line

Japanese vessels chartered by Van Camp during 1964—1982. Data are transferred from the RTFD. Coverage is high.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Pole-and-line

Japanese joint-ventures operating during 1970—1981 and 1984—1985. Data are transferred from the RTFD. Coverage for 1970—1981 is complete; coverage for 1984—1985 is low.

PHILIPPINES

Various

Sampling of commercial fisheries at Navotas was introduced in 1965. Municipal fisheries have been sampled since 1976. While monthly statistics are currently

unavailable, statistical bulletins published by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), *Fisheries statistics of the Philippines*, containing annual catches by fishing area for 1980—1987, have been provided to SPC. Statistical bulletins are not available for 1988—1991. Annual statistics for the country as a whole have been provided for 1970—1991.

Purse seine

Vessels operated by Frabelle Fishing Corp. and Mar Fishing Company, Inc. Detailed catch and effort data for these vessels are not collected by the Philippines government. Data covering activities in EEZs are available through SPC member countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea) under access agreements, though coverage of the high seas and Philippines waters by these data is negligible.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Longline

Fleet was active during 1981—1985. Data are transferred from the RTFD.

Pole-and-line

Data are transferred from the RTFD. Coverage is complete.

Purse seine

Data are transferred from the RTFD. Coverage is complete.

SOVIET UNION

Purse seine

Provision of data for 1985—1991 by the Pacific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (TINRO) is under discussion.

TAIWAN

Driftnet

Data for 1987/88 are nonexistent. Data for 1988/89 were provided by National Taiwan University (NTU). Provision of data for 1989/90—1990/91 is pending data processing by NTU.

Longline

Data covering distant-water vessels for 1954—1966 are nonexistent. Data for 1967—1985 are from statistics published by NTU. Data for 1986—1990 are from data provided on diskette by NTU. Provision of data for 1991 is pending data processing by NTU.

The existence of data covering small longliners based in Taiwan is unknown. If existent, data for small longliners unloading in Taiwan may be eventually be made available through Taiwanese provincial governments, with assistance from NTU. Only limited catch and effort data for small Taiwanese longliners based in the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands and Palau since 1987 are available in the RTFD.

Purse seine

Moderate coverage of fishing effort is available through the RTFD, however catches are under-reported. NTU commenced a purse seine data processing project in 1991, which may result in more complete and accurate catch and effort data.

TONGA

Longline

A single vessel, the *Lofa*. Data aggregated from daily logsheet data provided to the RTFD by the Ministry of Fisheries. Coverage is variable.

TUVALU

Pole-and-line

A single vessel, the *Te Tautai*. Data for activities in Fijian waters during 1982—1984 and in Solomon Islands waters during 1986—1988 are available in the RTFD. During 1990—1991, the vessel was on charter to SPC for the Regional Tuna Tagging Project (RTTP). Data for all other activities are nonexistent.

UNITED STATES

Purse seine

Data for exploratory fishing during 1976—1980 are available through reports of the Pacific Fisheries Development Foundation (PFDF, formerly the Pacific Tuna Development Foundation). Data for 1981—1985 were provided by the American Tunaboat Association (ATA). Coverage for 1981—1982 is complete. Compilation of missing data for 1983—1988 is underway, with assistance from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and vessel-owners. Authorisation permitting SPC to transfer

data in the RTFD collected under the United States multilateral treaty, 1988—1991, which includes data covering two Marshall Islands vessels, is under discussion with the Forum Fisheries Agency and Pacific island parties to the agreement.

Troll

Data were provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

SUMMARY

Data for coastal states and territories are generally complete. Missing data are either nonexistent (early French Polynesian longline, Kiribati pole-and-line, early New Zealand troll, some Tuvalu pole-and-line) or pending data processing (New Zealand purse seine). While in most cases coverage is complete, in some cases coverage is low or unknown (early Australian longline, Australian pole-and-line, Fijian longline and pole-and-line, New Caledonian longline). Future contributions are expected to include recent New Zealand purse seine data, while improvements in coverage may be forthcoming for Fijian longline and pole-and-line fleets.

The status of data for distant-water fleets is variable. Korean longline data are available up to 1987, while purse seine data and recent longline data have not yet been contributed. The provision of Korean purse seine data and recent longline data is currently under discussion with the National Fisheries Research and Development Agency.

Taiwanese longline data are current to 1990 and driftnet data to 1988/89, while compilation and processing of purse seine data by National Taiwan University has only recently commenced. NTU has indicated that the purse seine data may eventually be contributed, when progress in data compilation and processing has been achieved.

Japanese longline and pole-and-line data are current only to 1980, while no purse seine data have been contributed. However, the Fisheries Agency has recently informed SPC that by mid-1992 all Japanese data will be made current to 1990. The forthcoming contribution will include longline and pole-and-line data for 1981—1990 and purse seine data for 1967—1990. The Fisheries Agency has also authorised SPC to release driftnet data for the 1988/89—1989/90 seasons.

Coverage of American purse seiners increased considerably with the recent contribution of data for 1981—1985 by the American Tunaboat Association. While coverage during 1981—1982 is complete, efforts to improve coverage during 1983—1988 are underway. Further contributions for 1983—1988 are expected in the near future. Authorisation to transfer American multilateral treaty data from the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database, which cover 1988—1991, is under discussion.

APPENDIX. DATA-RELATED SCTB ACTION ITEMS

SCTB 1, JULY 1988

Action Item 1: *Republic of China to provide summarised catch and effort statistics for the SPC statistical area and possibly for the China Sea and Philippine waters.*

Action:

While Taiwan regularly publishes statistics on the distant water longline fishery, a system for the collection of data on the activities of purse seiners and gillnetters had not yet been put in place in 1989. Reference was made at SCTB 2 to the fleet of roughly 1,300 smaller longline vessels based in Taiwan which catch primarily yellowfin in the waters around Taiwan, in the South China Sea, and in the north-west portion of the SPC region. Twelve years ago an attempt was made to collect data from these vessels, but the attempt was unsuccessful.

Update:

National Taiwan University has continued to provide statistical bulletins for the distant water longline fleet. A data collection programme at NTU for the driftnet fleet was implemented in 1990; driftnet data for the 1989/90 season have been provided to the SCTB database. A data collection programme for the purse seine fleet was implemented at NTU in 1991; purse seine data may eventually be made available to the SCTB database. Data for the small longline fleet based in Taiwan, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau remains problematic. The best source of data is currently transshipment data from Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau. Data for small longliners unloading in Taiwan may be eventually be made available through Taiwanese provincial governments, with assistance from NTU.

Action Item 9: *Indo-Pacific Tuna Programme (IPTP) to provide data on tuna fisheries peripheral to the SPC area, including Philippines and Indonesia.*

Action:

Annual catch statistics by FAO area were provided in IPTP Data Summaries.

Update:

In response to Action Item 8 at SCTB 2 (see below), it was accepted that SPC should attempt to obtain catch and effort statistics broken down by time-area strata from Indonesia and the Philippines directly, rather than through IPTP. Data for the Philippines were made available at SCTB 4 in the form of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) *Fisheries Statistics of the Philippines*. Detailed catch and effort data for Indonesia are awaiting the completion of a data processing project underway at the Research Institute for Marine Fisheries.

Action Item 10: *NMFS to convey a request to US authorities for US purse seine for the period 1978—1983.*

Action:

Shortly after SCTB 1, a request was conveyed to U.S. authorities for U.S. purse seine data for the period 1978—1983, but no further action occurred, primarily due to problems of confidentiality of these data within industry.

Update:

See SCTB 2, Action Item 10.

Action Item 11: *JFSRL to provide estimates of Japanese drift gillnet catch data for the South Pacific.*

Action:

Japan provided annual drift gillnet catch statistics to SPAR 3 in October 1990. Data by 5°x5° by month were provided to SPC at SPAR 3, however SPC was not authorised to release these data.

Update:

In February 1992, SPC received authorisation from the Fisheries Agency to release the Japanese driftnet data.

SCTB 2, JUNE 1989

Action Item 6: *Republic of China to report on progress with establishing data collection for purse seiners and gillnetters and, if possible, to make available to SPC any summary statistics that may exist on catch and effort in the SPC statistical area by purse seiners, gillnetters and the fleet of smaller longliners.*

Action:

Correspondence between SPC and NTU indicated that 1988/89 driftnet data would be processed at NTU and that the data would be provided to the Standing Committee database. Longline statistics would be published as in the past. No data for purse seiners or the small vessel longline fleet were available through NTU.

Update:

See SCTB 1, Action Item 1.

Action Item 8: *SPC and IPTP to discuss the best way in which summaries of data pertaining to the SPC area could be provided and, if required, approach Indonesia and the Philippines directly regarding an exchange of data with SPC.*

Action:

It was accepted that SPC should attempt to obtain catch and effort statistics broken down by time-area strata from Indonesia and the Philippines directly, rather than through IPTP. Data were subsequently requested of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Philippines, and the Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF), Indonesia.

Update:

Data for the Philippines were made available at SCTB 4, June 1991, in the form of BFAR statistical bulletins, *Fisheries Statistics of the Philippines*. Detailed catch and effort data for Indonesia are awaiting the completion of a data processing project underway at RIMF.

Action Item 9: *SPC to request NMFS to construct annual estimates of U.S. purse seine catch in the SPC statistical area for the period 1978—88, and to provide these estimates to SPC.*

Action:

While estimates were not available for SCTB 3, June 1990, NMFS planned to complete them by early 1991.

Update:

Annual estimates for American purse seiners were provided to SPC by NMFS in May 1991.

Action Item 10: *SPC to reopen dialogue with the American Tunaboat Association (ATA), with assistance from NMFS, concerning acquisition of 1978—1988 U.S. purse seine catch data for the SPC statistical area, and negotiate a level of aggregation acceptable to both parties with assurances of confidentiality.*

Action:

Subsequent to SCTB 2, good progress was made by way of personal liaison between TBAP and ATA.

Update:

Daily logsheet data were forwarded to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) on behalf of ATA, where they were subsequently aggregated by time-area

strata. SPC received aggregated data for 1981—1985 in March 1991. Coverage for 1981—1982 is high, while coverage for 1983—1985 is incomplete. No data were provided for 1978—1980 or 1986—1988. Compilation of missing data for 1983—1988 is ongoing, with continued assistance from IATTC and vessel owners.

Action Item 11: *SCTB requests that Australia take measures to expand its data collection programme to include Australian vessels operating in tuna fisheries in the SPC statistical area outside the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ).*

Action:

The SCTB request was subsequently brought to the attention of the Australian Fisheries Service (AFS).

Update:

AFS will become a statutory authority; the development of enabling legislation for that change will incorporate provision to enable the required data collection. In the meantime, much of these data are available through SPC member countries which have implemented access agreements with Australian purse seiners, e.g., the Federated States of Micronesia and Papua New Guinea.

Action Item 12: *JFSFRL to convey a request to Japanese authorities for regular provision to SPC of aggregated data (gillnet and longline 5° square by month; purse seine and pole-and-line 1° square by month) covering the activities of all Japanese fleets operating in the SPC statistical area.*

Action:

At the time of SCTB 3, June 1990, the matter was still under consideration in Japan.

Update:

Following further requests made of the Fisheries Agency by SPC member countries and by SPC, the Fisheries Agency notified SPC in February 1992 that previously unavailable longline and pole-and-line data (1981—1990) and purse seine data (1967—1990) would be provided to SPC by summer 1992. Authorisation was also received permitting SPC to release driftnet data provided to SPC in October 1990 covering the 1988/89—1989/90 seasons.

Action Item 13: *SPC to work towards the implementation of a common regional tuna database, holding data aggregated to an acceptable level, which would be available to all contributing partners via a defined distribution network.*

Action:

The Standing Committee database was implemented prior to SCTB 3, June 1990, with initial contributions primarily from SPC member countries.

Action Item 14: *SPC to request Korea to advise SPC on progress in establishing data collection from purse seiners, and if possible, to provide SPC with data in the agreed common database level of aggregation for all fleets operating in the SPC statistical area.*

Action:

The National Fisheries Research and Development Agency (NFRDA) was approached. Statistical bulletins containing longline data for 1986—1987 were received.

Update:

NFRDA has recently compiled catch and effort data for the purse seine fleet for 1980 onwards. SPC is currently working towards improving contacts with NFRDA, with a view to eventually obtaining the purse seine catch and effort data for the Standing Committee database.

Action Item 16: *National Taiwan University (NTU) to pursue development and implementation of catch, effort and size-composition data collection systems for the South Pacific albacore gillnet fleet.*

Action:

A data collection programme at NTU for the driftnet fleet was implemented in 1990; driftnet catch and effort data for the 1989/90 season were provided to the SCTB and the South Pacific Alabacore Research (SPAR) database.

Update:

Taiwanese driftnet data for the 1990/91—1991/92 seasons are forthcoming, pending completion of data processing.

Action Item 17: *JFSFRL and NTU to initiate assessment of the availability and quality of any existing commercial catch data from South Pacific albacore gillnet fisheries.*

Action:

The National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF, formerly JFSFRL) addressed the action item by increasing logbook coverage. NTU implemented a data collection programme in 1990; driftnet catch and effort data for the 1989/90 season

were provided to the Standing Committee and the South Pacific Alabacore Research (SPAR) databases.

SCTB 3, JUNE 1990

Action Item 4: *SPC to approach DWFNs to determine the best means to facilitate the provision of data to the Standing Committee database.*

Action:

Japan, Korea and Taiwan were approached, but no immediate responses were received. In the case of the United States, the identification of an acceptable level of aggregation resulted in the provision of purse seine data by ATA for 1981—1985.

Update:

Compilation of missing Amercian purse seine data is continuing with assistance from IATTC. Japan has informed SPC that longline, pole-and-line and purse seine data will be provided to SPC in 1992. Taiwan has recently implemented data collection programmes for driftnet and purse seine, in addition to longline, and has indicated that these data would be made available. Korea has compiled purse seine data, in addition to longline data; provision of aggregated purse seine data and updates of longline data is under discussion with NFRDA. Indonesia has indicated that data for domestic tuna fisheries will be made available following the completion of a data processing project currently underway. The Philippines has provided bulletins of fisheries statistics up to 1989; provision of statistics for 1990—1991 may be hampered by recent modifications to the data collection responsibilities of BFAR.

Action Item 7: *TBAP to compile fisheries status reports, by gear type and species, for consideration at the next meeting of the SCTB. SCTB member countries and all fishing nations are urged to provide these catch estimates when requested by the TBAP.*

Action:

A fishery status report was presented at SCTB 4 and subsequently published as TBAP Technical Report 27, *Status of tuna fisheries in the SPC area during 1990, with annual catches since 1952*. While most SPC member countries provided annual catch estimates, the response from other countries was poor. Thus, the quality of the statistics in the report is generally good for coastal states and poor for distant-water fishing nations.

Update:

See SCTB 4, Action Item 1.

SCTB 4, JUNE 1991

Action Item 1: *That the Secretariat identify areas where annual catch estimates given in its fisheries status report were poor, and approach countries for updated estimates where necessary.*

Action:

The quality of the catch estimates in the fisheries status report, *Status of tuna fisheries in the SPC area during 1990, with annual catches since 1952*, is described in Table 39 of that report. An update of the fishery status report for 1991 was carried out in preparation for SCTB 5, June 1992. Requests for annual catch statistics went out to 16 countries. As of March 1992, responses had been received from the Federated States of Micronesia and Fiji.

Action Item 3: *SPC to develop a list of data gaps in the SCTB database, identify the parties holding the missing data, and contact each party to remind them of their responsibility/commitment to providing data for scientific purposes. The SPC should also inform members countries and regional organisations on the status of the SCTB database, the difficulty so far encountered in closing the data gaps and to seek advice on further actions.*

Action:

Data gaps in the Standing Committee database are presented the present document. Requests for missing data have been made where appropriate. SCTB 5, June 1992, will provide a forum for informing SPC member countries and regional organisations of the status of the Standing Committee database and to seek advice on further action.

Table 1. Standing Committee Database

VESSEL NATIONALITY	GEAR TYPE	TIME PERIOD	STATUS	COMMENTS
AUSTRALIA	LOGLINE	1985-1991	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
AUSTRALIA	POLE-AND-LINE	1975-1991	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
AUSTRALIA	PURSE SEINE	1976-1991	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
FSM	LOGLINE	1991	x	Authorisation to transfer from RTFD requested of MMA.
FSM	PURSE SEINE	1991	x	Authorisation to transfer from RTFD requested of MMA.
FIJI	LOGLINE	1988-1991	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
FIJI	POLE-AND-LINE	1976-1991	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
FRENCH POLYNESIA	LOGLINE	1970-1990	x	Data are nonexistent.
FRENCH POLYNESIA	LOGLINE	1991	x	Data requested of EVAAM.
FRENCH POLYNESIA	POLE-AND-LINE	1975-1991	x	Data to be requested of ORSTOM.
INDONESIA	DRIFTNET	1981-1991	x	Monthly catch and effort available from 1981; 909 vessels, 3-6 grt, in Pelabuhan Ratu, in 1989.
INDONESIA	HANDLINE	1987-1991	x	Monthly catch and effort available from 1987.
INDONESIA	LOGLINE	1972-1991	x	Monthly catch and effort available from 1976; 22 vessels of 100 grt in Bali in 1972, 167 in 1989.
INDONESIA	POLE-AND-LINE	1967-1991	x	Monthly catch and effort available from 1967.
INDONESIA	PURSE SEINE	1986-1991	x	Industrial purse-seiners operating in Indonesia and PNG.
JAPAN	DRIFTNET	1983/84-1987/88	x	Requested of Fisheries Agency of Japan. Existence of data is unknown.
JAPAN	DRIFTNET	1988/89-1989/90	✓	Provided by Fisheries Agency of Japan.
JAPAN	LOGLINE	1952-1961	x	Requested of Fisheries Agency of Japan. Existence of data is unknown.
JAPAN	LOGLINE	1962-1980	✓	Statistical bulletins published by Fisheries Agency of Japan.
JAPAN	LOGLINE	1981-1990	x	Provision by Fisheries Agency of Japan scheduled for summer 1992.
JAPAN	LOGLINE	1991	x	Data processing is underway. Provision by the Fisheries Agency is under discussion.
JAPAN	POLE-AND-LINE	1952-1968	x	Requested of Fisheries Agency of Japan. Existence of data is unknown.
JAPAN	POLE-AND-LINE	1969-1980	✓	Statistical bulletins published by Fisheries Agency of Japan.
JAPAN	POLE-AND-LINE	1981-1990	x	Provision by Fisheries Agency of Japan scheduled for summer 1992.
JAPAN	POLE-AND-LINE	1991	x	Data processing is underway. Provision by the Fisheries Agency is under discussion.
JAPAN	PURSE SEINE	1967-1990	x	Provision by Fisheries Agency of Japan scheduled for summer 1992.
JAPAN	PURSE SEINE	1991	x	Data processing is underway. Provision by the Fisheries Agency is under discussion.
KIRIBATI	POLE-AND-LINE	1981-1985	x	Catch and effort data are nonexistent.
KIRIBATI	POLE-AND-LINE	1986-1990	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
KIRIBATI	POLE-AND-LINE	1991	x	Provision of data is under discussion.
KOREA	DRIFTNET	1988/89	x	Only one vessel active. Existence of data is unknown.
KOREA	LOGLINE	1954-1974	x	Requested of Korean National Fisheries Research and Development Agency. Existence of data is unknown.
KOREA	LOGLINE	1975-1980	✓	Statistical bulletins published by NFRDA.
KOREA	LOGLINE	1981-1982	x	Requested of NFRDA. Existence of data is unknown.
KOREA	LOGLINE	1983-1987	✓	Statistical bulletins published by NFRDA.
* KOREA	LOGLINE	1988-1990	x	Publication by NFRDA forthcoming.

Table 1 (continued)

VESSEL NATIONALITY	GEAR TYPE	TIME PERIOD	STATUS	COMMENTS
KOREA	PURSE SEINE	1980-1991	x	Provision by NFRDA is under discussion.
MARSHALL ISLANDS	LONGLINE	1989-1991	x	Provision of data is under discussion.
MARSHALL ISLANDS	PURSE SEINE	1988-1991	x	Two vessels under US multilateral treaty. See United States purse seine.
NEW CALEDONIA	LONGLINE	1983-1991	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
NEW CALEDONIA	POLE-AND-LINE	1981-1983	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
NEW ZEALAND	LONGLINE	1989-1991	x	Provision of data is forthcoming from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
NEW ZEALAND	PURSE SEINE	1975-1988	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
NEW ZEALAND	PURSE SEINE	1989-1991	✓	Provision is pending data processing by MAF.
NEW ZEALAND	TROLL	1968/69-1981/82	x	Data are nonexistent.
NEW ZEALAND	TROLL	1982/83-1990/91	✓	Transferred from SPAR database.
PALAU	POLE-AND-LINE	1964-1982	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	POLE-AND-LINE	1970-1981	✓	Transferred from RTFD. Japanese joint-venture vessels.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	POLE-AND-LINE	1984-1985	✓	Transferred from RTFD. Japanese joint-venture vessels. Vessels were inactive during 1982-1983.
PHILIPPINES	VARIOUS	1964-1991	x	Monthly data are unavailable, however annual data by area are available for 1980-1987 and 1991.
PHILIPPINES	PURSE SEINE	1982-1991	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
SOLOMON ISLANDS	LONGLINE	1981-1985	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
SOLOMON ISLANDS	POLE-AND-LINE	1981-1991	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
SOLOMON ISLANDS	PURSE SEINE	1985-1991	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
SOVIET UNION	PURSE SEINE	1985-1991	x	Provision of data by TINRO is under discussion.
TAIWAN	DRIFTNET	1987/88	x	Data are nonexistent.
TAIWAN	DRIFTNET	1988/89	✓	Provided by National Taiwan University.
TAIWAN	DRIFTNET	1989/90-1990/91	x	Provision of data pending data processing by NTU.
TAIWAN	LONGLINE	1954-1966	x	Data are nonexistent.
TAIWAN	LONGLINE	1967-1985	✓	Published by NTU.
TAIWAN	LONGLINE	1986-1990	✓	Unpublished data provided by NTU.
TAIWAN	LONGLINE	1991	✓	Provision of data pending data processing by NTU.
*TAIWAN	PURSE SEINE	1983-1991	x	NTU started compilation in 1991; these data may be forthcoming.
TONGA	LONGLINE	1982-1991	✓	Transferred from RTFD.
TUVALU	POLE-AND-LINE	1982-1984	✓	Transferred from RTFD data provided by Fiji.
TUVALU	POLE-AND-LINE	1985	x	Data are nonexistent.
TUVALU	POLE-AND-LINE	1986-1988	✓	Transferred from RTFD data provided by Solomon Islands.
TUVALU	POLE-AND-LINE	1989	x	Data are nonexistent.

Table 1 (continued)

VESSEL NATIONALITY	GEAR TYPE	TIME PERIOD	STATUS	COMMENTS
TUVALU	POLE-AND-LINE	1990-1991	✓	Data available through the Regional Tuna Tagging Project.
UNITED STATES	PURSE SEINE	1976-1980	✓	PFDf reports of exploratory fishing.
UNITED STATES	PURSE SEINE	1981-1984	✓	Partial coverage provided by the American Tunaboat Association. Further data are forthcoming.
UNITED STATES	PURSE SEINE	1985-1987	x	Currently being compiled; these data are forthcoming. Limited data available in RTFD.
UNITED STATES	PURSE SEINE	1988-1991	ⓧ	Data exist in RTFD; authorization to transfer to SCTB database under discussion with FFA.
UNITED STATES	TROLL	1986/87-1990/91	ⓧ	Provided to SPAR database by NMFS.