

Australian Government Bureau of Rural Sciences

PREPARATION OF THE BRS COMPONENT OF AUSTRALIA'S DATA SUBMISSION FOR 2006

by

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Contents

1.	Introd	uction	3
2.	Data S	ources	3
	2.1.	Daily Fishing Logs Database	3
	2.2.	Catch Disposal Database	4
	2.3.	Tow Cage Size Monitoring Reports	4
	2.4.	Longline Fishery Size Monitoring Reports	4
	2.5.	Fisheries Observer Database	4
3.	Data P	reparation	5
	3.1.	Definition of Seasons	5
	3.2.	Spatial Definitions	5
	3.3.	Revision of catch at size data for purse seine fishery	6
	3.4.	Correction of size details for 2004	6
4.	Closing	g Remarks	6
Ар	pendix 1	1: Flow Charts Showing Flow of Data from Data Sources to Reports	7
Ар	pendix 2	2: Scientific Logbook Forms (AL05, OT03, PSP01, TPB02 and TPB03)11
Ар	pendix 3	3: Catch Disposal Forms (CR4A, SBT03A, SBT04A)	17
Ар	pendix 4	4: Tow Cage Size Monitoring Report	21
Ap	pendix :	5: Details of revised method for calculating Catch at Size data for the purse seine fishery	

1. Introduction

The Bureau of Rural Sciences, within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, provides data reports each year to the CCSBT as part of the annual data exchange. In April 2006, BRS submitted the following reports to the data exchange.

- 1. Aggregated catch and effort data 2005 and 2004
- 2. Raised Catch 2005 and 2004
- 3. Total Catch by Fleet 2005 and 2004 (quota and calendar year)
- 4. Catch at Size data 2005
- 5. Catch at Size data 2004 (revised)
- 6. Catch at Size data 2003 (revised)
- 7. Catch at Size data 2002 (revised)
- 8. Non-retained catches 2002-2005

Revision of the Catch at Size data for the years 2002 to 2004 was necessary due to changes in the method of determining the sample size for farm tow cage fish. See Section 3 below for more detail of the revision process.

Reports are also provided directly to the data exchange by CSIRO, the preparation of which is covered in a separate paper.

2. Data Sources

There are five sources of data required to produce the data reports. These are: Daily Fishing Logs Database; Catch Disposal Database; Tow Cage Size Monitoring Reports and the Longline Fishery Size Monitoring Reports; and Fisheries Observer Database.

2.1. Daily Fishing Logs Database

The Daily Fishing Logs Database is maintained by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and contains data collected from scientific logbooks that fishers are required to complete. The logbooks of relevance to SBT catch for the 2006 submission were the AL05 (longline and minor line), OT03 (minor line), PS01 (purse seine), TPB02 and TPB03 (purse seine and pole). See Appendix 2 for samples of these logbooks. Each fishing operation is given a unique identifier in the Daily Fishing Logs Database and tables are linked using this identifier. The following tables are required from this database:

- 1. **Operations** contains information on each operation, including start latitude, start longitude and vessel identifier.
- 2. **Catch** contains a separate record for each species caught, together with the number of fish caught and estimated weight of the catch.
- 3. **Fishing_Effort** contains fishing method used and fishing effort information, eg number of hooks for longline operations; search hours for purse seine operations.
- 4. **Operation_Longline** contains other information on longlining operations, eg length of mainline.

- 5. **Operation_Pole** contains other information on poling operations, eg number of poles used.
- 6. **Vessel** contains information on each licensed vessel; vessel name is used to identify individual vessels when determining the number of boats that fished.
- 7. **Tow_Cage_Transfer** contains information on each transfer of fish from the capture vessel to the tow cage in each purse seine operation. Provides the link between the Daily Logs Database and the OtherInfo table produced from the Tow Cage Size Monitoring Reports.

2.2. Catch Disposal Database

This is the database AFMA uses for quota monitoring and contains data collected from the SBT03A (SBT Farm Transit Log; purse seining for farms), CR4A (SBT Catch Disposal Record; all methods except purse seining for farms) and SBT04A (SBT Farm Catch Disposal Record; purse seining for farms). See Appendix 3 for samples of these forms. The following tables are required from this database:

- 1. **Catch Disposal** contains information on trip start and end dates.
- 2. Landing contains information on species caught, numbers of fish caught and weight of catch.
- 3. **Fishing_Method** provides the fishing method information.
- 4. **Tow_Catch_Transfer** contains identification of capture vessel for purse seine operations.

2.3. Tow Cage Size Monitoring Reports

Tow cage size monitoring data is collected by Protec Marine Pty Ltd, a company contracted to AFMA, and its primary purpose is for estimation of total weight of SBT in tow cages prior to transfer of fish to farm cages. Fish from the tow cage are sampled until forty fish of 10 kg or more are measured and weighed. The reports list the weight and length of all fish sampled, including fish smaller than 10 kg, and the total number of fish transferred to the farm cage. A sample of one of these reports is given in Appendix 4. Data from these reports are collated to produce a table of statistics for each tow cage, named OtherInfo, which is used in preparation of Raised Catch and Total Catch by Fleet reports. The raw lengths and weights of all sampled fish for the year are compiled in a spreadsheet and used in conjunction with the Daily Logs data to prepare the Catch at Size report.

2.4. Longline Fishery Size Monitoring Reports

These data are provided by WW Fisheries Pty Ltd, a company contracted to AFMA and are collected onshore at processing establishments. The reports include the length and weight information for non-farm fish, all caught by longline in 2004 and 2005. This report is used to determine the Catch at Size data for longline operations.

2.5. Fisheries Observer Database

AFMA employs fisheries observers to collect data on board fishing vessels in a number of domestic fisheries and opportunistically on the high seas. Observer coverage of pelagic longline vessels has been variable over the period 2001 to 2006, mainly concentrated in the eastern EEZ. There has been limited coverage of longline fisheries in the southern and western EEZ and minimal purse seine coverage. A

database of observed fishing operations is maintained by AFMA, including records of retained and discarded catch and biological data collection. The AFMA observer data was used to produce the report Non-retained Catches 2002-2005. This report provided only numbers of non-retained fish observed in the longline fishery and was not raised or imputed from logbook data. The total longline fishing effort for each five degree cell is provided from the Aggregated Catch and Effort report with the corresponding observed effort and non-retained catch. The following observer database tables contributed data to the Non-retained Catches report:

- 1. Activity_Log describes vessel activity eg setting, hauling, searching and time, location, environmental conditions.
- 2. Voyage details of observer cruise including vessel identifier.
- 3. **Voyage_Gear_Items** contains values of attributes for each fishing operation eg number of hooks deployed.
- 4. **Bio_Collection** describes biological attributes of animals caught including life status of retained and discarded fish

3. Data Preparation

Raw data files of database tables from the AFMA Daily Fishing Logs, Catch Disposal Records and Observer databases are acquired late in the first quarter of each calendar year. The data are loaded into an Oracle relational database server to enable analysis using Structured Query Language (SQL) via Microsoft Access software on client workstations. The data sets acquired in Excel workbook format ie Tow Cage Size Monitoring Reports and Longline Fishery Size Monitoring Reports are processed at least partly in Excel and some output data imported to Access for combination with database output. Standard queries and procedures have been established to produce the data reports that BRS submits each year. These queries may require minor modification each year as changes are made to the source data collection process or CCSBT requirements.

See Appendix 1 for flow diagrams of data sources and tables used to produce the various reports.

3.1. Definition of Seasons

All data reports use date of capture to sort catch records by time period, except the catch by fleet – quota year statistics. The quota year statistics use tow end date (farm purse seining) or trip end date (other methods) to define whether a catch falls within a particular season/fishing period.

3.2. Spatial Definitions

The 2003 submission was the first time that raised catch or catch at size data were provided by latitude/longitude grid (1x1 degrees for purse seine and 5x5 degrees for longline). This was made possible for the farm sector by the introduction of the SBT03 forms. The forms enable the linking of Tow Cage Size Monitoring Reports to the Daily Fishing Logs Database, thus providing capture location information. The Aggregated Catch and Effort Report also provides spatial information, all data for this report coming from the Daily Logs Database.

3.3. Revision of catch at size data for purse seine fishery

In 2006, BRS modified the procedure for calculating Catch at Size data from information in the Tow Cage Size Monitoring Reports. The change related specifically to including all fish measured and weighed in the process of obtaining forty fish over 10 kg for quota monitoring. In past years, sample size for Catch at Size purposes was maintained at forty fish by excluding measurements of some fish over 10 kg and including all measured fish less than 10 kg. In the last season, the number of small fish sampled made that approach unworkable due to excessive skewing of the sample towards small fish. Revision of Catch at Size reports was conducted for years 2002 to 2004 and new reports submitted in the 2006 data exchange. See Appendix 5 for details as supplied to the data exchange email list in April.

3.4. Correction of size details for 2004

One purse seine shot in March 2004 captured larger fish than those targeted for the SBT farms. These 242 fish were not transferred to a tow cage, but processed for export. At the time of compilation of the 2005 data submission, only an average weight was available for these fish and therefore only a single converted length value could be provided for this component of the Catch at Size file. Individual weights were obtained later in 2005 for the consignments involved and the calculated lengths have now been used to replace values in the revised data file submitted in 2006.

4. Closing Remarks

The description of data preparation and submission in this report applies to the 2004 and 2005 data supplied to CCSBT. A more detailed description of the fields within the data sources can be obtained

Appendix 1: Flow Charts Showing Flow of Data from Data Sources to Reports







Appendix 2: Scientific Logbook Forms (AL05, OT03, PSP01, TPB02 and TPB03)

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Appendix 3: Catch Disposal Forms (CR4A, SBT03A, SBT04A)

R4A For outhern E atch Disp	Bluefin Tuna Fishery osal Record		Во	ok No.		Page	No.	
art A: SFR	Holder or Authorised Repres	sentative to	Comp	ete			· <u>··</u> ····	
[······	una International P/L		Boat Name	Hunte	r IV		Dist. Symbol	0999
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ame of Rece	oiver Tuna Exporters P.	/L			Trailer	Data/Tim	e of Depa	
lame of ransporter	Bradley Transport			Type of Vehicle	Vehicle Reg	Consignn	nent from Inloading	point of
FR Holder or	Total Accurate Weight Kg Total Accurate Meight Kg Total Accurate Representative	Form Code		ruck W A B	means Whole M means SBT tha gutted so that: a, the gill plate b, the tail is wh	n Codes Weight – N at has beer s are remo iolly remov at has beer s are not re	o Process n gilied an ved; and ed, n gilied an smoved; a	nd
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arm irans	luefin Tu it Log	na Fisher	гу					Log No:	Page No:
	oat Name	MARY L	011			Dist. Symbol	DE 123		
	L								
Perr	mit Holder	A B CUT	TER			Carrier I Permit Nur		00100	
Tow Cage II	D Number	T600							
Fish Recei	ived From	V Purse Se	ine Boat – C	Complete Sec	tions 1 and 3	then 4 or 5			
Fish Recei	ived From	Carrier B	oat – Comp	lete Sections	2 and 3 then	4 or 5			
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BLUE O	CEAN			20/ 12 / (50	/	111	05
Section 2 Carrier B	Previous 0					Dist. Symbol			
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arm Catch Disp	n Tuna Fishery oosal Record				Log No:	Page No:
Part 1						
Fish Receiver Permit Holder Name	McNally Fres	h Fish		Tow Cage ID No	umber	T600
Fish Receive Permit Holder Numbe		99		Carrier Vessel SBT03A Log and Page No	Log No: 198	Page No: 15
	Progres	sive Total of mor	talities during tow (G =	SBT03A) A 17		
	Number of mor	talities recorded	from date of receipt of	tow cage B 8		
			om Tow Cage to Farn			
[Transfer Date	Farm Nun Cage N	nber	ve Fish Count		
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	30/1/05	A85		1,098		
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-20			1	y	_	
			ANY Y			
			Count Total	c 5,900		
		F	Weight Total	D	_	
tal Number of mort	alities F = A + B + J	35	D = C x E (E: Average Weight in Kg)	107675		
Total Weight of m (E: A	ortalities H = F x E verage Weight in Kg)	H 638.75	conducted by A	opportunity to witne: AFMA's Agent and I a	ss the verifi Igree with a	ed count nd verify
			the count taker	n. ne information which		
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Total Weight of		08313.75	to be a comple	te and accurate reco		n the form
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	ber 2930	9404	to be a comple	er E. Wa	rd. tson	n the form
ideo Reference Num	ber 2930	9404	to be a comple	er E. Wa	rd. tson	n the form
lideo Reference Num Video Reference D	ber 2930	9404	to be a comple	er E. Wa	rd. tson	
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Appendix 4: Tow Cage Size Monitoring Report

	South	ern Blue	fin Tun	a Fis	hery
	Fa	arm Catch	per Tow	v Cage	
Tow No	SB	T04 Book &	-		
		Catch II	nformation	Ğ	
Catcher Vessel				CAGE O	and the second se
Location	-			Tow Vess	sel
Date of First Transf	er into Tow Cage			SBT03 B	ook & Page
Date of Last Transf	er into Tow cage			T/Cage I.	
Date Tow Ended					
No. of Mortalities d	uring Catching	Γ			ight of Fish 1 in this Tow Cage
No. of Mortalities d	-			- 5	d Tonnage
	9		17		
No of Mortalities be		_		Total Mo	rtalities
and Release to Far			<u> </u>	Total No	ALCONTRACTOR AND A CONTRACTOR AND A
Date of Sample		Witness	Sample Inf		n Weight of Fish in Tow Cage
bate of oampie		Withess		Average	confirm
		Fish Coun	t Informati	on	
Transfer Date	Video Count	Tonnage	Static Ca	age ID	Name of Cage Owner
		_			
			-		
	e				
Total Number of					
Live Fish Counte	d Fapes counted by	V	ideo Refer	ence	
	rapes counted by				
		Average	Waight Dat	10	
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					COLLECTION
	2 . S	10			Vial No. & Length
					Fish under 10 kilograms
				1.1	·

Appendix 5: Details of revised method for calculating Catch at Size data for the purse seine fishery Revision of the purse seine component of the Australian Catch at Size data sets 2002 to 2004

Background

Revisions to the Australian Catch at Size data sets for 2002 to 2004 have been made in the 2006 data exchange, and are significant enough to require description of the causes for the revision. There are two reasons for revision of the data; the first is changes to handling of size samples from SBT farm cages in calculation of the data; and the second is the replacement of size data for a single purse seine shot in 2004 with more accurate values.

The purse seine catch at size data for 2002 to 2004 submitted in 2005 were calculated in the following manner:

1. The sample of fish¹ measured and weighed from each farm tow cage by Protec Marine Pty Ltd was used to build the raw length frequencies for the catch at size data. The samples were modified from those used in the calculation of total SBT quota decrements by replacing some of the forty fish weighing 10 kg or more with those weighing less that 10 kg. The total sample size used in the length frequency analysis remained at forty fish per tow cage, but were a different set of forty fish than those used to determine quota if there were any fish weighing less than 10 kg in the sample. In most cases there were small numbers of fish weighing less than 10 kg and bias within the forty fish sample was minimised.

As an example, if forty fish were caught during the sampling phase and five were under 10 kg, then another five fish were caught for the sample. If two of those five fish were under 10 kg, then another two fish were caught. This leaves seven fish under 10 kg and forty fish weighing 10 kg or more. For the length frequency analysis, the last seven fish weighing 10 kg or more were replaced by the seven under 10 kg fish, still leaving a final sample size of forty fish.

2. Fractions of the forty fish length sample were calculated for the components of the catch from each half-month and one degree latitude-longitude grid cell. The proportions of the tow cage contents from each stratum of half-month and grid cell were calculated using the purse seine daily catch and effort logbooks (logbook type TPB03) by summing the estimated weight transferred for all

¹ Protec determine the average weight of SBT in a tow cage by sampling captured fish until forty individuals weighing more than 10 kg have been weighed. The average weight of the forty fish heavier than 10 kg is multiplied by the total number of fish in the tow cage to estimate weight of SBT captured for quota management purposes. The number of fish is the sum of those counted by video in the farm transfer plus number of mortalities during capture, and transfer to tow and farm cages. A record of fish weighing less that 10 kg is kept.

shots within a stratum for a particular tow cage and dividing by the total of estimated weights transferred to that tow cage. (The logbook data can be related to data on tow cages and farm cage transfers as described in CCSBT-ESC/0409/26).

- 3. The proportions were multiplied by the sample length frequencies for each tow cage and then summed across tow cages to give raw length frequencies for each stratum (the values in the FREQUENCY_RAW column).
- 4. The proportions were multiplied by the sample length frequency and by the total number of fish in the tow cage, and then divided by forty to give the raised length data for each tow cage. The length frequencies were then summed across tow cages to give the complete fishery raised length data for each stratum (the FREQUENCY_ADJUSTED column).

Revised method of data preparation for 2006 data exchange

In the 2004-05 season, the number of fish weighing less than 10kg in the farm tow cage samples were considerably more than past years and the process of replacing larger fish in the sample of forty was considered to be introducing unacceptable bias into the raw length frequency data. Therefore the number of fish included in samples was varied for each tow cage to include all fish measured/weighed by Protec. The procedure for calculating the raised catch at size was unchanged from that described above except for the variable sample size. The 2005 Catch at Size data was calculated using the revised method and revised data sets provided for the years 2002 to 2004. In the 2005 data set, the sample size varied between 40 and 87 fish.