



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

PROSPECTUS

Technical workshop on global harmonization of Tuna fisheries statistics

Meeting of “tuna sub-group” of CWP ad-hoc Task Group on reference harmonization

19-22 March 2018

Nigeria Room, FAO HQ, Rome

1 BACKGROUND

This workshop is held under the frame of the **ad-hoc Task Group** on “Reference harmonization for capture fisheries and aquaculture statistics” of the **Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)**, as informal **tuna sub-group**, a natural cluster willing to move-on the CWP matters and meeting upon tuna-specific funding opportunity. The CWP is a mechanism to streamline statistical activities among the relevant RFBs and create standard concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies for the collection and collation of fishery statistics.

Among subjects of interest, it has been always shown the need to structure and exchange the reference data together with statistical datasets to enable their identification and interoperability among different organizations’ databases. The interest and incentive of CWP parties on solving these matters have been raised and discussed during several preceding meetings. The discussion on the need of a unified, coherent and harmonized fisheries data stems from discussion initiated during the CWP inter-sessional Fishery Subject Group Meeting on February 2015. In the CWP 25th plenary meeting held in 2016 in Rome, participants approved the establishment of the ad-hoc Task Group on “Reference harmonization for capture fisheries and aquaculture statistics”.

CWP parties that are members of this Task Group are namely CCSBT, EUROSTAT, FAO, GFCM, IATTC, ICCAT, ICES, IOTC, NACA, OECD, SEAFO, SPC and WCPFC. The kick-off teleconference meeting took place on March 23rd 2017.

The main objective of the ad-hoc Task Group is to contribute to the CWP standard for Data Structure Definition (DSD), a set and structure of statistical concepts that accommodate the coding system used by CWP parties to improve the data reporting and exchange between national, regional and global organizations. This objective stems the need of harmonizing data structures and related metadata. The harmonization starts with inventory, then defining and reconciling diverse information elements with international CWP standards to the extent possible. These efforts will minimize time and costs of mapping data elements to standard terminology and will improve multilateral exchange among CWP parties and their corresponding members.

First draft of the standard for global DSD was presented ([document](#) and [presentation](#)) at the CWP intersessional meeting that was held in Copenhagen, 19-22 June 2017. The meeting’s feedback entailed revising terminology and expanding the scope of the DSD domains to data collection and dissemination and to cover nominal catch, catch and effort, logbook. Remarks and actions to be carried out are summarized in the [meeting report](#).

The present workshop focuses on tuna RFMOs and brings together representatives from the five Tuna RFMOs namely: CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC. IT constitutes a pilot case with a Tuna bodies lens for reflecting on reference harmonization of global DSDs, definitions and related codification. Outputs will be presented to other CWP parties towards consensus on global DSDs for global capture, catch and effort, and logbooks. Besides CWP harmonization, the discussions encompasses considerations of business opportunities and includes expected benefits from sponsoring projects agendas.

2 OBJECTIVES AND OUTPUTS OF THE WORKSHOP

The agenda of the meeting is presented in Appendix 1. The workshop consists of 6 main sessions. The objectives, tasks and outputs of each session are summarized here.

Session 1: The workshop starts with an introduction of each RFMO presenting overview of data collection framework and impact of the workshop on their work.

Session 2: Harmonization of reference data and grid system

- Review the proposal of CWP standard of global Data Structure Definition (DSD) and its structural elements.
- Scrutinize and review the mapping between the codes of Tuna RFMOs and CWP standards.
- Identify needs of tuna RFMOs and their assistance to use CWP grids and other geo-data standards.

Outputs

- Validation of CWP standard for the global DSD for Tuna data (catch, catch and effort, logbook) and related metadata.
- Validation of the mapping between codes of Tuna RFMOs and CWP standards.

Session 3: Data collection programs to improve knowledge on recreational and small scale fisheries

- Discuss opportunities to improve data quality to support Data Limited Models (DLM) in the case of small scale and coastal fisheries.
- Recreational and artisanal fisheries: success stories and harmonization of data collection forms and minimum data requirements.
- Present Data collection frameworks of all tRFMOs and the latest electronic reporting systems of ICCAT and IOTC.

Outputs

- Guidance and recommendations regarding minimum data requirements for monitoring small scale and recreational fisheries. The output will support RFMO members to improve data collection and commit information to stock assessment.
- Identification of priority issues regarding challenges and best practices in electronic data reporting.

Session 4: Data exchange, reporting and standards

- Present FAO Master Data Management Solutions its role in upgrading the management of reference data of fisheries statistics
- Review of standards that facilitate fisheries data interoperability at CWP party level and with national members (SDMX, UN/CEFACT FLUX, OGC).
- Strengthen promotion and implementation of geographic information standards and best practices.

Outputs

- Guidance and recommendations regarding alternatives for data exchange format and standards for the needs of fisheries statistics.

Session 5: Tools and services: Update of the FAO global Tuna Atlas

- Introduce the new FAO global Tuna Atlas, its renovated tools and services to facilitate the data exploitation based on geographic information standards and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Re-usable) data principles.
- Review user community needs for resource such as FAO global Tuna Atlas, including the possibility by RFMOs to benefit of regional views of the Tuna Atlas as embeddable Software.
- Ensure acknowledgement of tRFMOs as data owners (data provenance, citation, usage accounting), as the Tuna Atlas contains public data.

Outputs

- Guidance for finalized version of the FAO Tuna Atlas, upon meeting's feedback and validation.
- Guidance towards validation of partnership arrangement for data provision and maintenance of the Tuna Atlas.

Session 6: Break-out groups on WG topics requiring further focus - Other Business

- Discuss and take diverse views in regards to issues of importance to all Tuna RFMOs.
- Conclude recommendations and perspectives of other business

Outputs

- Finalize and summarize the workshop outputs to the CWP community.
- Adopt the meeting report.

3 ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION

The technical workshop is organized by the FAO, CWP secretariat, in collaboration with ABNJ program.

The meeting focus on reaching consensus on standards, data structure and definitions for exchange of fisheries statistics and other related data matters. The five Tuna RFMOs namely: CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, and SPC-WCPFC are represented by managers of data collection programs and database managers. The compliance data manager of WCPFC joins also the workshop.

Two representatives of fisheries department on statistics from Oman and Trinidad and Tobago join the workshop as CWP observers to share their concerns and present the importance of harmonization process to facilitate the multi-reporting of fisheries statistics.

Other experts in the field participate to provide relevant regional experiences on artisanal and recreational fisheries and electronic data reporting systems.

The list of participants is provided in Appendix 2.

4 REPORT AND OUTPUT OF THE WORKSHOP

The outputs of the workshop will be reported to the CWP parties in the next CWP intersessional meeting. The report of the workshop will be published in the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report series. FAO will coordinate the production and distribution of the report.

5 SPONSORING PROJECTS

The workshops is funded by the Japanese project GCP/INT/228/JPN (Improved fisheries management for sustainable use of marine living resources in the face of changing systems).

The Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program (ABJN-tuna) co-sponsored the workshop.

BlueBridge, EU Horizon 2020, supported the activities of FAO Tuna Atlas in partnership between FAO, IRD and CNR.

Appendix 1: **Agenda**

Day 1: Monday, 19 March	
9:00 – 9:15	Opening remarks (FAO-FIA Director)
Session 1: Introduction and Workshop objectives, participants expectations Chair : Marc Taconet Rapporteur : Yann Laurent	
9:15 – 10:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction and Workshop objectives - Adoption of agenda - Expectations from t-RFMOs, illustrated with overview or relevant aspects of Tuna RFMOs fisheries data collection frameworks (questionnaires, forms, structures, concepts) (10 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCSBT (Colin Millar) - IATTC (Nick Vogel) - ICCAT (Carlos Palma) - IOTC (Fabio Fiorellato) - SPC-WCPFC (Peter Williams)
10:40	Coffee Break
Session 2: Harmonization of reference data and grid system Objective: Review the proposal of CWP standard of DSD towards the validation of DSDs on catch, catch and effort, and logbooks Identify needs of tuna RFMOs to use CWP grids Chairs: Marc Taconet Rapporteur : Aymen Charef – Emmanuel Blondel	
11:00 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background of CWP efforts on reference data Harmonization (A. Charef) - Harmonization of global DSD (concepts, dimensions, definitions, etc.)
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch Break
13:45 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonization at semantic level (mapping among coding systems: CWP vs CWP parties) (M. Herrera)
15:30	Tea Break
15:50 – 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current spatial gridded systems for fishery data reporting and harmonization outlook (E. Blondel) - Geographic information standards and best practices

Day 2: Tuesday, 20 March	
Session 3: Data collection programs to improve knowledge on recreational and small scale fisheries Objective: Propose recommendations regarding minimum data requirements for monitoring small scale and recreational fisheries Chair: Aymen Charef – Olivier Roux Rapporteur: Roy Bailey – Fabio Fiorellato – Carlos Palma	
9:00 – 10:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data quality in support to DLMs: case of small scale and coastal fisheries (N. Gutierrez) - Data collection programs and success stories for monitoring of Tuna artisanal fisheries, Recreational fisheries and by-catch species (R. Bealey) - Support to data collection programs: “SmartForms” (A. Gentile)
10:40	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection and multiple reporting in WECAFC area: Tuna small scale fisheries (Y. Laurent) - Data collection and reporting system - regional experiences (Usage scenario, architecture, discussion of implementation perspectives) (C. Palma, F. Fiorellato, E. Anello)
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch break
Session 4: Data exchange, reporting and standards Objective: Review methods and standards that facilitate the data interoperability at CWP party level and with national members Chair: Marc Taconet – Yann Laurent Rapporteur: Emmanuel Blondel – Anton Ellenbroek	
13:45 - 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO Master Data Management services (A. Charef and T. Berger) - RDA Fisheries Data Interoperability WG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sharing and exchange standards (SDMX and UN/CEFACT FLUX) (A. Charef) • Standards of metadata interoperability (E. Blondel)
15:30	Tea Break
16:00 - 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion: prospects raised by recent initiatives in enhancing quality and availability of data, synergies, and ways forward
Day 3: Wednesday, 21 March	
9:00 – 9:10	Refresher of Day 2 results and introduction to Day 3
Session 5: Tools and services: Update of the FAO global Tuna Atlas Discussion on the partnerships and governance to maintain the Atlas Chair: Aymen Charef – Emmanuel Chassot Rapporteur: Anton Ellenbroek – Yann Laurent	
9:10 – 10:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of global Tuna Atlas (E. Blondel, P. Taconet, Y. Laurent) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework, architecture, Data catalogue and metadata, • Content, and challenges met in its collation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps and services visualization tools
10:40	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	- Inventory of common services of interest to FAO, RFMOs, scientific community and general public (E. Chassot)
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch break
13:45 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintenance of the workflow and governance - Rules and procedures: frequency of data submission/update, data quality
15:30	Tea Break
15:50 – 17:30	- Towards global Tuna Atlas Partnership (update and dissemination policy, ownership, FIRMS annex II)
Day 4: Thursday, 22 March	
Session 6: Break-out groups on WG topics requiring further focus - Other Business Objective: Discussion on several subjects of interest to t-RFMOs Finalize and summarize the workshop outputs to the CWP community Chair: Marc Taconet Rapporteur: Aymen Charef – Yann Laurent – Carlos Palma	
9:00 – 9:10	- Refresher of Day 3 results
9:10 – 9:40	- Conversion factors for nominal catches (C. Palma)
9:40 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakout session/groups for topics requiring potential discussions CWP - ISSCFG (3rd and 4th level) Definition of catches Effort conversion Data sharing agreement Any other required thematic group...
10 :30	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakout session (continued) - Report of sub-groups to the meeting
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch Break
13:45 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wrap-Up discussion and Perspectives - Report formulation to CWP session (review and adoption)

Appendix 2: List of Participants

Participants	Affiliation
Colin Millar	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)
Nick Vogel	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
Carlos Palma	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Fabio Fiorellato	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
Peter Williams	Pacific Community (SPC)
Lara Manarangi-Trott	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
TBC	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
Lounane Martin	Trinidad and Tobago - Ministry of Agriculture
Yasser Al-Musalhi	Oman – Ministry of Agriculture
Paul Taconet	Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)
Olivier Roux	Independent
Emmanuel Chassot	Independent
Miguel Herrera	Independent
Anton Ellenbroek	FAO - FIAS
Aymen Charef	FAO - FIAS
Aureliano Gentile	FAO - FIAS
Emmanuel Blondel	FAO - FIAS
Enrico Anello	FAO - FIAS
Marc Taconet	FAO - FIAS
Thomas Berger	FAO - FIAS
Yann Laurent	FAO - FIAS
Nicolas Gutierrez	FAO - FIAF
Roy Bealey	FAO - SLC