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Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

### Twentieth Session

Victoria, Seychelles, 21-24 January 2003

### Report by CCSBT

1. Report of Inter-sessional developments in CCSBT in fishery statistics (Item 6)

As reported at CWP-19, a database manager was appointed and commenced duties with the Secretariat in September 2001. Prior to this date, the CCSBT had no centralised statistical or data management role, except for management of the CCSBT Trade Information Scheme (TIS).

Progress in data and statistical related issues since CWP-19 has included:

Implementation of a new computer system in the Secretariat (replacing a Macintosh based system);

Implementation of an SBT tagging program to tag large numbers of juvenile fish (~15,000 per year) with the primary objective of estimating fishing mortality rates;

From a questionnaire on existing catch (and effort) data collection systems, a list of deficiencies have been identified in Members data collection systems and recommendations had been made for improvements in a number of areas where feasible;

Tentative agreement from CCSBT members on the required fields of information<sup>1</sup> to be submitted to the CCSBT central database;

Design and implementation of the table structures for the new relational database<sup>2</sup>, including structures for catch and effort, total catch by fleet, catch at size, TIS, tag

<sup>1</sup> With respect to catch effort, total catch by fleet and catch at size data.

<sup>2</sup> Which has been established in Microsoft SQL Server 2000.

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recapture, and reference (e.g. vessel information, people/organisation information, reference codes) data;

Development of data entry and project management interfaces for the tag recapture, TIS, and reference data modules of the database;

Cleaning and transfer of the historic TIS data to the new TIS database module<sup>3</sup>;

Limited progress towards populating the database with historic catch effort data, total catch by fleet data and catch at size data;

Development of a new CCSBT web site, including a private document and data exchange area for CCSBT members;

Despite considerable progress on data related issues, difficulties have been experienced in reaching agreement on issues such as: what resolution of data should be provided; whether data for catches of species other than southern bluefin tuna should be provided; what data sets should be provided in raised form; and confidentiality of the data (which has now been resolved<sup>4</sup>). In addition, provision of historic data for the database is taking longer than initially expected. There are many reasons for the delays, including other commitments of members, and enhancement of some national data sets prior to providing the data<sup>5</sup>.

The CCSBT is also in the process of developing standards for a CCSBT scientific observer program. It is planned that the standards be finalised during 2003, after which, scientific observer data will become another important component of the CCSBT central database.

## 2. Catch and trade certification schemes (Item 10)

The CCSBT trade information scheme continues to operate. The CCSBT reviewed the operation of the scheme and as a consequence some changes have been made to the TIS.

In order to reduce problems caused by missing documents, uncertainty of completeness of TIS data and poor timeliness for availability of data, members are now required to submit a record of their exports in association with the TIS scheme on a 6 monthly basis. The data from exporting members will be more up to date than the TIS documents that are returned from importers (which can be more than 9-12 months after export), thereby improving the time frame for data availability. Importantly, individual TIS documents from exporters will be reconciled with those from importers, which will identify any missing documents and other possible discrepancies.

The CCSBT has decided to impose minimum standards on the quality or completeness of TIS documents for accepting SBT imports. However, the Commission has also noted that further discussion is required to determine the essential information that would be required as part of the minimum standard as well as potential problems when applying such minimum standards.

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<sup>3</sup> Development of a new TIS database was necessary to improve the quality of the data (data checking routines etc.); improve the efficiency of data entry; and to integrate these data with the other components of the new database.

<sup>4</sup> For details, see Attachment 16 of the report of the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Commission.

<sup>5</sup> Which in some cases is required to provide the required fields of information.