



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
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de las
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Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

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Report: SPC

Introduction

The Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is responsible for compiling and disseminating data on tuna fisheries in the WCPFC Statistical Area (Figure 1) on behalf of SPC member countries and territories, and under contract to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The data compiled by the OFP are used for monitoring and research on the tuna fisheries of the SPC members, and for regional monitoring and research conducted under contract to the WCPFC. The main types of data compiled by the OFP are described below:

- Annual catch estimates are compiled by gear type, fishing nation, and major species of tuna and billfish.
- Operational-level catch and effort data (longline and purse-seine sets; pole-and-line and troll days fished) covering most industrial gear types and fishing nations are provided by SPC member countries and territories.
- Catch and effort data grouped by time-area strata (5° latitude by 5° longitude and month for longline and troll; 1° latitude by 1° longitude and month for pole-and-line and purse seine) are provided by non-SPC member fishing nations (e.g. Japan, Republic of Korea and Chinese Taipei).
- Port sampling data and unloadings data covering 27 ports are provided by 13 SPC member countries and territories.
- Observer data are collected through observer programmes in several SPC member countries and territories.
- The OFP conducted two large-scale tagging programmes, from 1977 to 1980 and from 1989 to 1992, during which 317,412 skipjack, yellowfin and other species were tagged throughout the tropical and sub-tropical western and central Pacific from pole-and-line vessels. A total of 27,000 tags have been returned, giving an overall return rate of 8.5 percent. The OFP commenced a tagging programme in the waters of Papua New Guinea in 2006.
- Other types of data compiled by the OFP include biological data (morphometric data, stomach contents, gonad indices, otolith ring counts, etc.), and oceanographic and meteorological data.

The OFP also provides technical support to SPC member countries and territories for in-country fisheries database systems and national port sampling programmes and observer programmes.

Agenda Item 4: Review of progress by member organizations since CWP-21

Compilation of annual catch estimates

Since December 2005, the OFP has compiled annual catch estimates for the WCPFC Statistical Area on behalf of the Commission.

Compilation of annual catch estimates from Indonesia and the Philippines, which represent about 25 percent of the catch of pelagic tuna in the WCPFC Statistical Area, continues to be problematic. However, the level of surveys and port sampling in the Philippines has increased since 2005, with

funding through the WCPFC Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Programme. The Eastern Indonesia Tuna Fishery Data Collection Workshop was held in January 2007, and it is anticipated that funds for the establishment of a port sampling programme in the Pacific Ocean waters of Indonesia during 2008 will be available through the WCPFC.

Annual catches of non-target species caught by longliners and purse seiners have been estimated by the OFP for recent years: see Information Paper ST IP-1, *Estimates of annual catches in the WCPFC Statistical Area*, Second Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, 7–18 August 2006, on the WCPFC website (www.wcpfc.int).

Compilation of operational catch and effort data

At its second regular session in December 2005, the WCPFC established a policy on the provision of data — see Attachment A of CWP-22/WCPFC — which specifies that operational (logsheet) catch and effort data must be provided to the Commission. Previously, SPC member countries and territories have provided operational data to the OFP, while non-SPC members (e.g., Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei) have provided aggregated catch and effort data. The policy established by the Commission makes the provision of operational data an obligation of all WCPFC members, cooperating non-members and participating territories; however, since December 2005, the operational data continue to be provided only by SPC member countries and territories, while aggregated data continue to be provided by the non-SPC members of WCPFC.

Port sampling programmes and observer programmes

The OFP continues to compile port sampling data and observer data that are collected by the national programmes of SPC members; however, coverage remains less than 3% for port sampling programmes and less than 8% for observer programmes.

The OFP provides both financial and technical support for sampling programmes in member countries and territories. In this regard, three OFP staff work with National Tuna Data Coordinators in several SPC member countries and territories. Several of the NTDCs and sampling programmes are funded through OFP projects with the European Commission and the Global Environment Facility.

The SPC/FFA Tuna Fishery Data Collection Committee reviews data collection forms, the status of sampling programmes, and sampling protocols used by the SPC/FFA members. The DCC usually meets every second year, with the most recent meeting held from 16 to 20 November 2004; however, the 2006 meeting was postponed until late 2007 primarily due to the training workshop for the NTDCs that was held at SPC in November 2006.

Scientific objectives and priorities for the regional observer programme to be developed by the WCPFC were developed during the Second Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, with input from the OFP: see the report of the meeting on the WCPFC website (www.wcpfc.int).

Archival and conventional tagging data

The OFP continues to deploy archival and pop-up satellite tags on an opportunistic basis. Conventional tagging has been carried out in Papua New Guinea since 2006 and this programme may be expanded into a region-wide tagging programme through the WCPFC in the future.

WCPFC Western and Central Pacific Tuna Bulletin and Tuna Fishery Yearbook

The Tuna Bulletin and the Tuna Fishery Yearbook and now prepared by the OFP under contract to WCPFC.

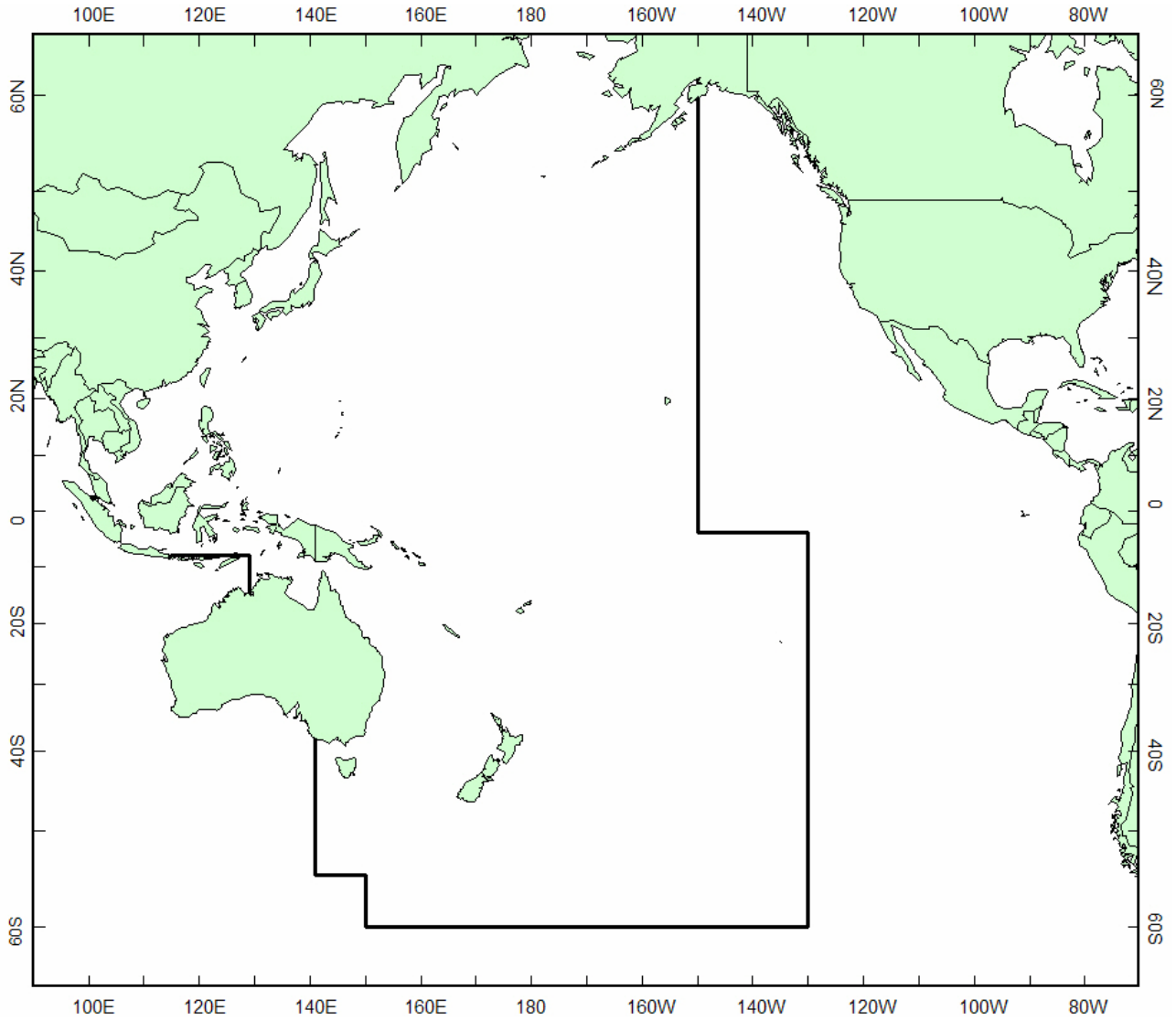


Figure 1. WCPFC Statistical Area