



9. Development of the CCSBT Database

Purpose

To provide a brief update on the status of the CCSBT central database.

Update

(1) Status of the database

The database currently contains seven main data modules, two of which are new modules for 2004:

- Catch and effort
- Catch at size
- Total catch by fleet
- Raised catch¹ data (*new for 2004*)
- Trade Information Scheme (TIS)
- Tag / Recapture
- CCSBT Authorised Vessel list (*new for 2004*)

The first three modules of the database (catch effort, catch at size, and catch by fleet) hold data provided by members. All data of this type that has been provided by members has been loaded onto the database. The last three modules (TIS, Tag/Recapture, and CCSBT Authorised Vessel list) hold data which is collected by the CCSBT itself. The data for these modules is also up to date². Since last year's report to the ESC, tag and recapture data from the Australia/Japan SBT Recruitment Monitoring Program (RMP) have also been incorporated in the CCSBT database³.

(2) Participation in FAO's FIRMS/FIGIS System

CCSBT 10 agreed to enter into a partnership agreement with FAO on participation in the FIGIS/FIRMS system.

Partnership imposes some information provision obligations on the CCSBT, these include:

- Provision of an annual fisheries status report to FIRMS;
- Provision of fisheries statistical data to FIRMS.

¹ This is primarily required for those members who do not provide raised catch and effort data (i.e. Australia, New Zealand and Korea).

² The data was up to date at the time of writing this report. However, by the time the ESC meets, it is likely that there will be a significant backlog of tag recapture data to be processed.

³ CSIRO holds the primary RMP tag/recapture database. The Secretariat obtains updated copies of this data on an ad-hoc basis and merges this data with the CCSBT tag/recapture data on the CCSBT database.

The annual fishery report to FIRMS will be based on the Extended Scientific Committee's annual SBT report to ICCAT.

The fisheries statistical data that the CCSBT is expected to contribute to are: FAO's "Global tuna nominal catches database" (catch by year, country and gear); and the "Atlas of tuna and billfish catches" (SBT catch by year, month, gear and 5°5 degrees of latitude and longitude). Unless member's have an alternative preference, the Secretariat will prepare and provide the required information using the same approach as the Secretariat used to prepare the new global catch tables presented at agenda item 4. This approach ensures that data subsets correctly totals to members annual catch reports as reported in the global catch table.

(3) Options for Providing Access to CCSBT data

CCSBT10 took decisions concerning public access to CCSBT data. In addition to data to be provided to FIRMS, these decisions included:

- Placing a subset of the Trade Information Scheme (TIS) data on the CCSBT web site;
- Publishing national catch and effort (hooks for longline fisheries and search hours for surface fisheries) and length frequency data by 5° square by month for longline and 1° square by month for each other gear type.

The Secretariat has placed the TIS data on the web site and intends to do the same for the catch effort and size data later this year. The main reason for delaying publishing of the catch effort and size data on the web site was due to uncertainty regarding which of the historical data sets should be used.

The SC8 meeting noted the possibility of providing access to CCSBT data through annual data reports. There has been no further consideration of this matter because the Secretariat does not have the resources to produce and publish an annual report of this nature at this time. However, in April 2004, the Secretariat provided a data CD to members that contained the major historic SBT datasets (catch and effort, catch at size and tag-recapture data). It is intended that the contents of this CD be updated and re-circulated to members on an annual basis.

It seems likely that members may like to have regular updates of datasets that change on a frequent basis (e.g. the tag/recapture data). The Secretariat is happy to provide routine updates of this type of data (either as summary reports or data dumps) if members of the Extended Scientific Committee state their requirements.

There may be other data access requirements the ESC members wish to raise.

Prepared by the Secretariat