

RESOLUTION 01/05

MANDATORY STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IOTC MEMBERS

Catch and effort data

Surface fisheries: catch and effort data of the surface fisheries, catch weight and fishing days at least (purse seine, baitboat, troll, drift nets) should be provided to the IOTC by 1° grid area and month strata. Purse seine fishery data should be stratified by type of school.

Those data should preferably be extrapolated to the national monthly catches of each gear. The raising factors used, corresponding to the logbook coverage, should be given routinely to the IOTC.

Longline fisheries: catch and effort data of the longline fisheries should be provided to the IOTC by 5° grid area and month strata, preferably in numbers and in weight. The fishing effort should be given in numbers of hooks. Those data should preferably be extrapolated to the national monthly catches. The raising factors used, corresponding to the logbook coverage, should be given routinely to the IOTC.

The catches, efforts and sizes of the **artisanal, small scale and sport fisheries** should also be submitted on a monthly basis, but using the best geographical areas used to collect and process those data.

Size data

Considering that size data are of key importance for most tuna stock assessment, length data, including the total number of fish measured, should be routinely submitted to the IOTC on a 5° grid area and month basis, by gear and fishing mode (e.g. free/log schools for the purse seiners). Size data should be provided for all gears and for all species covered by the IOTC. Size data sampling should preferably be run under strict and well described random sampling schemes which are necessary to provide unbiased figures of the sizes taken. The exact recommended level of sampling could vary between species (as a function of various parameters), but the specific level of recommended sampling needs to be established by the working party on statistics. More detailed size data, for instance size by individual samples, should also be made available to the IOTC when requested by specific working groups, but under strict rules of confidentiality.

Fishing for tunas in association with floating objects including Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

It is essential for IOTC to better understand changing patterns in effective fishing effort in respect of fleets operating in the IOTC Area of Competence that more information is obtained. Considering that the activities of supply vessels and the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet the following information should be routinely submitted to the IOTC:

- a) **Number and characteristics of supply vessels:** (i) operating under their flag, (ii) assisting purse seine vessels operating under their flag, or (iii) licensed to operate in their exclusive economic zones, and that have been present in the IOTC Area of Competence.
- b) **Levels of activity of supply vessels:** including number of days at sea by 1° grid area and month basis.

In addition, Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties shall make their best endeavours to provide data on the **total number and type of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)** operated by the fleet by 5° grid area and month basis.

Timeliness of data submission to the IOTC

It is essential that all the fishery data be available in due time to allow the monitoring of stocks and analysis of the data. It is thus recommended that the following rules should be applied as standard obligation:

- a) **Surface fleets and other fleets operating in coastal zone** (including in respect of supply vessels) must provide their fishery data at the earliest possible date but **no later than the 30th of June each year** (previous year data).

- b) **Longline fleets operating in the high seas** must provide the **provisional** fishery data at the earliest date, but **no later than before June 30th** (for the previous year data). They must provide the **final estimate** of their fishery data **before December 30th each year** (for the previous year data).

The delays presently required to submit statistics could be reduced in the future because of the development of communication and data processing technologies, which should reduce the present data processing delays.