



CCSBT-ESC/0309/13

7.1. Review of CCSBT Database Development

Purpose

To provide a brief update on the status of the CCSBT central database and to consider issues involving access to the data.

Background

(1) Status of the database

The database currently contains five main data modules:

- Catch and effort
- Catch at size
- Total catch by fleet
- Trade Information Scheme (TIS)
- Tag / Recapture

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 database¹. The last two modules (TIS and tag/recapture) hold data which is collected by the CCSBT itself. The data for these modules is also up to date with the exception of tagging data from the Australia/Japan SBT Recruitment Monitoring Program. These data were recently provided to the Secretariat (late June) and the routines for merging these data with the CCSBT tagging data are being developed as time permits.

Two additional modules are planned for the database (outputs from MP trials, and scientific observer data), but development of these modules awaits details on information requirements.

It is worth noting that a suite of checks is conducted for all data loaded onto the database. The checks for the first three modules (catch effort, catch at size, and catch by fleet) only detect the more obvious problems and are not exhaustive checks. Nevertheless, a considerable numbers of errors (impossible information) and doubtful data have been detected through these checks. When problems are detected, impossible values are usually set missing values and doubtful data are left unchanged. The data providers are notified of problems detected in the data and of any modifications made to the data when loading it to the database.

¹ However, the latest shot by data from Australia has not been loaded because it has been requested that these data not be used.

(2) Access to data

The CCSBT database now contains a significant amount of information and consideration should be given to what information members would like to have provided from the database.

The Commission agreed a data confidentiality policy at CCSBT 9 (see Attachment A). The Commission's confidentiality policy is a policy that requires cases by case approval to release data. Therefore, in order to avoid delays in obtaining necessary information it is important to specify information needs in advance so that approvals can be obtained for the release of those data.

The only data sets currently approved for release amongst members are the tag recapture data (see Attachment B for details) and summaries of the Trade Information Scheme data as specified in the CCSBT Statistical Document Program. However, it seems appropriate that at least two other data sets should be freely available amongst CCSBT members, these being:

- Historical catch and effort data (aggregated by country, fleet, gear, year, month and 5*5 degrees (for longline – otherwise 1*1); and
- Historical catch at size data (with the same level of aggregation as above)

The Secretariat will seek approval from the Commission for the release of these data between members if this is endorsed by the Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee should also consider whether it would like regular summaries of approved data sets to be provided to its members. It would certainly be feasible for the Secretariat to post summaries of tag recapture data and TIS data to the private area of the web site on a regular basis (e.g. quarterly updates for tagging data and 6 monthly updates of TIS data).

The next agenda item (FIRMS/FIGIS systems) will instigate a discussion of data available for public release, so that is not considered here. Nevertheless, the Secretariat proposes that any data made available to the FIRMS/FIGIS system also be placed on the public area of the CCSBT web site.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Confidentiality Policy for the CCSBT Central Database

This is the policy for releasing data from the CCSBT Central Database. This policy has no influence on the data that should be provided to the database by members of the Extended Commission and other parties.

The use of the word “data” in this policy refers to both raw and aggregated data.

Data provided for the CCSBT database will be treated confidentially and will not be released by the Secretariat except where members of the Extended Commission approve the specific data release on a case by case basis.

Consensus at SAG/ESC meetings and subsequent approval by the Extended Commission is sufficient approval for release of specific data to members of the Extended Commission for the purpose of routine data exchange for the stock assessment and management procedure. This approval will apply until the Extended Commission revises the data confidentiality policy. Release of other data requires case by case approval from an exchange of correspondence (including e-mails) between Extended Commission member’s nominated contacts.

When providing approval to release specific data, members of the Extended Commission can specify that the particular data does not require their re-approval for future releases by the Secretariat. In these situations, members of the Extended Commission must also specify the groups of people (e.g. public, Extended Commission members) to whom the Secretariat may release the data without requiring case by case re-approval. The Secretariat will maintain a list of data sets (and associated groups of people) that are approved for release without requiring case by case re-approval. The list will be provided to members of the Extended Commission and members of the Extended Commission have the right to revise the approvals that they have given.

Conditions for the release of CCSBT tagging data

The Secretariat has been granted approval to release CCSBT tagging and recapture data to any CCSBT member who requests this information under the following conditions:

- (1) For the purpose of this approval, CCSBT tagging and recapture is considered to be any SBT tagging (and related recaptures) conducted under the auspices of the CCSBT Scientific Research Plan.
- (2) The data that can be released to CCSBT members without requiring further approval is all data collected with the exception of the names of recapture vessels and people.
- (3) Members provided with tagging and recapture data under this approval should treat that data as being confidential to members unless otherwise agreed by the Commission.