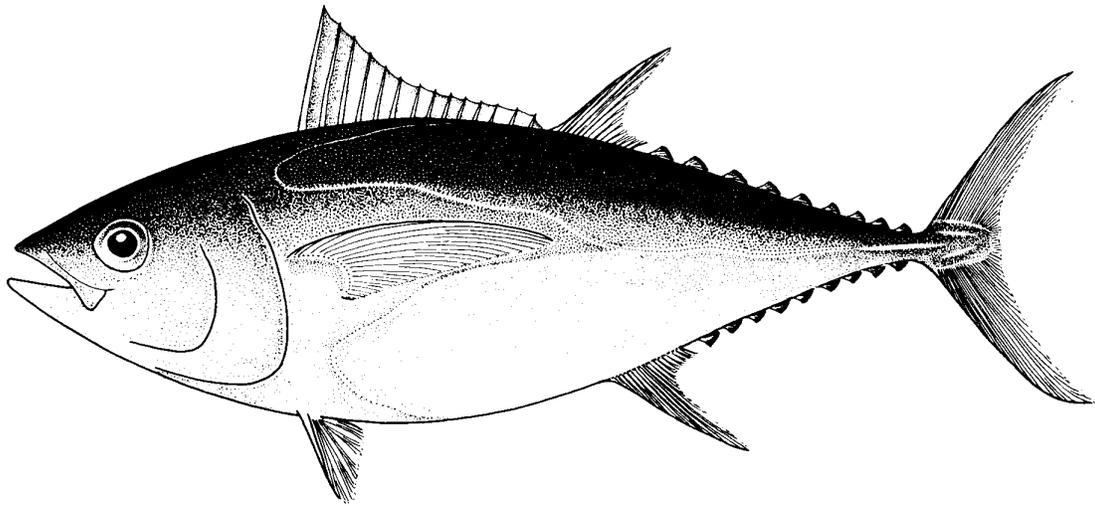


**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE TUNA FISHERY
DATA COLLECTION FORMS COMMITTEE**

11–13 December 1996
Brisbane, Queensland
Australia





Oceanic Fisheries Programme
South Pacific Commission
Noumea, New Caledonia

Forum Fisheries Agency
Honiara
Solomon Islands

January 1997

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1. PRELIMINARIES

1.1 Appointment of Chairman and Rapporteurs

1. Mr Felix Panjuboe, Multilateral Treaty Manager of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and chairman of the Tuna Fishery Data Collection Forms Committee¹ (hereafter the “Forms Committee”), assumed the chair. Mr Tim Lawson, Fisheries Statistician with the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) of the South Pacific Commission (SPC), was appointed rapporteur.

2. In his opening remarks, Mr Panjuboe welcomed the participants to the second meeting of the Forms Committee. He stressed that the member countries of FFA and SPC depend on the fisheries resources, and so the task of the Forms Committee — to design the catch and effort logsheets and the observer forms, for collection of the data required for the management of the resource — is vital.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

3. The agenda (Appendix 1) was adopted with the addition of an item on port sampling forms.

2. REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOGSHEETS

2.1 General

Requests for changes to the logsheets

4. Mr Panjuboe, who was appointed coordinator of requests for changes to the logsheet forms at the inaugural meeting of the Forms Committee in December 1995 (South Pacific Commission 1995), reported that he had received only one request from individuals outside FFA and SPC for changes to the South Pacific Regional Logsheets since the December 1995 meeting of the Forms Committee; the single request was from the United States Tuna Foundation (USTF) and concerned a code for school association on the purse-seine logsheet. Mr Peter Williams, OFP Fisheries Database Supervisor, reported that he had received one request from Dr John Hampton, OFP Principal Fisheries Scientist, concerning the inclusion of ‘hooks per basket’ on the longline logsheet, and a request for consideration of various changes from Dr Hiroaki Okamoto of the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries in Shimizu, Japan, in Dr Okamoto’s email message to Mr Williams of 3 October 1996. Each of these requests are discussed below.

Presence of VMS onboard

5. The FFA participants requested that information concerning Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) be collected on the longline, pole-and-line, and purse-seine logsheets. In particular, they suggested a field for “FFA type approved ALC? (Y/N)” at the top of the forms, in the trip sections of the logsheets. ALC stands for ‘Automatic Location Communicator’. The inclusion of this

¹ The Tuna Fishery Data Collection Forms Committee was established at the Ad Hoc Meeting on Tuna Fisheries Data Collection Forms, 11–14 December 1995, Brisbane, Australia, which was attended by staff of the Forum Fisheries Agency and the South Pacific Commission. The Forms Committee is an internal SPC and FFA committee responsible to the Director of FFA and to the Manager of the SPC Fisheries Programme. Members of the Forms Committee currently include the participants at the present meeting.

information was requested in order to cross-check with VMS data, when such become available, and to raise the awareness of fishermen about the forthcoming implementation of VMS by all FFA member countries. It was suggested that in several years, when all vessels are equipped with VMS on a routine basis, then this field could be dropped from the logsheets. The meeting agreed to include this field on each of the logsheets.

Use of “South Pacific” in the title of the logsheets

6. It was noted that the use of the term “South Pacific” had been discussed at recent annual meetings of the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Commission given that certain FFA and SPC members are located in the northern hemisphere. The meeting agreed to continue to use the term “South Pacific” in the titles of the logsheets and observer forms until such time as the Forms Committee is directed by the Director of FFA and the Manager of the SPC Fisheries Programme to use a different term.

2.2 Longline

Hooks per basket

7. Dr Hampton requested that ‘hooks per basket’ be included on the longline logsheet because this information has in the past been used in stock assessments as an indicator of targeting strategy. Prior to the discussion on ‘hooks per basket’, Mr Williams presented Background Paper 1, “Review of *hooks per basket* collected on logsheets submitted by longline vessels operating in western and central Pacific tuna fisheries.” It was noted that 89.6 per cent of the longline logsheet trips from data held at SPC cater for the recording of ‘hooks per basket’ at the trip level and only 7.6 per cent at the set level. These data were stratified by fleet, by EEZ, and by time period, to examine the relationship between ‘hooks per basket’ and species composition and catch rates by species. Five categories of data were identified:

- (1) fleets operating in areas where the range of ‘hooks per basket’ has been narrow for all years for which logsheet data are held at SPC;
- (2) fleets operating in areas where there is a broad range in ‘hooks per basket’ prior to 1990, but a narrow range since 1990;
- (3) fleets operating in areas where there is a broad range in ‘hooks per basket’ since 1990;
- (4) fleets for which it is evident that misreporting has occurred due to confusion with the meaning of ‘basket’; and
- (5) fleets for which there is usually a narrow range of ‘hooks per basket’, but a broad range for small percentage of trips, with no further information available to determine whether the broad range may be due to misreporting, as in category (4).

8. The category (3) data, i.e. those for which there is a broad range in ‘hooks per basket’ since 1990, were examined in detail. Each trip was used as an individual replicate. It was found that for certain fleets in certain areas, there were statistically significant correlations between ‘hooks per basket’ and both species composition and catch rate (Table 1).

Table 1. Correlation coefficients for hooks per basket data relative to (i) albacore species composition; (ii) bigeye species composition; (iii) yellowfin species composition; (iv) albacore CPUE; (v) bigeye CPUE; (vi) yellowfin CPUE collected from Japanese longline vessels operating in the region since 1990.

* - significant at 0.05; ** - significant at 0.01.

| Area | N (trips) | Correlation coefficients for Hooks per basket relative to : | | | | | |
|------|--------------|---|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | | (i) ALB_SC | (ii) BET_SC | (iii) YFT_SC | (iv) ALB_CPUE | (v) BET_CPUE | (vi) YFT_CPUE |
| FSM | 4348 | 0.0102 | -0.0370* | 0.0357* | 0.0083 | -0.0574** | -0.0397 |
| KI | 231 | -0.0460 | 0.2140* | -0.2103** | -0.0285 | 0.0810 | -0.0508 |
| MI | 653 | -0.1303** | -0.0456 | 0.0666 | -0.1654 ** | 0.0068 | 0.0445 |
| NC | 84 | 0.2480* | 0.0018 | -0.2507* | 0.0515 | 0.0530 | -0.2826** |
| PU | 400 | 0.0779 | 0.0166 | -0.0414 | -0.0128 | -0.1184* | -0.1619** |
| SB | 311 | -0.6490** | 0.5123** | 0.3116** | -0.5829** | 0.4253** | -0.1337* |

There appears to be a particularly strong positive correlation between the percentage of bigeye in the catch and bigeye catch rates for the Japanese longline fleet in Solomon Islands. In general, the percentage of albacore and yellowfin in the catch and albacore and yellowfin catch rates are negatively correlated with 'hooks per basket', but there is considerable variability in the data.

9. It was noted that the positive correlation between 'hooks per basket' and the percentage of bigeye in the catch, for Japanese longliners in Solomon Islands, might possibly be confounded by latitude. The relationship might also be confounded by where the vessels had fished prior to entering the Solomon Islands EEZ; some vessels arrive from Australia, where they have fished for southern bluefin, while others arrive from Marshall Islands and Kiribati. It was suggested that the analysis in BP.1 be extended to look at the effects of latitude and the area previously fished.

10. Within-trip variation in 'hooks per basket' was also examined. It was found that for the 7.6 per cent of longline logsheets for which 'hooks per basket' was recorded at the set level, only 14 per cent of those logsheets exhibited variation in 'hooks per basket' within a trip. Further, for 95 per cent of the trips for which there was variation in 'hooks per basket', the variation was in the range of only 1–2 hooks per basket.

11. It was noted that the logsheet forms recently submitted by Japan and Korea for their distant-water longliner fleets now record 'hooks per basket' at the trip level, rather than for individual sets.

12. It was also noted that the traditional term 'basket' has caused some confusion, particularly in cases where monofilament gear is now used. It was therefore suggested that 'hooks between floats' be used instead of 'hooks per basket'.

13. The inclusion of a field for 'target species' on the longline logsheet has often been suggested in regard to the use of 'hooks per basket' or 'hooks between floats' as an indicator of targeting. It was noted that this has not previously been tried, but that it might be useful to collect both 'hooks between floats', which is an objective measure of targeting, and 'target species', which is a subjective measure, in order to examine how the objective and subjective measures of targeting behaviour might correlate. It was noted that 'primary target species' should be used in order to reduce the number of species recorded on the logsheets as target species. It was also noted that the Japanese longline fleet operating in certain areas switches from targeting albacore and yellowfin to

targeting striped marlin at particular times of the year, and this could be used to test whether fishermen will accurately record their targeting behaviour in a field for 'primary target species'.

14. The use of 'hooks per basket' or 'hooks between floats' in estimating hook depth was discussed. It was observed that the reliable estimation of hook depth required more detailed information concerning the characteristics of the gear (length of float line, length of branch lines for individual hooks, distance between floats), at the level of individual sets, as well as information on currents. Such detailed information would require a separate page for each set, and would be overly burdensome to the fishermen; such data are best collected by observers. It was suggested that it might eventually be possible to collect such data with VMS. Nevertheless, it was recognised that under certain circumstances, 'hooks per basket' or 'hooks between floats' do, in fact, correlate with species composition, and thus can be used as an indicator of targeting.

15. The discussion of this subject concluded with the participants agreeing to include fields for 'hooks between floats' and for 'primary target species' at the top of the form, in the trip section of the logsheet.

Other species

16. The participants agreed that the instructions should be modified to clearly state that separate lines of the form should be used if there were more than one 'other species' caught in the set.

Requests for changes from Dr Okamoto

17. Dr Okamoto suggested that discards of tuna are mainly due to lack of cold storage space, or to small-sized fish with no commercial value. He suggested that if information on discards due to shark or whale bites are to be recorded on the logsheet, then this should be clearly stated in the instructions. The meeting agreed to improve the instructions in this regard.

18. Dr Okamoto suggested that 'hooks between floats' be included on the longline logsheet for individual sets, although he recognized that the number of hooks between floats was less variable in the south Pacific than the whole Japanese longline fishery. The meeting discussions in this regard have been reported above, under 'Hooks per basket'.

19. Dr Okamoto suggested that it would be cumbersome for smaller longliners and pole-and-line vessels to use GMT/UTC time, rather than ship's time. The participants noted that even smaller vessels have global positioning systems (GPS), which provide GMT/UTC time, and felt that the use of GMT/UTC time on logsheets should be standard practice for all vessels active in the region, to avoid confusion that may result from certain vessels using ship's time, while others use GMT/UTC time. It was also recognised that the use of GMT/UTC time will be used in VMS, and that, in general, the use of GMT/UTC is becoming widespread in tuna fisheries.

20. Dr Okamoto noted that the current longline logsheet requests in the instructions that whole weight be recorded in the fields for catch in kilograms, and stated that the Japanese fishermen usually take measurements of the gilled and gutted weight. In order to avoid confusion, he suggested that processed weights, rather than whole weights, be recorded. The participants recognised that the problem was in interpreting what was recorded on the form; prior to the introduction of the current longline logsheet, neither gilled and gutted weight or whole weight had been specified, and it was not clear what was being recorded. The meeting agreed with Dr Okamoto that it would be easier for

the fishermen to record processed weights, and therefore agreed that the instructions should be modified to request that gilled and gutted weight be recorded for bigeye and yellowfin, whole weight for albacore, and processed weights for billfish. It was noted that the catch in weight was not usually used for assessment purposes, but that it was otherwise used for other management-related purposes and should therefore be retained on the logsheet.

21. Dr Okamoto requested that sea surface temperature (SST) be recorded on the logsheets. The participants felt that the collection of SST was hampered by problems of calibration among vessels, that point estimates of SST may not be useful given that some longliners can cover large distances in a day, and that SST data were available from satellite detection systems.

2.3 Pole-and-Line

22. No changes specific to the pole-and-line logsheet were considered.

2.4 Purse Seine

Live whale

23. The USTF requested that the school association code for “Live marine mammal” be changed to “Live whale”. The meeting agreed to this change. In the rare case where schools were associated with marine mammals other than whales, this would be covered under the association code for “Other”.

Amount of fish onboard after unloading

24. The USTF also questioned the utility of recording both “Amount of fish onboard after unloading” and, on the logsheet for the subsequent trip, “Amount of fish onboard at start of trip”. The USTF also pointed out that it was sometimes impossible to meet the requirement under the terms of the US multilateral treaty to send logsheets within 14 days after the end of the trip and also record the amount of fish onboard after unloading, since unloading was often not completed in 14 days. It was noted that these fields were indeed redundant, but that they were a useful cross-check. It was agreed that American purse seiners which had not completed unloading in a time period which would allow them to send the logsheets to FFA within 14 days should leave the field for “Amount of fish onboard after unloading” blank.

Date skipped due to GMT

25. The meeting recognised that with the use of GMT/UTC, it sometimes appeared as if a day had been skipped on the purse-seine logsheet. If a set occurred in the early morning on one day, and then another in the late afternoon on the following day, then there would be a GMT/UTC date skipped on the logsheet. It was noted that computer programmes could easily be written to convert GMT/UTC dates to local dates in order to check for missing data.

Width of well numbers column

26. It was noted that usually a single well was recorded in the column for well numbers, and that the width of this column could be reduced in order to increase the width of the columns for latitude and longitude.

3. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOGSHEETS

Review of implementation

27. Mr Williams presented BP.2, "Review of the implementation of the South Pacific Regional Logsheet and Observer Forms in western and central Pacific tuna fisheries." Referring to Table 2,

Table 2. Status of implementation of regional catch logsheets (as at December 1996)

| Country / Arrangement | Gear | Flag | Regional Logsheets received | Status of regional standard logsheet implementation |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Cook Islands | Longline | Locally-based fleet | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| FSM Arrangement | Purse seine | Vessels operating under the FSM Arrangement | Yes | Introduced during 1996 |
| Fiji | Longline | Fiji (domestic fleet) + Korean vessels | No | Attempted introduction of new forms |
| | | Taiwan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | US Vessels | No | Attempted introduction of new forms |
| | Pole-and-line | Fiji (domestic fleet) | No | This fleet use a customised form requiring baiting locations |
| Federated States of Micronesia | Longline | Mainland China | No | Planned introduction in 1997 |
| | | Domestic FSM fleet | No | Planned introduction in 1997 |
| | | Guam-based US fleet | No | Planned introduction in 1997 |
| | | Japanese longline | No | To be discussed at a technical consultation with Japan (early 1997) |
| | | Taiwanese longline | No | Planned introduction in 1997 |
| | Pole-and-line | Japanese pole-and-line | No | To be discussed at a technical consultation with Japan (early 1997) |
| | Purse seine | Domestic fleet (Yap Fishing Corporation) | Yes | Introduced (see FSM Arrangement) |
| | | Domestic fleet (CFC) | Yes | Introduced (see FSM Arrangement) |
| | | Japanese purse seine | No | To be discussed at a technical consultation with Japan (early 1997) |
| | | Korean purse seine | No | FSM instructed Korean PS vessels to use forms |
| | | Taiwanese purse seine | No | Regional logsheet translated and used by Taiwanese PS fleet |
| Kiribati | Longline | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Korea | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Locally-based US fleet | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | Pole-and-line | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | Purse seine | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Domestic PS vessel | Yes | Introduced (see FSM Arrangement) |
| | | Korea | No | Introduced at regional level |
| Marshall Islands | Longline | Mainland China | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Domestic fleet | No | Fleet not active as at November 1996 |
| | | Taiwan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Locally-based US fleet | No | No US vessels active as at November 1996 |
| | Pole-and-line | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | Purse seine | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| New Caledonia | Longline | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Locally-based fleet | No | French translation of regional logsheet provided |
| Nuie | Longline | Taiwan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| French Polynesia | Longline | Locally-based fleet | No | French version required |
| | | Korea | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| Papua New Guinea | Longline | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Locally-based fleet | Not yet | Introduced, but poor coverage |
| | | Taiwan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | Purse seine | Korea | Some | Regional logsheet introduced |
| | | Phillippines | Not yet | Regional logsheet introduced |
| | | Taiwan | Some | Regional logsheet introduced |
| Palau | Longline | Mainland China | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Taiwan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Guam-based US fleet | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |

| Country / Arrangement | Gear | Flag | Regional Logsheets received | Status of regional standard logsheet implementation |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Solomon Islands | Pole-and-line | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | Purse seine | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | Longline | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Locally-based fleet | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | Pole-and-line | Taiwan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | Purse seine | Locally-based fleet + Kiribati | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Korea | Some | Introduced at the regional level |
| | | Phillippines | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| Locally-based fleet | | Yes | Introduced (see FSM Arrangement) | |
| Tonga | Longline | Taiwan | Some | Introduced at the regional level |
| Tuvalu | Longline | Domestic fleet | Not yet | Introduced |
| US Multilateral Treaty | Purse seine | Japan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | US fleet | Yes | Introduced June, 1996 |
| Vanuatu | Longline | Locally-based fleet | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Taiwan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| Western Samoa | Longline | Locally-based fleet | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |
| | | Taiwan | No | No indication of introduction of new forms |

he noted that:

- the American purse-seine fleet had completely converted to the regional purse-seine logsheet;
- the Taiwanese purse-seine fleet had begun to use a translated version of the regional purse-seine logsheet;
- the Korean purse-seine fleet had begun to use the regional purse-seine logsheet;
- these three purse-seine fleets account for about 75 per cent of the total catch in the region;
- certain domestic fleets (New Caledonia longline, Papua New Guinea longline, purse-seine fleets operating under the FSM Arrangement) have introduced the regional logsheets.

28. The meeting therefore considered that while much work lay ahead, significant progress had been made with the implementation of the regional logsheets.

Implementation of the pole-and-line logsheet

29. The Fiji Fisheries Division uses its own logsheet for the domestic pole-and-line fishery, which allows for the collection of data on baiting, as well as pole-and-line catch and effort. The Solomon Islands also uses its own form, processes its own data, and sends the data to SPC on diskette. It was noted that if the objective is to encourage the FFA/SPC members to adopt a standard form, then the Fiji and Solomon Islands Fisheries Divisions should be contacted concerning changes that the two Fisheries Divisions might require in order to adopt the South Pacific Regional Pole-and-Line Logsheet.

Strategies for implementation

30. Although significant progress had been made, it was noted that in spite of the fact that a report of the inaugural meeting of the Forms Committee and the regional logsheets had been sent to all fisheries departments of FFA and SPC members, under a letter stressing the importance of the

implementation of the forms, signed by the Director of FFA and the Manager of the SPC Fisheries Programme indicating joint support from the two agencies, it would appear that in certain countries, the regional forms may not have been passed to the individuals responsible for their implementation.

31. In this regard, it was suggested, and agreed, that the following persons, all from countries with major domestic and/or foreign tuna fleets but which have not fully (or partially) implemented the regional forms, should be contacted directly, by both FFA and SPC, to follow-up on the implementation of the regional logsheets:

- Mr Sylvester Diake, Fisheries Division, Solomon Islands;
- Mr Johnny Kirata, Fisheries Division, Kiribati;
- Mr Silas Orrukem, Palau Maritime Authority; and
- Mr Danny Wase, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority.

32. It was further suggested that the following persons from distant-water fishing nations should be contacted for follow-up on the implementation of the regional logsheets:

- Dr Eric Chang, Overseas Fisheries Development Council, Taiwan;
- Mr Kevin Lin, Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Boatowners and Exporters Association;
- Mr Moo Sung Park, Korea Deep Sea Fisheries Association; and
- Dr Dae-Yeon Moon, National Fisheries Research and Development Agency, Korea.

33. It was suggested that copies of the report of the Second Meeting of the Forms Committee should be presented to the 31st Meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee in March 1997, to the MCS Working Group in April 1997, and to the Tenth Meeting of the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish in June 1997, and to other meetings as the opportunities arise.

34. It was agreed that beyond 1997, progress on the implementation of the regional logsheets would be reported to the above fora in background papers, with updated versions of Table 2, prepared by SPC in conjunction with FFA.

35. As with the report of the inaugural meeting of the Forms Committee, the report of the Second Meeting of the Forms Committee will be sent to all fisheries departments in FFA and SPC member countries. The meeting agreed that the report would be finalised and distributed as soon as possible, and hopefully by the end of January 1997.

Translation of the regional logsheets

36. A French version of the longline logsheet was prepared by the New Caledonia *Marine marchande*. A Chinese version of the longline logsheet was prepared by Dr Chi-Lu Sun of National Taiwan University. A Chinese version of the purse-seine logsheet was prepared by the Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Boatowners and Exporters Association. Revisions of the translated versions of the logsheets, consistent with the revisions of the English version of the logsheets discussed above, will be addressed by SPC. FFA agreed to follow-up on additional translations as required.

4. REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO OBSERVER FORMS

Length and weight measurement codes

37. Mr Peter Sharples, OFP Port Sampling and Observer Supervisor, presented BP.4, “Notes on codes and form changes for port samplers and observers that need looked at in December 1996,” which presented standard length and weight measurement codes for use on regional observer and port sampler forms. Following the discussion, the following codes were agreed upon:

Length codes

| | |
|----|---|
| UF | tip of upper jaw to caudal fork |
| LF | tip of lower jaw to caudal fork |
| US | tip of upper jaw to anterior insertion of second dorsal |
| PF | anterior insertion of pectoral to caudal fork |
| PS | anterior insertion of pectoral to anterior insertion of second dorsal |
| TL | anterior extremity to posterior extremity |
| NM | not measured |

Weight codes

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| WW | whole weight |
| GG | gilled and gutted |
| HG | headed and gutted |
| GT | gutted and tailed |
| TR | headed, gutted and tailed (trunked) |
| GO | gutted only, not gilled |
| NM | not measured |

38. It was noted that certain codes were only applicable to certain species groups. For example, lower jaw to caudal fork length is for billfish; total length is for sharks and bycatch species without forked tails; upper jaw to caudal fork length is for tuna and other species except billfish and sharks. It was agreed that the instructions for the relevant observer forms would be modified to clearly explain the proper use of the codes.

Longline General Information Form

39. It was agreed to add “FFA type approved ALC? (Y/N)”, and “Make”, “Model” and “Comments” to the Longline General Information Form.

Longline Set Information Form

40. It was agreed to drop position reporting every 30 minutes, to delete the “00”, and to extend each line of the position section across the entire section.

41. It was agreed to keep the four fields on the number of branchlines at depths; to add a field for “Hooks per branchline”; to change “No. of hooks per basket” to “No. of hooks between floats”; to change “Total no. of baskets” to “Total no. of floats”; and to modify the instruction accordingly.

42. “Start of Day” will be changed to “Start of set”.

Longline Haul Information Form

43. It was agreed to drop position reporting every 30 minutes, to delete the “00”, and to extend each line of the position section across the entire section.

Longline Catch Monitoring Form

44. The length and weight codes will be modified as discussed under “Length and weight Measurement codes” above, and the instructions will be modified accordingly.

45. It was noted that the Fisheries Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was currently revising certain species codes. The meeting agreed that FAO should be asked to provide the new codes so that they can be used to revise the observer forms in time for distribution of the report of the Second Meeting of the Form Committee by the end of January 1997.

46. It was agreed that the fate code DFR would be defined as “Discarded trunk, but fins retained”, while the RFR code would be defined as “Both trunk and fins retained (sharks only)”. The RCC fate code will be defined as “retained for crew consumption onboard”.

47. It was agreed to keep the column for hook numbers in order to maintain the stress levels of the observers (particularly those of Basque descent). However, it was agreed to modify the instruction to indicate that if it was difficult to establish the hook number, then an estimate would be acceptable.

Purse Seine General Information Form

48. It was agreed to add “FFA type approved ALC? (Y/N)”, and “Make”, “Model” and “Comments” to the Purse Seine General Information Form.

49. “Capacity of brailer” should be added under Fishing Gear.

Purse Seine Daily Log

50. It was noted that the reference to the Vessel Trip Record Form number in the box in the lower right-hand corner should be revised.

51. It was agreed to insert a new activity code for “Deploying raft, FAD or payao”, meaning the deployment of a raft marked with a radio beacon by the vessel, for which no searching time was expended. This might include either a raft constructed for the purpose of aggregating tunas or flotsam collected by the vessel while at sea.

52. The school association code “Live marine mammal” will be changed to “Live whale” to be consistent with the Purse Seine Logsheet. The school association code “Other” will be changed to “Other. Please specify.”

Purse Seine Set Details Form

53. Page numbering should be added. The instructions for this and the other observer forms should specify that the page numbers should be sequential throughout the trip.

54. The species codes will be revised on receipt of revised codes from FAO.

55. It was agreed that, as for the Longline Catch Monitoring Form, the fate code DFR would be defined as “Discarded trunk, but fins retained (sharks only)” and added to the Purse Seine Set Details Form. The RFR code will be deleted from the Purse Seine Set Details Form. As for the

Longline Catch Monitoring Form, the RCC fate code will be defined as “retained for crew consumption onboard”.

56. The instructions regarding “End pursing” will be modified to refer explicitly to rings up.

57. The size of the box for “No. of tags recovered” and “Where are tag details recorded?” will be increased, and the shading will be modified.

Purse Seine Length Frequency Form

58. The length and weight codes will be modified as discussed under “Length and weight Measurement codes” above, and the instructions will be modified accordingly.

Purse Seine Well Loading Form

59. The instructions for the Well Loading Form will be improved. A line missing from under the well numbers will be added.

Vessel and Aircraft Sighting Form and Fish Transfer Log

60. It was proposed to change the vessel and aircraft codes on the Vessel and Aircraft Sightings Form from numbers to alphabetic codes, because the numeric codes are sometimes difficult to interpret when used in telex reports. However, it was decided that it would be more appropriate to modify the format of the telex reports than to modify the codes.

61. It was agreed to generalise this form so that it can be used on longliners, as well as purse seiners.

62. One line in the Fish Transfers box will be deleted to leave more room in the Vessel or Aircraft Sightings box.

Vessel Reporting Log

63. No changes were proposed.

Vessel Trip Record Form

64. It was agreed to generalise the Vessel Trip Record Form so that it can be used on longliners, as well as purse seiners.

Conversion Factor Form

65. Mr Lawson presented BP.5, “Data requirements for conversion of lengths and weights of central and western Pacific tuna and billfish,” and introduced the Conversion Factor Form. At present, this is considered to be a special form intended for use only by the SPC observers. It was noted that minor changes to the length and weight codes, consistent with those for the port sampling and other observer forms, would be required. It was also agreed to remove “Ship’s start of trip date” and “Ship’s end of trip date”.

Format of the observer forms

66. It was agreed that the observer forms should be bound in booklets. The booklets for longline should contain forms for 14 day periods, while those for purse seine should contain forms for both 60 day and 14 day periods. The booklets should contain all forms, except for the Purse Seine Length Frequency Form and the Longline Catch Monitoring Form, which will be printed on waterproof paper and bound in notepads. Observers should be issued with multiple sets of booklets in case trips extend beyond the 14 or 60 day periods. When more than one booklet is used, the observer should tear out the General Information Form from the additional booklets.

Implementation of the observer forms

67. The current forms have been introduced in all national observer programmes. It was recognised that the availability of the regional forms has greatly simplified the establishment and development of the national programmes supported by FFA and SPC.

68. The revised observer forms should be finalised by the end of January. It was suggested that FFA should be responsible for the printing of booklets of purse-seine observer forms, while SPC should be responsible for the printing of booklets of the longline forms. It is intended that the revised observer forms will be implemented in all national programmes by mid-1997.

Form numbering

69. It was noted that the Vessel and Aircraft Sightings Form and Fish Transfer Log, the Vessel Reporting Log, and the Vessel Trip Record Form would be generalised to be used for both longline and purse seine, and that it would be preferable not to have the same form with two different titles, one for longline and one for purse seine. It was also noted that the Conversion Factor Form could be used for both longline and purse seine. It was therefore suggested that a form numbering protocol be introduced, in which a form number is preceded by an alphabetic code referring to the class of form. The following list summarises the new form numbers:

Longline Forms

- LL-1 General Information
- LL-2 Set Information
- LL-3 Haul Information
- LL-4 Catch Monitoring

Purse Seine Forms

- PS-1 General Information
- PS-2 Daily Log
- PS-3 Set Details
- PS-4 Length Frequency
- PS-5 Well Loading

General Forms

- GEN-1 Vessel and Aircraft Sighting and Fish Transfer Log

- GEN-2 Vessel Reporting Compliance Log
- GEN-3 Vessel Trip Compliance Record
- GEN-4 Conversion Factor Form

70. It was noted that there was no overlap between the old and the new numbering system; hence, any confusion arising from the new form numbers should be minimal.

5. PORT SAMPLING FORMS

71. Port sampling forms were not considered at the inaugural meeting of the Forms Committee because they were the sole responsibility of SPC. However, the participants at the Second Meeting agreed to include the port sampling forms for discussion at future meetings of the Forms Committee. In this regard, the title of the port sampling forms will be modified to include "South Pacific Regional", rather than "SPC", to be consistent with the logsheets and observer forms. SPC is currently revising the port sampling forms to be consistent with the revised length and weight measurement codes, and purse-seine school association codes discussed above.

72. It was noted that a second port sampling workshop is tentatively scheduled for June 1997 in Suva, Fiji, just prior to the Tenth Meeting of the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish. (The first port sampling workshop was held in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, in February 1994.)

6. FUTURE OF THE FORMS COMMITTEE

73. At present, the Forms Committee is responsible to the Forum Fisheries Agency and to the South Pacific Commission, but it has no direct relationship with the Forum Fisheries Committee or the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish, or any other body. It was recognised that with the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in August 1995, the tuna fishing nations and coastal states in the region are working towards the establishment of a regional tuna fisheries management organisation or arrangement, and that such an organisation or arrangement may ultimately have some responsibility for certain aspects of the catch and effort logsheets and observer forms. However, it was agreed that the present status of the Forms Committee should be maintained until such time as a regional organisation or arrangement is established, or until FFA and SPC are otherwise directed by their governing bodies. It was noted that maintaining the present status of the Forms Committee did not preclude inviting individuals from outside FFA and SPC to participate in future meetings of the Committee.

74. Recognising that scheduled meetings of the Forms Committee were essential for the development and maintenance of the data collection forms under the Committee's responsibility, but also noting that considerable progress had been made at the first and second meetings of the Forms Committee, it was agreed that the next meeting should take place in two years' time, rather than in one years' time. The next meeting of the Forms Committee should therefore be held in late 1998.

75. The participants agreed that Mr Panjuboie will continue as chairman of the Form Committee and coordinator of requests for changes to the logsheets, while Mr Sharples will be coordinator for requests for changes to the observer forms. The meeting agreed that any requested changes would not be considered until the next meeting of the Forms Committee.

7. CLOSING

76. The meeting closed at noon on Friday the 13th, without incident. It was followed by a dinner, amiably hosted by Mr Karl Staisch at Morgan's, an excellent seafood restaurant in Redcliffe.

APPENDIX 1. AGENDA

1. PRELIMINARIES
 - 1.1 Appointment of Chairman and Rapporteurs
 - 1.2 Adoption of Agenda
2. REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOGSHEETS
 - 2.1 General
 - 2.2 Longline
 - 2.3 Pole-and-Line
 - 2.4 Purse Seine
3. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOGSHEETS
4. REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO OBSERVER FORMS
5. PORT SAMPLING FORMS
6. FUTURE OF THE FORMS COMMITTEE
7. CLOSING

APPENDIX 2. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- BP.1 Review of *hooks per basket* data collected on logsheets submitted by longline vessels operating in western and central Pacific tuna fisheries.
- BP.2 Review of the implementation of the South Pacific Regional Logsheet and Observer Forms in western and central Pacific tuna fisheries.
- BP.3 Report of Meeting. Ad Hoc Meeting on Tuna Fisheries Data Collection Forms, 11–14 December 1995, Brisbane, Australia.
- BP.4 Notes on codes and form changes for port samplers and observers that need looked at in December 1996.
- BP.5 Data requirements for conversion of lengths and weights of central and western Pacific tuna and billfish.

APPENDIX 3. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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APPENDIX 4. SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL LOGSHEETS

1. **Longline Logsheet**
2. **Pole-and-Line Logsheet**
3. **Purse-Seine Logsheet**

APPENDIX 5. SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL OBSERVER FORMS

1. **Longline Observer Form LL-1, General Information**
2. **Longline Observer Form LL-2, Set Information**
3. **Longline Observer Form LL-3, Haul Information**
4. **Longline Observer Form LL-4, Catch Monitoring**
5. **Purse Seine Observer Form PS-1, General Information**
6. **Purse Seine Observer Form PS-2, Daily Log**
7. **Purse Seine Observer Form PS-3, Set Details**
8. **Purse Seine Observer Form PS-4, Length Frequency**
9. **Purse Seine Observer Form PS-5, Well Loading**
10. **General Form GEN-1, Vessel and Aircraft Sightings and Fish Transfer Log**
11. **General Form GEN-2, Vessel Reporting Compliance Log**
12. **General Form GEN-3, Vessel Trip Compliance Record**
13. **General Form GEN-4, Conversion Factors**

APPENDIX 6. SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL PORT SAMPLING FORMS

1. **Longline Port Sampling Form**
2. **Longline Unloading Form**
3. **Purse Seine Well Loading Form**
4. **Purse Seine Unloading Form**
5. **Purse Seine Carrier Form**
6. **Purse Seine Sampling Form**
7. **Troll Vessel Port Sampling Form**