

Subject: Questionnaires on the collection, management and dissemination of data for review at the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS).

Dear Madam/Sir,

The following questionnaire has been prepared by the Secretariat to improve on the information available about the data collection, processing and dissemination systems existing in your country.

The Secretariat will use the information provided to:

- Complete the documentation of the data gathered in the databases at the IOTC Secretariat
- Identify the type of issues that could potentially affect the quality of the data gathered by the IOTC, by type of fishery and fleet
- Assess the type of actions that may be undertaken to address the issues unveiled above

The WPDCS will include this information in its report to the Scientific Committee.

In order to facilitate reporting, the questionnaire has been split into different sections, including:

A/ Domestic fisheries: relates to fisheries data from fishing crafts that operate under the flag of your country, including:

- 1 Summary of fleets, recent catches, bycatch levels and discards
- 2 Types of data collection, main data sources and levels of coverage
- 3 Data management (data storage, data verification, data security)
- 4 Production of fisheries statistics
- 5 Data dissemination

B/ Foreign fisheries: relates to fisheries data from foreign fishing vessels that operate within the territory of your country, including:

- Foreign vessels that had a license to operate within the EEZ of your country
- Foreign vessels that unloaded catches of IOTC species in ports within the territory of your country

For your convenience, the Secretariat has produced guidelines for the completion of the questionnaire, which are presented on the following pages.

We would be grateful if you could complete the questionnaire and send it back to us before the next meeting of the WPDCS (25-26 November 2009) or bring it with you if you will attend the meeting.

Should you require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat, we will be happy to assist you with the completion of the questionnaire.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation

Distribution:

Australia, Bahrain, Belize, China, Comoros, Djibouti, East Timor, Egypt, Eritrea, European Community (France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom), France- Territory, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Taiwan, China, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, United Kingdom-Territory, Vanuatu, Yemen