



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
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COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Twenty-second Session

Rome, Italy. 26 February – 2 March 2007

Report: WCPFC



COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS
REPORT TO 22ND MEETING
26 February - 2nd March 2007
FAO Headquarters,
Rome, Italy

Introduction

The Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Convention) entered into force in June 2004 creating one of the first regional fisheries management organizations to be established since the 1995 adoption of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (Agreement).

The objective of the Convention is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Agreement. For this purpose, the Convention establishes a Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC). A small Commission Secretariat is based at Kolonia, Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia.

The Convention applies to all species of highly migratory fish stocks (defined as all fish stocks of the species listed in Annex I of UNCLOS occurring in the Convention Area and such other species of fish as the Commission may determine) within the Convention Area, except saurians. Conservation and management measures under the Convention are to be applied throughout the range of the stocks, or to specific areas within the Convention Area, as determined by the Commission.

The Commission has 25 members and three participating territories¹. Two States which actively participated in the formulation negotiations, Indonesia and the USA, currently participate as Cooperating Non-members. The USA, with provisions for the full participation for the three USA Pacific territories (Guam, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa), is expecting to become a Member in early 2007. Indonesia continues to work through domestic requirements that will enable it to accede to the Convention. Additional information concerning the Commission, including copies of recent decisions, is available from the Commission's website (www.wcpfc.int).

As an interim arrangement, the scientific data management functions of the Commission are administered under contract by the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Secretariat of the

¹ Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, People's Republic of China, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Chinese Taipei, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

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Pacific Community (SPC-OFP). Since the early 1970s the SPC has hosted a Pacific regional tuna and associated species research, stock assessment, data management and tuna biology programme that has supported monitoring efforts for fisheries operating in the waters of Pacific Island countries. The new institutional arrangements associated with the WCPF Commission, particularly the full participation of distant water fishing nations in the work of the Commission, and the extension of monitoring efforts to the high seas, presents new challenges for tuna conservation and management in the WCPO. Many of these challenges are related to data.

Data management

The scientific data provision policy of the WCPFC, which was adopted by the Commission at its second regular session in December 2005, describes the obligations of Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) in relation to the provision of scientific data to the Commission (Attachment A). It includes the submission of estimates of annual catches, the number of vessels active, operational (log sheet) catch and effort data, catch and effort data aggregated by time period and geographic area, and size composition data. The policy also includes standards for the provision of operational catch and effort data.

In order to identify the types of data that will be managed by the Commission, and the risks associated with the management of that data, the Commission, at its second regular session, established an Ad Hoc Task Group for Data. The AHTG [Data], which met in August 2006², provisionally identified 25 types of information that the WCPFC Secretariat will manage on behalf of its CCMs. The AHTG [Data] also draft Rules and Procedures for Access to, and Dissemination of, Commission Data (Attachment B) and recommended the development of an Information Security Policy based on ISO17795 standards – a recommendation that was subsequently endorsed by the Commission. The Commission's three subsidiary bodies, the Scientific Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and the Northern Committee will consider the evolving data management policies and needs of the Commission at their future annual meetings.

In addition to fleet catch and by-catch data management services provided by the SPC-OFP, the WCPFC Secretariat will, over the next three years, gradually become more involved in statistics-related activities that will include:

1. WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (Record);
2. WCPFC IUU List;
3. WFPFC Vessel Monitoring System (WCPFC VMS);
4. Regional Observer Programme (ROP);
5. Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Project (IPDCP); and
6. High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme (Scheme).

In addition to the potential to support a WCPO tagging initiative in the longer term, additional data assimilation and management responsibilities will arise as the Commission develops its integrated scheme for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement. Data associated with trade documentation, transshipment verification, port State activities, market State activities and compliance monitoring will be generated and managed during the next five years.

² Ad Hoc Task Group [Data] – Summary Record. WCPFC, 31 July – 04 August 2006, Manila, Philippines.

At its three regular sessions the Commission has adopted several Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) with data-related obligations. These include CMMs for the principal target tuna species as well as CMMs concerning sea turtles, sea birds and sharks. The Commission's 2006 decisions, to establish research programmes related to i) circle hooks and efforts to mitigate the catch of turtles in tuna longline fisheries and ii) ecosystem risk assessment are likely to generate significant data for the Commission.

A recently completed report on a conceptual design of a corporate data management system (CDMS) for the WCPFC Secretariat³ proposes the development of several inter-linking databases to manage this wide variety of data. The implementation of the CDMS will commence in 2007 once IT personnel have been recruited to the Secretariat.

WCPFC data managed by the SPC OFP

Arising from the obligations described in Attachment A, the SPC OFP, under a Memorandum of Understanding with the WCPFC, manages the following information types:

1. annual number of vessels active;
2. operational level catch/effort data;
3. annual catch estimates stratified by gear/flag and species for the WCPFC Statistical Area;
4. annual catch estimates stratified by gear/flag, EEZ and species; and
5. aggregated catch/effort data stratified by gear/year/month, 5 x 5 (longline) or 1 x 1 (surface), and flag.

The OFP also manages other types of data, which may, in the future, be compiled on behalf of the WCPFC. These include observer data, records of vessel unloading, transshipment consignments by species, biological data, and tagging data.

The database administered by the SPC-OFP covers the period 1950–2006 for tuna and billfish. Estimates of average annual catches in recent years of major non-target fish species, determined from observer data, are also available. Despite this long history, the coverage of fleet operations, and the quality of data provided continues to be one of the major challenges for effective conservation and management of tunas, and incidental species, in the WCPO.

Coverage by operational catch and effort data held by the SPC OFP for 2005 was only 48.5% (percentage of catch of target tuna species in the Convention Area) although this may increase as additional data become available for that year. In comparison, the highest level ever achieved for the region was 49.6% in 2002. Coverage by port sampling data for 2005 was 2.0% and coverage by observer data for 2005 was 5.1%.

Considerable effort is required to address data gaps (including for non-target species), ensure the timely submission of critical fleet and fishery data and develop data management policies. The principal gaps in coverage in the Convention Area by operational level catch and effort data (log sheet data) currently held by SPC-OFP include the domestic fisheries of the Philippines and Indonesia, the distant-water longline fleets of Korea and Chinese Taipei, and the longline, pole-and-line and purse-seine fleets of Japan on the high seas.

³ Conceptual design of a Corporate Data Management System (CDMS) for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. WCPFC, October 2006. 35pp.

WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels

The Record constitutes a database of details for fishing vessels that have been authorized by CCMs to fish in the WCPFC Convention Area beyond their respective areas of national jurisdiction. The database holds information on vessel owners, masters, and physical characteristics of the vessels and their fishing gear.

The Record currently contains details of 8,398 vessels that have been authorized by 20 CCM flag States (Table 1).

	CCM	Number
1	Australia	172
2	Canada	2,884
3	China	221
4	Cook Islands	28
5	European Union	96
6	Federated States of Micronesia	12
7	Fiji	37
8	French Polynesia	95
9	Japan	1,510
10	Korea	261
11	Marshall Islands	5
12	New Caledonia	24
13	New Zealand	10
14	Papua New Guinea	31
15	Philippines	412
16	Solomon Islands	13
17	Chinese Taipei	1,960
18	Tonga	5
19	United States of America	532
20	Vanuatu	90
	TOTAL	8,398

Developed in Microsoft Access 2000 format, the Record database enables the WCPFC Secretariat to provide CCMs with a version of the system that they can use to maintain their national vessel registers in WCPFC format. This feature assists CCMs to comply with the Conservation and Management Measure-2004-01 requirement that changes to national vessel registers must be notified to the WCPFC Secretariat 15 days following the change.

In 2007, the WCPFC Secretariat plans to modify the Record so that it can:

- (a) retain historical data;
- (b) be viewed on the WCPFC website; and
- (c) become part of the Global Tuna Vessel Register.

WCPFC Vessel Monitoring System

Conservation and Management Measure-2006-06 requires the development of a WCPFC VMS with an operational date, for 75% of the Convention Area, of 1 January 2008. The WCPFC VMS database will contain information on the position, speed and direction of fishing vessels listed in

the Record. Initially to be applied to fishing vessels greater than 24m in length, the WCPFC VMS will eventually apply to all vessels listed in the Record.

Regional Observer Programme

The ROP is currently under development for the WCPFC Convention Area. An inter-sessional working group on the ROP (IWG ROP) will be established as soon as practicable in 2007 using Conservation and Management Measure-2006-07 to advance action on this issue. The ROP database will contain details of all trip reports provided by ROP observers in addition to personal details of certified observer personnel.

Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Project

Annual catches of pelagic tuna in the Philippines and the Pacific Ocean waters of Indonesia have been estimated at approximately 25 per cent of the total catch of pelagic tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). However, the lack of accurate catch statistics, effort data, and species composition and size composition data in the region has been responsible for much of the uncertainty in the stock assessments for bigeye and yellowfin in the WCPO. The purpose of the IPDCP is to collect and compile data that can be used to reduce the uncertainty of the assessments of WCPO tuna stocks and to improve the monitoring of tuna fisheries in the Philippines and Indonesia so that both countries will be able to fulfil their future obligations in regard to the provision of fisheries data to the Commission.

The IPDCP, supported by the WCPFC, first started its survey and port sampling activities in the Philippines in January 2005. Lead in activities included a review of Philippine tuna fisheries and the current statistical systems relating to the country's tuna fisheries (funded by Australia) and a data collection workshop in 2004. The Project commenced its third year of activities in the Philippines in January 2007. The IPDCP also started to consider the planning of project activities in Indonesia at a planning workshop in January 2007. One of the crucial issues for the implementation of this project has been the security of continuous project funds, and the Commission in December 2006 agreed to financially support this project from its core budget.

High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme

Conservation and Management Measure-2006-08 provides the basis for the establishment of a High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme (Scheme) in the WCPFC Convention Area. The Scheme database will contain details of all boarding and inspection reports provided by Scheme inspectors in addition to personal details of certified inspection personnel.

Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission

1. *Estimates of annual catches*

The following estimates of catches during each calendar year shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type:

- catches of bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), blue marlin (*Makaira mazara*), black marlin (*Makaira indica*) and swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in (i) the WCPFC Statistical Area (see paragraph #8) and (ii) the portion of the WCPFC Statistical Area east of the 150° meridian of west longitude; and
- catches of albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), striped marlin and swordfish in (i) the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, (ii) the Pacific Ocean north of the Equator, (iii) the WCPFC Statistical Area north of the Equator, (iv) the WCPFC Statistical Area south of the Equator, and (v) the portion of the WCPFC Statistical Area east of the 150° meridian of west longitude.

For trollers targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, the following estimates of catches during the fishing season (July to June) should also be provided:

- catches of albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator.

Catch estimates shall also be provided for other species as determined by the Commission.

Estimates of discards should also be provided.

Longline catch estimates shall be for whole weight, rather than processed weight.

All catch estimates shall be reported in tonnes (i.e., metric tons).

The statistical methods that are used to estimate the annual and seasonal catches shall be reported to the Commission, with reference to the coverage rates for each type of data (e.g., operational catch and effort data, records of unloadings, species composition sampling data) that is used to estimate the catches and to the conversion factors that are used to convert the processed weight of longline-caught fish to whole weight.

2. *Number of vessels active*

The number of vessels active in the WCPFC Statistical Area during each calendar year shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type.

For longliners, pole-and-line vessels and purse seiners, the number of vessels active shall be provided by gross registered tonnage (GRT) class. The GRT classes are defined as follows:

- Longline: 0–50, 51–200, 201–500, 500+
- Pole-and-line: 0–50, 51–150, 150+
- Purse seine: 0–500, 501–1000, 1001–1500, 1500+

For trollers targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, the number of vessels active in the WCPFC Statistical Area during the fishing season (July to June), shall also be provided and should be provided for the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator.

3. *Operational level catch and effort data*

Operational level catch and effort data (e.g., individual sets by longliners and purse seiners, and individual days fished by pole and line vessels and trollers) shall be provided to the Commission, in accordance with

standards to be established by the Commission. It is recognised that certain members and cooperating non-members of the Commission may be subject to domestic legal constraints, such that they may not be able to provide operational data to the Commission until such constraints are overcome. Until such constraints are overcome, aggregated catch and effort data and size composition data as described in (4) and (5) below shall be provided. Unraised longline catch and effort data stratified by the number of hooks between floats and the finest possible resolution of time period and geographic area shall also be provided.

It is also recognised that certain members and cooperating non-members of the Commission may have practical difficulties in compiling operational data for fleets comprised of small vessels, such as certain sectors of the fisheries of Indonesia, the Philippines and small island developing States.

4. *Catch and effort data aggregated by time period and geographic area*

If the coverage rate of the operational catch and effort data that are provided to the Commission is less than 100%, then catch and effort data aggregated by time period and geographic area that have been raised to represent the total catch and effort shall be provided. Longline catch and effort data shall be aggregated by periods of month and areas of 5° longitude and 5° latitude. Catch and effort data for surface fisheries shall be aggregated by periods of month and areas of 1° longitude and 1° latitude.

If the coverage rate of the operational catch and effort data that are provided to the Commission is less than 100%, then catch and effort data that have been raised to represent the total catch and effort shall also be aggregated by periods of year and areas of national jurisdiction and high seas within the WCPFC Statistical Area.

The statistical methods that are used to derive the aggregated catch and effort data shall be reported to the Commission, with reference to the coverage rates of the operational catch and effort data, and the types of data and method used to raise the catch and effort data.

5. *Size composition data*

Length and/or weight composition data that are representative of catches by the fisheries are essential for stock assessments and therefore shall be provided to the Commission at the finest possible resolution of time period and geographic area.

6. *The roles of flag states and coastal states*

Flag states or entities shall be responsible for providing to the Commission scientific data covering vessels they have flagged, except for vessels operating under joint-venture or charter arrangements with another state such that the vessels operate, for all intents and purposes, as local vessels of the other state, in which case the other state shall be responsible for the provision of data to the Commission.

It is recognised that the ability of flag States or entities to provide scientific data to the Commission may be constrained by the terms of bilateral or regional arrangements, such as the Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America. Scientific data compiled by coastal states shall also be provided to the Commission.

7. *Time periods covered and schedule for the provision of data*

Estimates of annual or seasonal catches should be provided to the Commission from 1950 onwards or, if the fleet began operating after 1950, from the year in which the fleet began operating.

Operational catch and effort data, and size composition data, should be provided for all years, starting with the first year for which the data are available.

For all gear types, except trollers targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, estimates of annual catches, the number of vessels active, catch and effort data, and size composition data, covering a

calendar year should be provided by April 30 of the year following the calendar year (e.g., data covering calendar year 'x' should be provided by 30 April of year 'x+1').

For trollers targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, estimates of annual catches, the number of vessels active, catch and effort data, and size composition data, covering a fishing season (July to June) should be provided by April 30 of the year following the year in which the season ends (e.g., data covering the season from July of year 'x' to June of year 'x+1' should be provided by 30 April of year 'x+2').

Estimates of annual catches, the number of vessels active, catch and effort data, and size composition data should be revised, and the revisions provided to the Commission, as additional data become available.

8. *Definition of the WCPFC Statistical Area*

The WCPFC Statistical Area is defined as follows: from the south coast of Australia due south along the 141° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 55° parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 55° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150° meridian of east longitude; thence due south along the 150° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 60° parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 60° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 130° meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 130° meridian of west longitude to its intersection with the 4° parallel of south latitude; thence due west along the 4° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150° meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 150° meridian of west longitude; and from the north coast of Australia due north along the 129° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 8° parallel of south latitude, thence due west along the 8° parallel of south latitude to the Indonesian peninsula; and from the Indonesian peninsula due east along the 2°30' parallel of north latitude to the Malaysian peninsula.

9. *Periodic reviews of the requirements for scientific data*

The Commission, through its Scientific Committee, shall periodically review the requirements for scientific data and shall provide the Commission with revised versions of this recommendation, as appropriate.

Standards for the Provision of Operational Catch and Effort Data to the Commission

1. *Data items that shall be reported to the Commission*

1.1 Vessel identifiers, for all gear types

Name of the vessel, country of registration, registration number, international radio call sign: The registration number is the number assigned to the vessel by the State that has flagged the vessel. A code may be used as a vessel identifier instead of the name of the vessel, registration number and call sign for vessels that have fished and that intend to fish only in the waters of national jurisdiction of the State that has flagged the vessel.

1.2 Trip information, for all gear types

The start of a trip is defined to occur when a vessel (a) leaves port after unloading part or all of the catch to transit to a fishing area or (b) recommences fishing operations or transits to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea (when this occurs in accordance with the terms and conditions of article 4 of Annex III of the Convention, subject to specific exemptions as per article 29 of the Convention).

Port of departure, date of departure, port of unloading, date of arrival in port of unloading: If the start of a trip coincides with recommencing fishing operations or transiting to a fishing area after transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “Transshipment at sea” shall be reported in lieu of the port of departure, and if the end of a trip coincides with transshipping part or all of the catch at sea, then “Transshipment at sea” shall be reported in lieu of the port of unloading.

1.3 Information on operations by longliners

Activity: This item should be reported for each set and for days on which no sets were made, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a set”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date of start of set and time of start of set: The date and start of set time should be GMT/UTC. If no sets are made, the date and main activity should be reported.

Position of start of set: The position of start of set should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude. If no sets are made, the noon position should be reported.

Number of hooks per set.

Number of branch lines between floats. The number of branch lines between floats should be reported for each set.

Number of fish caught per set, for the following species: albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*), blue marlin (*Makaira mazara*), black marlin (*Makaira indica*) and swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), and other species as determined by the Commission.

If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set have been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set, by species, should also be reported. If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set have not been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per set, by species, should be estimated and the estimates reported. The total weight or average weight shall refer to whole weights, rather than processed weights.

1.4 Information on operations by pole-and-line vessels and related gear types

Activity: This item shall be reported for each day, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a day fishing or searching with bait onboard”; “no fishing — collecting bait”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date: The date should be GMT/UTC.

Noon position: The noon position should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude.

Weight of fish caught per day, for the following species: albacore, bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin, and other species as determined by the Commission.

1.5 Information on operations by purse-seiners and related gear types

Activity: This item shall be reported for each set and for days on which no sets were made, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a set”; “a day searched, but no sets made”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date of start of set, time of start of set and time of end of set: The date and time of the start of set and the time of end of set should be GMT/UTC. If no sets are made, the date and main activity should be reported.

Position of set or noon position: If a set is made, then the position of the set shall be reported. If searching occurs, but no sets are made, then the noon position shall be reported. The position should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude.

School association: All common types of school association should be reported, while uncommon types of association should be reported as “other”. Common types of school association are “free-swimming” or “unassociated”; “feeding on baitfish”; “drifting log, debris or dead animal”; “drifting raft, FAD or payao”; “anchored raft, FAD or payao”; “live whale”; and “live whale shark”.

Weight of fish caught per set, for the following species: albacore, bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin, and other species as determined by the Commission.

1.6 Information on operations by trollers and related gear types

Activity: This item shall be reported for each day, from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Activities should include “a day fished”; “no fishing — in transit”; “no fishing — gear breakdown”; “no fishing — bad weather”; and “no fishing — in port”.

Date: The date should be GMT/UTC.

Noon position: The noon position should be reported in units of at least minutes of latitude and longitude.

Number of fish caught per day, for the following species: albacore, bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin, and other species as determined by the Commission.

If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day have been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day, by species, should also be reported. If the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day have not been recorded, then the total weight or average weight of fish caught per day, by species, should be estimated and the estimates reported. The total weight or average weight shall refer to whole weights, rather than processed weights.

2. *Geographic area to be covered by operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission*

The geographic area to be covered by operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission shall be the WCPFC Statistical Area, except for fisheries targeting albacore in the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator, for which the geographic area should be the Pacific Ocean south of the Equator.

3. *Target coverage rate for operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission*

The target coverage rate for operational catch and effort data to be provided to the Commission is 100%.

4. *Procedures for the verification of operational catch and effort data*

Operational catch and effort data should be verified as follows:

- The amount of the retained catch should be verified with records of unloading obtained from a source other than the crew or owner or operator of the fishing vessel, such as an agent of the company responsible for unloading or onward shipping or purchasing of the catch.
- Positions of latitude and longitude should be verified with information obtained from vessel monitoring systems.
- The species composition of the catch should be verified with sampling conducted by observers during fishing operations or by port samplers during unloading.



**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish
Stocks
in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
Ad Hoc Task Group-Data
31 July–4 August 2006
Manila, Philippines**

**DRAFT RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR ACCESS TO AND DISSEMINATION OF
DATA
COMPILED BY THE COMMISSION**

- 1. Basic principles relating to the dissemination of data by the WCPFC**
 1. Data shall only be released in accordance with the policies of confidentiality and security determined by the Commission.
 2. Data may be disseminated if the source providing the data to the WCPFC authorises their release.
 3. Persons duly authorised by the Executive Director within the WCPFC secretariat and service providers shall have access to the data necessary to perform their WCPFC duties.
 4. Officers of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall have access to the data necessary to perform their WCPFC duties.
 5. CCMs shall have access to data to serve the purposes of the Convention, including data:
 - a. covering vessels flying their flag in the WCPFC Convention Area
 - b. covering any vessels fishing in waters under their jurisdiction
 - c. covering vessels unloading in their ports
 - d. for the purpose of compliance and enforcement activities on the high seas
 - e. for the purpose of scientific and other research
 6. The dissemination of data shall be done in a timely manner.
- 2. Risk classification and definition of confidentiality**
 7. Data covered by these rules and procedures will be classified in accordance with the risk classification methodology established in the Commission's Information Security Policy (ISP), which reflects the damage that would be done to the operations or credibility of the Commission as a consequence of the unauthorized disclosure or modification of such information.

8. Data covered by these rules and procedures were determined to be either public domain or non-public domain data in accordance with the definition of confidentiality established in the Commission's ISP.

3. Dissemination of Public Domain Data

9. Subject to the decisions of the Commission, data in the public domain shall not reveal the activities of any vessel, company or person and shall not contain private information.
10. Except for data as described in Paragraph 9, the following types of data⁴ that have been or may be compiled by the Commission, have been designated to be in the public domain:
 - annual catch estimates stratified by gear, [flag/CCM fleets]⁵ and species for the WCPFC Statistical Area;
 - annual catch estimates stratified by gear, [flag/CCM fleets], species, and waters under the jurisdiction of CCMs and the high seas in the WCPFC Statistical Area;
 - the annual numbers of vessels active in the WCPFC Statistical Area stratified by gear type and [flag/CCM fleets];
 - catch and effort data aggregated by gear type, [flag/CCM fleets], year/month and, for longline, 5° latitude and 5° longitude, and, for surface gear types, 1° latitude and 1° longitude;
 - biological data;
 - tagging data;
 - the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels;
 - information on vessel and gear attributes compiled from other sources;
 - any vessel record established for the purpose of the Commission's VMS;
 - oceanographic and meteorological data;
 - social data; and
 - Part 1 of the Annual Report to the Commission by CCMs.
11. Public domain data shall be available to any persons for (a) downloading from the Commission's website and/or (b) release by the Commission on request.
12. Annual catch estimates and aggregated catch and effort data that can be used to identify the activities of any vessel, company or person are not in the public domain; however, these data may be disseminated in accordance with Section 4 of these rules and procedures.
13. Persons downloading data from the Commission's website or requesting data from the Commission shall provide their name and affiliation prior to the downloading or release of the data. The WCPFC Secretariat shall log and report the names and affiliation of all access and dissemination of public domain data to the Commission.

4. Dissemination of Non-Public Domain Data

14. Subject to the decisions of the Commission, all other types of data not listed in Section 3 shall be referred to as non-public domain data.

⁴ Refer to Tables 1 and 2 of the Report of the Ad Hoc Task Group–Data, 31 July–4 August 2006

⁵ Refer to Paragraph 20 and 21 of the Report of the Ad Hoc Task Group–Data, 31 July–4 August 2006

15. The following types of data that have been or may be compiled by the Commission, have been designated to be non-public domain data:

- Operational level Catch Effort data
- Records of vessel unloading
- Transshipment consignments by species
- VMS Vessel position, direction and speed
- Boarding and Inspection Reports
- Certified observer personnel
- Certified inspection personnel
- Catch documentation scheme
- Port State Inspection Reports
- Violations and infringements, detailed
- Economic data
- Fisheries intelligence-sharing information
- Part 2 of the Annual Report to the Commission by CCMs

16. Access to and dissemination of these data shall be authorised in accordance with the policies of confidentiality and security established in the Commission's ISP.

17. The WCPFC Secretariat shall log and report all access and dissemination of non-public data to the Commission, including the name and affiliation of the person, the type of data accessed or disseminated, the purpose for which the data were requested, the date when the data were requested, the date the data were released and authorizations that may have been required.

4.1 Access to Data by the Staff of the Secretariat, the WCPFC Service Providers, and Officers of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies

18. Persons duly authorised by the Executive Director, within the WCPFC secretariat and service providers, including scientific experts engaged under Article 13 of the Convention, shall have access to the data necessary to perform their WCPFC duties. Officers of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall have access to the data necessary to perform their WCPFC duties. Such persons shall maintain the data security standards of the Commission in respect of data to which they have access.

4.2. Access to Data by CCMs

19. CCMs shall have access to non-public domain data to serve the purposes of the Convention, including data:

- covering vessels flying their flag in the WCPFC Convention Area
- covering any vessels fishing in waters under their jurisdiction
- covering vessels unloading in their ports
- for the purpose of compliance and enforcement activities on the high seas
- for the purpose of scientific and other research

20. CCMs shall notify the Secretariat of a small number of representatives authorised to receive non-public domain data. Such notification will include name, affiliation, and contact information (e.g. telephone, facsimile, email address). The WCPFC Secretariat will maintain a list of such authorized representatives. CCMs and the Secretariat shall ensure the list of CCM representatives is kept up to date and made available.

21. The authorized representative(s) of the CCMs are responsible for ensuring the confidentiality and security of the non-public domain data according to its risk classification and in a manner consistent with security standards established by the Commission for the WCPFC Secretariat.

22. Non-public domain data shall be available to authorised representatives of the CCMs for release by the Commission on request and, where appropriate, downloading from the Commission's website in accordance with the Commission's ISP .
23. Near real-time VMS data, Boarding and Inspection Reports, Certified observer personnel data, Certified Inspection personnel data and other Commission data collection programmes will be made available subject to the rules and procedures for the access and dissemination of such data, that the Commission will adopt.
24. VMS data shall be available for scientific purposes only after a lag of [one year].
25. Access to non-public domain data by CCMs shall be authorised by the Executive Director on the basis of a framework, which will be established by the Executive Director in collaboration with the Chair of the Commission and officers of the WCPFC subsidiary bodies. The framework may include, *inter alia*, guidelines for access to different data types, the possibility of standing authorizations, compliance with the Commission's policy for the provision of data and a mechanism for resolving disputes.
26. The Executive Director will implement the framework and authorize access to and dissemination of non-public domain data. Two years after adoption, the WCPFC subsidiary bodies will review this arrangement.

4.3. Other Disseminations of Data

27. Non-public domain data shall be available to any persons⁶ for release by the Commission upon receipt by the Commission of authorisation from the sources of the data to release the requested data. Unless otherwise requested by the source:
 - Persons that request non-public domain data shall complete the Data Request Form and sign the Confidentiality Agreement and provide them to the Commission.
 - The Data Request Form and Confidentiality Agreement shall then be forwarded to the source of the requested data and the source shall be asked to authorise the Commission to release the data.
 - Such persons shall also agree to maintain the data requested in a manner consistent with the security standards established by the Commission for the WCPFC Secretariat.
28. CCMs that have provided data to the Commission shall notify the Secretariat regarding their representatives with the authority to authorise the release of data by the Commission. Decisions to authorise the release of data shall be made in a timely manner.

5. Force majeure

29. The Executive Director may authorise the release of any non-public domain data to rescue agencies in cases of *force majeure* in which the safety of life at sea is at risk.

⁶ Including, relevant intergovernmental organisations, universities, researchers, NGOs, media, consultants, industry, federations, any other relevant party..."