

Preparation of Australia's southern bluefin tuna catch and effort data submission for 2019

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Research by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

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Summary

The aggregated catch and effort, catch by fleet, raised catch, catch at size, and non-retained catch data sets submitted to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), on behalf of the Australian Government, are compiled from a number of databases. The daily fishing logbooks, catch disposal records and fisheries observer reports, collected and managed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), are the main data sources. The Australian catch of southern bluefin tuna (SBT) from the surface (purse seine) fishery is also sampled by contracted field staff prior to release into farm cages. The sample data includes size and weight measurements that are used to calculate representative size distributions and average weights.

Relational databases, spreadsheets and query scripts are used to integrate and process the source data sets and create the data files required for the CCSBT data exchange. This report provides facsimiles of data collection forms, as well as flow charts illustrating the data integration procedures. The paper also describes the data validation procedures.

Introduction

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (the department), provides data reports each year to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) as part of the annual data exchange (CCSBT 2012). In April 2020, the following reports were submitted to the data exchange:

- Aggregated Catch and Effort data 2018 and 2019
- Raised Catch 2018 and 2019
- Total Catch by Fleet 2018 and 2019 (quota and calendar year)
- Catch at Size data 2018 and 2019
- Non-retained Catches 2018 and 2019
- CPUE series (GAMM)

The following reports are also provided directly to the data exchange by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO):

- Tag Releases/Recoveries and Reporting Rates
- Direct Ageing data
- Catch at Age data
- Raised Catch-at-Age for the Australian Surface Fishery
- CPUE series (nominal)

Preparation of the CSIRO data sets is described in separate papers (e.g. Preece et al. 2004; Eveson 2011).

1 Data Sources

In recent years, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) have developed a Data Warehouse that draws together data from various tables within the original databases. These original databases have evolved over time, with changes to logbooks, the introduction of electronic logbooks (e-logs) and transfer of catch disposal data to the licencing database (PISCES). Not all data are drawn into the data warehouse, however, it is still possible link back to necessary tables in the original databases when required.

Also, the introduction of electronic-monitoring (e-monitoring) has meant that from 1 July 2015 observers are no longer deployed on longline vessels and length measurements are now obtained solely from port sampling rather than at time of catch.

There were four sources of data used to produce the data reports. These were: Daily Fishing Logs Database; Catch Disposal Database; Tow Cage Size Monitoring Database; and Fisheries Observer Database.

1.1 Daily Fishing Logs Database

The Daily Fishing Logs Database is maintained by AFMA and contains data collected from logbooks that fishers are required to complete. The logbooks of relevance to southern bluefin tuna (SBT) catch for the 2020 data submission were the AL06 (pelagic longline), TPB03A (purse seine and pole log for farmed SBT), and PS01A (purse seine log for non-farm SBT). See Appendix A 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) **Elect_Shot_Detail** contains depth and position information for e-logs.
- **4) Fishing_Effort** contains fishing method used and fishing effort information (e.g. number of hooks for longline operations; search hours for purse seine operations).
- 5) **Operation_Longline** contains other information on longlining operations (e.g. length of mainline).
- 6) **Operation_Pole** contains other information on poling operations (e.g. number of poles used).
- 7) **Vessel** contains information on each licensed vessel; vessel name is used to identify individual vessels when determining the number of vessels that fished.
- 8) **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.

1.2 Catch Disposal Database

The Catch Disposal Database is used by AFMA for quota monitoring and contains data collected from the CR4A (SBT Catch Disposal Record; all methods except purse seining for farms), SBT02 (SBT Farm Catch Disposal Record – Purse Seine Boat) and SBT04B (SBT Farm Catch Disposal Record; purse seining for farms). See Appendix B 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.

1.3 PISCES Database

PISCES is the licencing database. Landings data and quota monitoring has been moved into this database. The relevant tables for this database are now:

- 1) **CDR_Catch_Disposal** contains general information about the landing, such as trip end date and fishing trip id.
- 2) **CDR_Operator_Landing** where there is no receiver information, operator reported catches are used.
- 3) **CDR_Receiver Landing** contains information about the catch, as reported by the receiver.
- 4) CDR_SBT, CDR_SBT03, CDR_SBT03_Mortality, CDR_SBT04, CDR_SBT04_Transfer SBT information is kept in these separate table which store information about the SBT farm sector, such as tow cage information and transfers to farm cages.

AFMA create a single landings table in their Data Warehouse, which combines the Catch Disposal Database with the PISCES Database. However, this does not include the fishing method. ABARES has developed queries to append PISCES data to the Catch Disposal Database in such a way that fishing method is included and code changes have been accounted for.

1.4 Tow Cage Size Monitoring Database

Tow cage size monitoring data are 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. In 2006, the then Bureau of Rural Sciences (now the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences; ABARES) developed a database for Protec Marine to record this information, the Tow Cage Size Monitoring Database, replacing a series of spreadsheet forms. Data for the 2006–07 and previous fishing seasons were then entered into this database from the original spreadsheets. From December 2007, data were entered directly into the database rather than using spreadsheets as an intermediate step. The database has been used as the source of SBT length samples for the purse seine component of the Catch at Size reports for 2008 to 2017 submissions. A sample of one of the reports produced by the database is given in Appendix C.

For each tow cage, fish were sampled until 100 fish (40-fish prior to 2012) weighing 10 kg or more were measured and weighed. The length and weight of all fish sampled were entered into

the database, including fish smaller than 10 kg, as were the total number of fish transferred to farm cages. Data were then collated to produce a table of statistics for each tow cage, named Analysis – OtherInfo, which was used in preparation of Raised Catch and Total Catch by Fleet reports (see Appendix D). The raw lengths and weights of all sampled fish for the year were combined and used in conjunction with the Daily Fishing Logs data to prepare the Catch at Size report.

In the 2010–11 fishing season, stereo video was used to measure fish lengths and determine the average weight for some of the tow cages. These data were initially recorded in another database. However, for the purposes of the data preparation, all necessary data were migrated to the Tow Cage Size Monitoring Database.

1.5 Fisheries Observer Database

AFMA employs fisheries observers to collect data on board fishing vessels in a number of fisheries. Observer coverage of pelagic longline vessels has been variable between 2001 and 2015, mainly concentrated in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery. A database of observed fishing operations is maintained by AFMA, including records of retained and discarded catch and biological data collection including length measurements. Length data collected by observers were used to compile the longline and trolling components of the Catch at Size reports for 2013 and 2014. The AFMA observer data were also used to produce the "Non-retained Catches" reports for 2013 and 2014. These reports provided numbers of non-retained fish observed in the longline fishery and were not raised or imputed from logbook data. The total longline fishing effort for each 5-degree cell is provided from the Aggregated Catch and Effort report with the corresponding observed effort and non-retained catch.

AFMA implemented a new Observer Database in September 2008, so this new database was used for the 2014 data submission. The following observer database tables contributed data to the Non-retained Catches report:

- 1) **Activity** describes vessel activity (e.g. setting, hauling, searching and time, location, environmental conditions).
- 2) **Opn_Biological** describes biological attributes of animals caught including life status of retained and discarded fish.
- 3) **Opn_Biological_Length** gives the length type and length measurement of each sampled fish.
- 4) **Vyg_Project** provides the name of the project under which the observer was operating.

Port sampled lengths were provided by AFMA in a spreadsheet for use in the longline length frequency submission for 2015.

1.6 Data Warehouse

Single tables have been created to bring data from the disparate areas together for easier access. The key tables in the warehouse are:

- 1) **Fact_CDR_Boat_Landing_Spcs** draws together the Catch Disposal Database and the PISCES Database to create a single table with a complete time series of landings data.
- 2) **Fact_Fishery_Boat_Operation** draws together data from the various tables in the Daily

Fishing Logs Database to produce a single table with shot date, position and effort information. It retains the original record number so that it can link back to the Daily Fishing Logs Database at any time, when required.

3) **Fact_Fishery_Boat_Optn_Species** – draw together data from the various tables in the Daily Fishing Logs Database and shows logbook recorded catches of each species in each operation.

2 Data Preparation

Oracle export files from the AFMA Daily Fishing Logs, Catch Disposal Records, Observer databases and Data Warehouse are acquired late in the first quarter of each calendar year. The data are imported into an Oracle relational database server to enable analysis using Structured Query Language (SQL) via Microsoft Access software on client workstations. The length data for the Catch at Size reports are processed at least partly in MS Excel to enable estimation of size distributions for month-location strata that have not been sampled by observers or Protec Marine Pty Ltd. New queries and procedures were established in 2016 to produce the data reports that ABARES submits each year. These queries may require minor modification each year as changes, if any, are made to the source data collection process or CCSBT requirements.

See Appendix D for flow diagrams of data sources and tables used to produce the various reports. Note that with the introduction of e-monitoring in July 2015, Australia is still investigating how to prepare the Non-retained Catch component of the data submission. The flow diagram included here is how the 2014 data was prepared, using the observer data.

2.1 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.

2.2 Spatial Definitions

Since the 2003 data exchange, raised catch or catch at size data have been provided by latitude/longitude grid cells (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 the Tow Cage Size Monitoring Database to the Daily Fishing Logs Database, thus providing capture location information for SBT transferred from tow cages. The Aggregated Catch and Effort Report also provides spatial information; all data for this report coming from the Daily Fishing Logs Database.

3 Data Validation

3.1 Data Management Systems

AFMA maintains two systems for tracking catches of SBT in Australian waters. One system is on MS Excel spreadsheets and the other is AFMA's main Oracle database that stores all logbook and catch disposal records. These two systems are cross-referenced to ensure that data entry is correct in both systems. This process ensures validity and plausibility of data during the data entry process.

ABARES obtains copies of the AFMA Daily Fishing Logs Database and Catch Disposal Database and stores it in an Oracle system. It is these copies that are used for the preparation of the annual data submission.

3.2 Cross-Verification of Datasets

All Commonwealth authorised receivers of SBT are required to complete reconciliation sheets at the end of each season that are then cross-checked against catch disposal records and catch documentation scheme records. This is called the Audit Level 1.

There are a number of triggers (such as discrepancies in the Audit Level 1) that can trigger the Audit Level 2, which involves AFMA officers examining the books and invoices of the company involved.

During the preparation of the annual data submission, data from the Tow Cage Monitoring Database are cross-referenced with data from the Daily Fishing Logs Database and Catch Disposal Database to ensure accuracy of results. Any discrepancies are tracked down to original forms, if required.

Lengths and weights in the Tow Cage Monitoring Database are graphed to identify any outliers.

4 Closing Remarks

The description of data preparation and submission in this report applies to the 2018 and 2019 commercial fishery catch and effort data supplied to the CCSBT. ABARES can provide more details of data collection and data processing methods upon request.

Appendix A: Example Scientific Logbook Forms (AL06, TPB03A, PS01A)

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NB ag	ou have	an inter	action w	id you have an interaction with any wildlift If yes, please enter details on a "Wildlife a	Did you have an interaction with any wildlife or other protected species? Please tick Yes No Ni Yes, please enter details on a "Wildlife and Other Protected Species" Form at the back of this book	ted species?	Please tick 1	of this	No N			Please	provide a	an estim	ate of th	Please provide an estimate of the time taken to complete	plete

Appendix B: Example Catch Disposal Forms (CR4A. SBT03B, SBT04B)

	rm Bluefin Tuna Fishery Josal Record		Во	ok No.		p	age No.		
	Holder or Authorised Repres	entative to	Comp	lata					
	una International P/L	seniative to	Boat Name	Hunte	r IV		Dist. Symb	ol	0999
Area Fished Fishing Metho	od Pole Purse Seine	NSW Lo	SA ngline Date		QLD rolling		of the ti complete th	me	an estimate taken to rm.
Port Unloaded	Tuncarry	Date Unio	paded [14 /	7/04				
Whole Ca	atch Consigned Part Catch (Consigned	Book No.	Pag	le No.	ther CR	4A details		
Name of Rece	eiver Tuna Exporters P.	/L							
Name of Transporter	Bradley Transport]	Type of Vehicle	Trailer Vehicle Reg		e/Time of De signment fro Unloadii	m p	
L			¹ 1	Truck	YLT-091	14 /	7 /0)4	15:30
<u></u>	SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA	4							
Number of Fish	Iotal Accurate Weight Kg	Form Code	·						
3	300	В							
Part A to be		Form Code		W A B	means Whol means SBT gutted so tha a. the gill pla b. the tail is	that has at: ites are wholly re that has at: ites are	t - No Proce been gilled removed; ar emoved. been gilled not removed	and nd and	
Printed Name			\neg						*
JOHN W									
Part B	Velsh 12. Ige that I have received for in of fish referred to in Part A.	4/7/O	on		Forward White 24 hours of unle Leave Green or Send the Blue a fish to the recei	oading. opy in bo and Yelk	ook. ow copies w		ne
PETER E	RADLEY			L					
Signature & D	ale								
Peter T	Bradley 1	41710	1						,

SBT03B Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Farm Transit Log

Log No:	Page No:

Section 1						1		
Carrier	Boat Name	MARY L	OU			Dist. Symbol	DE 12	23
Pe	ermit Holder	A B CUT	TER				rier Boat Number	400100
Tow Cage	ID Number	T800						
Fish Red	ceived From	V Purse Se	ine Boat – Co	omplete Sec	tions 1, 2,	4 and 7, then Sect	ion 5 or 6	
Fish Red	ceived From	Carrier B	oat – Comple	te Sections	1, 3, 4 and	7, then Section 5	or 6	
Section 2	!			Transfer	Details			
Name of Pu	rse Seine Boa	t Dist. Symbol		& Time sfer Started		ate & Time ransfer Finished	Estimate Weight (To	of SBT02 SBT02 nnes) Book No. Page No.
BLUE	OCEAN	333	20 /12 /0	09 9:30	22 / 12		50	111 05
Section 3	1							
Carrier	Previous Boat Name					Dist. Symbol		
SBT03A	Log No:	Page No:	Mortalities	of Retained Recorded i evious SBT	n Box	G1		f Mortalities n Box "G" of BT03B
Section 4	ļ		Record	of Mortalit	ies Durin	ng This Tow		
Date/Time	20/ 12 /	09 09:30	_	d a Date + N		Mortalities		
Date	20/12	21/12	22/12	23/12	24/1	2		
Number	5	1	3	4	2			
Date								
Number								
Date								
Number								
Total Mortaliti	ies During Thi	s Tow		F 15			rogressive talities (E	
Total Mortaliti	ies Retained t	o Land During	g This Tow	G2 4		Progressive Retained to La		
Section 5	4	Т	ow Cage Tr	ansferred	To Anoth	her Carrier Boat		
Carrier	Boat Name	MISTY N	100N			Dist. Symbol	FJ30	8
	SBT03B Book No	333 SBT Page	03B 9 No 2			Date/T Cage Tra	ime Tow nsferred	25/ 12 / 09 06:30
Section 6			Fish T	ransferre	d To Fish	Receiver		
Date/Tim Transfer Ende		<i>l</i> :	Receive	Name of I or Permit Ho				Fish Receiver ermit Number
				e provide	d on this	form to be a co	mplete a	nd accurate record.
D	SON MAN			nature	T. Manning	·		Date 25 / 12 / 09

SBT04B

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Farm Catch Disposal Record

Log No:	Page No:

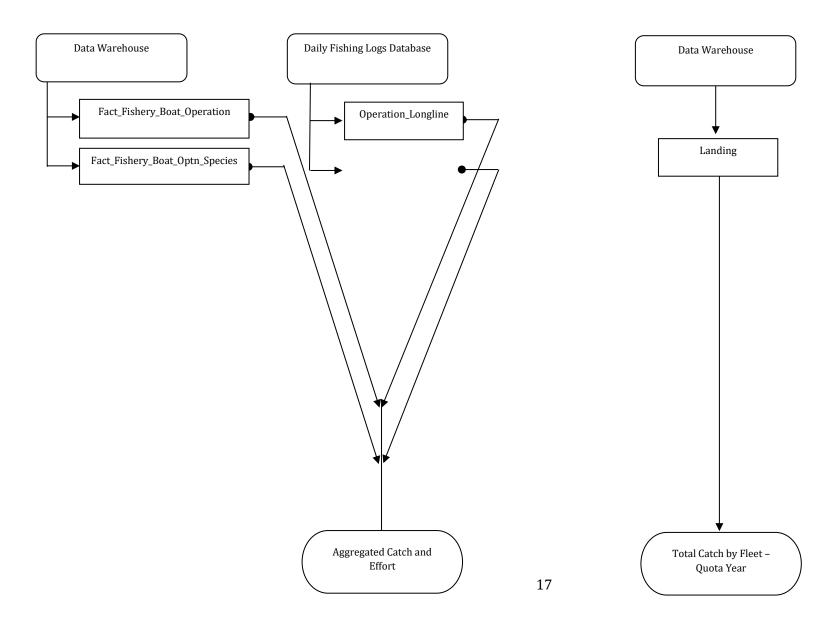
Part 1					True Cases ID M	umber T600
Fish Receiver Permit Holder Name		Fish			Tow Cage ID N	umber 1600
Fish Receive Permit Holder Numbe		9			Carrier Boat/s SBT03B Log and Page No/s	Log No: Page No: 198 15
Progre	ssive total of all mort	talities during tow	(G = \$BT0	3B) ^A	17	
Total number of	mortalities recorded	from date of rece	of tow o	age ^B	2	
Record the	number of retained	to land mortalitie of receipt o			2	
		Transfer from	n Tow Cap	e to Farm	1	
	Transfer Date	Farm Numbo Cage No.	er	Llv	e Fish Count	
	29/01/10	C01			4,802	
	30/01/10	C02			1,098	
				_Q	()	_
Total Num	nber of mortalities	35	1	unt Total	5,900	
	nortalities H = F x E	638.75		D=CxE Weight in Kg)	107675	
	Average Weight in Kg)		AFMA	V's Agent and I	agree with and verify the	
Total Weight	I = D + H	08313.75		are that the in ocurate record	4.	e on the form to be a complete
Video Reference Num No. of Videos vie		0-1		FRP Holds	er E. W	atson
Video Referenc	xe Date 2 / 2	/10	FRP Signature	E. 1	Watson	Date: 2 / 2 / 10
Part 2 Lautho	rice AFMA to deduct the	SBT kilos of quota	recorded in	box I above	e from my/our quota h	noldings:
SFR Holder	A. Brazil		SFR Signature	A. Z	Brazil	Date: 2 / 2 / 10
Part 3	Boat 1		Boat 2			et 1 Boat 2
Danie Calan	IA 1		boat 2		Dist. Symbol 02	
SBT02 Log1	Boat 1 No: Page No: L	og No: Page N	Vo:	J	16 Number	r of mortalities during and transfer to tow cage
Progressive	total of retained to I		\dashv	J1	Number	r of mortalities retained during pursing and
mortalities	during tow (G3=SBT)	Average Weight	sample fr	om Tow C	transfer	r to tow cage
Sample Da		Name of Pers			•	of Person Sampling
28 / 1 /		T. Smith	and the state of t	,	T. Smith	
Average Weight In	No. of Fish t	aken from tow cag	e	F=	Boat 1	Boat 2
E 18.25	4	2		Stocking form No.	FSAU 10 00101	
I declare that the int	formation which I pro	ovide on the form	to be a con	nplete and	accurate record.	
AFMA Agent's Name	Т. Рорру	AF	MA Agent's Signature	T. Pap	oy	Date: 3 / 2 / 10

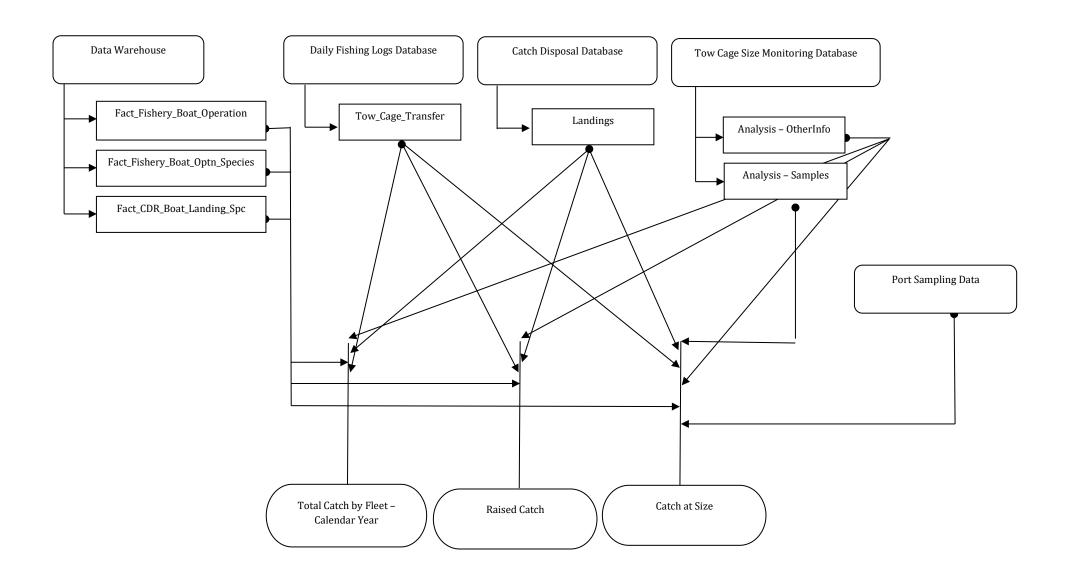
Appendix C: Tow Cage Size Monitoring Report

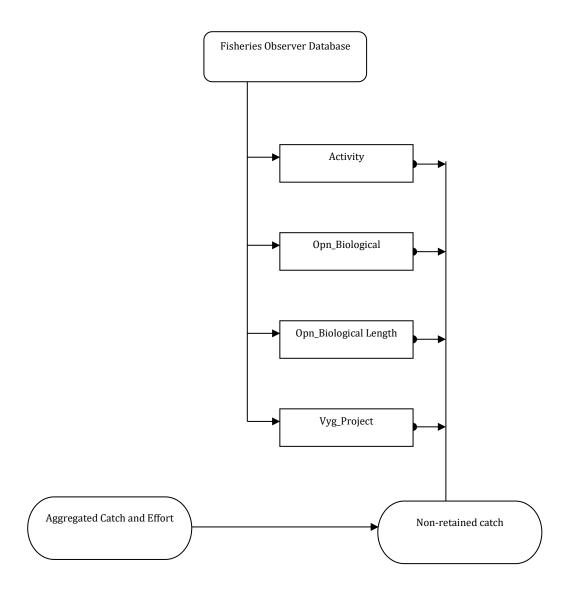
	- 9	Farm Catch	per Tow Cage	
	2005	06		
		Towlde	ntification	
				Sook No. Page N
Tow Case ID			Catch Disposal Form	
for Number for Season		_	FRE Pecebel Number	
		Catch In	formation	
Cattolier Vessel			AFBIA FORES	
aptive location				
Date of Flict Travelle i to Tow Cage				
Date of LactTransfer to Tow Cage				
Dow Wesse I				
Date Your En ded			Total Weight of Rish Captured in this Tow Cage:	
Number of Mortalites during Catching	-		Extended Valght/ligit	
Number of Blocksites during Tow			Total Number of Bortalities	
Number of Borbith a between end of Tow and Pelnace to Farm			Tobi Number of Mish:	
		Average Weight	Sample Information	
Sample Ch	16	Wheres	Average ten	gti Average Velgiti
Transfer Ca b	Video Count	Fish Coun	t Information state Cage ID	Static Cage Owner

		Towlden	tification		
ber Cage ID ber Nember for Season		.8 -0	Cath Disposal F		Book No. Page No.
		Average V	Veight Data		
We get	40 Pish Sample Length	Tag	Number o	f Under 199g I	100000000000000000000000000000000000000
				Under 189	- 100000 A
				Weight	Leagt

Appendix D: Flow of Data from Data Sources to Reports







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