



COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Intersessional Aquaculture and Fishery Subject Groups Meetings

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International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels (ISSCFV) by Vessel Types– Status of Revision – draft document

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BACKGROUND

The International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels (ISSCFV) by vessel types was first approved at the 12th Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics Copenhagen, Denmark, 25 July-1 August, 1984. In 2001, at CWP-19 in Nouméa, New Caledonia, the topic of a revised list of ISSCFV by vessel types of raised. Following consultations and discussions during and between CWP-19 and CWP-20, the revision was finalized by CWP-21.

The revision was presented in the CWP-21 report showing the “top tier” (as per CWP-20 para. 80) of the classification:

- Dredgers
- Gillnetters
- Longliners
- Lift netters
- Multipurpose vessels:
 - Multipurpose trawlers (in combination with longline, trap, gillnet, dredge)
 - Purse seine/pelagic trawlers
 - Multipurpose non trawlers (longline, gillnet, trap)
- Purse seiners
- Seiners
- Trap setters
- Trawlers
- Other fishing vessels

The subsequent proposed steps from CWP-21 were: the release of the new classification in the “CWP Handbook of fishery statistical standards” and a parallel revision and reprint of the FAO Fisheries Technical Paper number 267 "Definition and Classification of fishery vessel types".

The two subsequent steps have not been implemented and it was proposed at the CWP-24 session that a further revision of the ISSCFV vessel type list be further refined. This document summarizes the current state of use of the revised ISSCFV by vessel types and classifications and puts forward a case and considers future use-cases.

CONSIDERATIONS

Current State:

1. FAO continues to use the simplified ISSCFV by vessel types list in the FF Questionnaire for annual reporting by member countries. The numeric coding used with the simplified list in the FF questionnaire does not correspond with the full listing, nor does the level of hierarchy of the selected vessel types in the simplified list. The differences in numeric coding, naming and hierarchical level are shown here, in red:

SIMPLIFIED ISSCFV BY VESSEL TYPES (2005)			CORRESPONDING REVISED ISSCFV BY VESSEL TYPES CATEGORY (or closest match)		
Code	Standard Abbreviation	Vessel Type	Code	Standard Abbreviation	VESSEL TYPE
01	TO	Trawlers	01.0.0	TO	Trawlers
02	SP	Purse Seiners	02.0.0	SP	Purse Seiners
03	SOX	Seiners others	02.9.0	SOX	OTHER SEINERS
04	GO	Gill Netters	05.0.0	GO	Gillnetters
05	WO	Trap Setters	06.0.0	WO	Trap Setters
06	LL	Long Liners	07.2.0	LL	Long Liners
07	LOX	Liners others	07.9.0	LOX	OTHER LINE VESSELS
08	MO	Multipurpose vessels	09.0.0	MO	Multipurpose vessels
9.1	DO	Dredgers	03.0.0	DO	Dredgers
9.0	FX	Other fishing vessels	49.0.0	FX	OTHER FISHING VESSELS
			04.0.0	NB	Liftnetters

Table 1. A correspondence table for the simplified ISSCFV by vessel types classification used in the FAO FF questionnaires against the revised ISSCFV by vessel types listing showing matching categories with nearest matches highlighted in red.

2. Other FAO vessel databases – including the Fishing Vessel Finder; High Seas Vessel Authorization Record (HSVAR) both under the VRMF platform use the revised ISSCFV by vessel types listing. The Consolidated List of Active Vessels (CLAV) for the tuna RFMOs also use this classification.

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3. The majority of CWP members use gear type classifications rather than vessel type, as was stated in the earlier CWP reports (CWP-19 and CWP-20) during the discussion on the revision.

Future Considerations:

1. DG Mare has raised the following points:
 - Request that a code for “bait boat” be developed. The closest current category is LP but this does not allow for the differentiation between pole-and-line vessels that would not have live bait on board as this activity is conducted by a specific support vessel carrying live bait
 - This could be covered under the full ISSCFV by vessel types category of (99.0.0 - NON-FISHING VESSELS nei – VOX
 - Allow for the differentiation of Purse Seiners (particularly those operating in the Mediterranean) without freezers on board from Purse Seiners operating on the high seas that are equipped with freezers.
 - For discussion in the inter-sessional meeting
 - The current category of recreational vessels does not apply to the support or auxiliary vessels which are also included at the level of fisheries legislation.
 - For discussion in the inter-sessional meeting
 - Need for a vessel category for trap setters
 - This is covered by (06.0.0 TRAP SETTERS WO) with further definition between pots and traps available under the full ISSCFV by vessel types classification
2. Starting in the 2018 data collection cycle FAO will be moving to the use of electronically-generated questionnaires. This new format will better allow for the inclusion of more reporting fields. It has been proposed that the revised ISSCFV by vessel types (2005) listing be used, with the top-level categories displayed and the sub-categories available in a drop-down menu.
3. The Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels project, which was designed to support the Port State Measures Agreement (<http://www.fao.org/in-action/global-record/en/>) with 46 signatory parties and has now entered the pilot phase. The database for the Global Record has been built using the revised ISSCFV by vessel types listing.
4. A project is under development with FAO to aid national authorities who may have developed their own national level vessel identifiers for management of fleets. The project aims to provide guidance at the point when such data is shared

at either the regional and/or RFMOs levels, as it provides a means to harmonize vessel identification – particularly for the vast segment of vessels that are below the cut-off point for IMO numbers. This process entails an additional effort in managing multiple identifiers, their mapping and synchronizing between various systems alongside with the official IMO identifiers for qualified vessels.

In order to better organize and reduce duplications, errors and management complexities the development of a global semantic standard for vessel registration (GssVR) and related services and their promotion for use in National, Regional & RFMO's systems will help in improved management, identification and sharing of information between various members. In the context of the GssVR, a Global Fishing Vessel Identifier (GFVI) is under development using a standard to help the National authorities in the assignment and management of the entire fishing fleet (covering industrial, large and small-scale vessels) registry. At the same time, the GFVI allows the maintenance of a unique vessel identifier throughout the entire chain that is shared and used within the Regional, RFMOs and even Global contexts. The GFVI identifier incorporates international standards of vessels groups, type, size classes and status thus helping in improved management and identification. The project is intending to use revised ISSCFV by vessel types in the development of the standard. This use has been proposed as it allows for matching with existing databases and projects such as the Global Record, FVF, HSVAR, VRMF and CLAV

At the moment, the identified would be based on a string of features following this pattern: <Vessel type> / <Size class> / <Built country> / <Built year> / <Reg. country> / <National number> / <Op country> / <Op year>

5. IMO and Pew are developing a proposed list of vessel classifications to eventually make an expansion of the classifications used when assigning IMO numbers. The proposed classification contains a mix of vessel and gear types as well as target species. A correspondence table with both the revised ISSCFV by vessel types is shown under Annex 1.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

1. Feedback to request from DG MARE under first points raised for 'Future Considerations'
2. Consider proceeding with the circulation of a short questionnaire to CWP members to fully document:
 - the current and potential future use of the revised ISSCFV by vessel types list
 - further requests for additional revisions such as those raised by DG MARE
 - the current and potential future use of any other classification system (including the use of gear type rather than vessel type)
3. If the group feels it important, could provide feedback either informally as a group, or by individual CWP members to the Pew / IMO vessel type definition process

4. Whether to consider the development of a proposal to continue considering revisions of the ISSCFV by vessel types or to simply proceed with the last two final steps proposed in the CWP-21 document: the release of the new classification in the "CWP Handbook of fishery statistical standards" and a parallel revision and reprint of the FAO Fisheries Technical Paper number 267 "Definition and Classification of fishery vessel types". Progress on the website update would facilitate these updates.

Annex 1.

Proposed Pew / IMO Category REVISED ISSCFV BY VESSEL TYPES (2005) – matching
or **closest match**

Pew/IMO Name	ISSCFV code	Standard abbreviation	Vessel Type
Fish Carrier	12.0.0	FO	Fish carriers
· <i>Refrigerated machinery</i>	-	-	-
· <i>Live fish carrier</i>	-	-	-
Fish Factory Ship	11.2.0	HSF	Factory motherships
Fish Farm Support Vessel	19.0.0	VOO	Other non-fishing vessels
Fishery Patrol Vessel	14.0.0	BO	Protection and survey vessels
Fishery Research Vessel	15.0.0	ZO	Fishery research vessels
Fishery Support Vessel	18.0.0	OV	Other fishing vessels
Fishing Vessel			
<i>Beam Trawler</i>	01.6.0	BT	Beam trawlers
<i>Dredge Fishing</i>	03.0.0	DO	Dredgers
<i>Factory Stern Trawler</i>	01.2.3	TTP	Stern trawlers factory
<i>Gill-net Fishing</i>	05.0.0	GO	Gillnetters
<i>Long-line Fishing</i>	07.2.0	LL	Longliners
<i>Pair Trawling</i>	01.5.0	PT	Pair trawlers
<i>Pelagic Purse Seiner</i>	09.2.0	MTS	Purse seine/pelagic trawlers
<i>Pole & Line Fishing</i>	07.3.0	LP	Pole and Line vessels
<i>Potting</i>	06.1.0	WOP	Pot vessels
<i>Seiner</i>	02.0.0	SO	Seiners
<i>Shrimp Trawling</i>	01.9.0	TOX	Trawlers nei
<i>Side Fishing</i>	01.1.0	TS	Side trawlers
<i>Sport Fishing</i>	-	-	-
<i>Stern Trawler</i>	01.2.0	TT	Stern trawlers
<i>Trawler</i>	01.0.0	TO	Trawlers

<i>Tuna Fishing</i>	11.3.0	HST	Tuna motherships
	07.2.1	LLT	Tuna longliners
	02.1.3	SPT	Tuna purse seiners
Refrigerated Cargo Ship	99.0.0	VOX	Non-fishing vessels nei

Table 1. Correspondence table for the proposed IMO/PEW vessel classifications and Revised ISSCFV by Vessel Types (2005) classification