

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



August 2019

Working Paper CCSBT-ESC/1909/12 prepared for the CCSBT Extended Scientific Committee for the 24th Meeting of the Scientific Committee

2-7 September 2019, Cape Town, South Africa

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Hobsbawn, PI 2019, *Preparation of Australia's southern bluefin tuna catch and effort data submission for 2019,* ABARES Canberra, August. CC BY 3.0.

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Acknowledgements

Work was supported by the Fisheries Resources Research Fund and ABARES. Ann Shepherd (AFMA) and Bertie Hennecke (ABARES) are thanked for their input.

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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.

1 Introduction

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (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 2019, the following reports were submitted to the data exchange:

- Aggregated Catch and Effort data 2017 and 2018
- Raised Catch 2017 and 2018
- Total Catch by Fleet 2017 and 2018 (quota and calendar year)
- Catch at Size data 2017 and 2018
- Non-retained Catches 2017 and 2018
- 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).

2 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.

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 2019 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.

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.

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.
- 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.

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.

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 five 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.

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.

3 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.

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.

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.

4 Data Validation

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.

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.

5 Closing Remarks

The description of data preparation and submission in this report applies to the 2017 and 2018 commercial fishery catch and effort data supplied to the CCSBT. ABARES can provide more details of data collection and data processing methods upon request.

6 References

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Preece A, Cooper S, Hartog J, 2004, Data post-processing for input to the 2004 stock assessments and comparisons of 2001 and 2004 assessment datasets, CCSBT-ESC9/0409/27, CCSBT 9th Meeting of the Scientific Committee, 13–16 September 2004, Jeju, Korea

Appendix A

Example Scientific Logbook Forms (AL06, TPB03A, PS01A)

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Appendix B

Example Catch Disposal Forms (CR4A, SBT03B, SBT04B)

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Trip Start Date 8 / 7 / 04 Trip End Date 14 / 7 / 04 Hrs.	
Address of the second of the s	
Port Unloaded Tuncurry Date Unloaded 14 / 7 / 04	5 mins
Whole Catch Consigned Part Catch Consigned Book No. Page No. Other CR4A details	
Name of Receiver Tuna Exporters P/L	
Name of Transporter Transporte	
Truck YLT-091 14 / 7 /04	15:30
SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA	
Number Total Accurate Weight Kg Form Code of Fish	
3 300 B	
, _,	· .
Form Codes	
NORTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA W means Whole Weight – No Processin	g
of Fish Total Accurate Weight Kg Form Code of Fish A means SBT that has been gilled and quitted so that:	
a. the gill plates are removed; and b. the tail is wholly removed,	
B means SBT that has been gilled and	
gutted so that: a. the gill plates are not removed; and b. the tail is not wholly removed.	t k
Part A to be a complete and accurate record.	
SFR Holder or Authorised Representative Printed Name	
JOHN WELSH	
Signature & Date	
J. Welsh 14 / 7 / 04 Forward White copy to AFMA within	
24 hours of unloading.	
Part B Leave Green copy in book. 1 acknowledge that 1 have received for transportation Send the Blue and Yellow copies with the	e
the amount of fish referred to in Part A. fish to the receiver of your fish.	
Printed Name of Driver	
PETER BRADLEY	
Signature & Date	
Peter Bradley 1417 104	

SBT03B Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Farm Transit Log

Log No:	Page No:

Section 1										
Carrier	Boat Name	MARY LO)U			0	ist. Symbol	DE 1	23	
Pe	ermit Holder	A B CUT	TER			ĺ		ier Boat Number	400100	
Tow Cage	ID Number	T800				ĺ				
Fish Rec	eived From	✓ Purse Sei	ne Boat – Co	omplete Se	ctions 1, 2,	4 and 7	7, then Secti	ion 5 or 6		
Fish Rec	ceived From	Carrier Bo	oat – Comple	te Sections	1, 3, 4 and	17, ther	n Section 5	or 6		
Section 2	!			Transfer	Details					
Name of Pu	rse Seine Boa	nt Dist. Symbol		& Time sfer Started)ate & 1 Transfer		Estimat		SBT02 age No.
BLUE	OCEAN	333	20 /12 /0	09 9:3			11:30	50	1 T. T	05
Section 3	1									
Carrier	Previous Boat Name					0	ist. Symbol			
SBT03A	Log No:	Page No:	Mortalities	of Retained Recorded evious SBT	in Box	G1	F		of Mortalities in Box "G" of BT03B	
Section 4			Record	of Mortali	ties Durir	ng This	s Tow			
Date/Time	20/ 12 /	09 09:30	٦	d a Date +		Mortalit				
Date	20/12	21/12	22/12	23/12	24/1	2				
Number	5	1	3	4	2					
Date						Т				
Number										
Date				Y						
Number										
Total Mortaliti	ies During Thi	s Tow		F 15				rogressive talities (E		5
Total Mortaliti	ies Retained t	o Land During	This Tow	G2 4		Ret	Progressive ained to Lar	Total of M	lortalities G2 = G3) G3 4	
Section 5		To	ow Cage Tr	ansferred	To Anot	her Ca	rrier Boat			
Carrier	Boat Name	MISTY M	100N				ist. Symbol	FJ30	08	
	SBT03B Book No	333 SBT Page					Date/Ti Cage Tra	ime Tow nsferred	25/ 12 / 09 0	6:30
Section 6			Fish T	ransferre	d To Fish	Recei	iver			
Date/Tim Transfer Ende		<i>I</i> :	Receive	Name of r Permit Ho					Fish Receiver ermit Number	
	re that the i	nformation or their Agent		e provide	d on this	form	to be a co	mplete a	nd accurate reco	ord.
Print Name JAS	SON MAN	IING	Sig	nature	T. Manning	ŀ			Date 25 / 12	/ 09

SBT04B Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery

Log No:	Page No:

Farm Catch Dis	posal Record				
Part 1					
Fish Receiver Permit Holder Name	McNally Fresh	Fish		Tow Cage ID N	umber T600
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 =	SBT03B) A	17	
Total number of	mortalities recorded	from date of receipt of	tow cage ^B	2	
Record the	number of retained	to land mortalities from of receipt of the		2	
		Transfer from Tov	v Cage to F	arm	
	Transfer Date	Farm Number Cage No.		Live Fish Count	
	29/01/10	C01		4,802	
	30/01/10	C02		1,098	<u> </u>
					_
Total Num	ber of mortalities F	35	Count To	otal ^c 5,900	
	F-A+B+J	32	Weight To		
	nortalities негх Е Average Weight in Kg)	638.75 (E: A)	erage Weight in I have had the	(Kg) Lopportunity to witness the ve	rifled count conducted by
Total Weight	of Fish in Kg	08313.75	AFMA's Agent	and I agree with and verify the the information which I provide	e count taken. e on the form to be a complete
Video Reference Num		0-1	FRP	Holder E. W	atson
No. of Videos view	wed (2) 4				
Video Referenc	e Date 2 / 2		FRP ature	E, Watson	Date: 2 / 2 / 10
Part 2 I author	rise AFMA to deduct the	e SBT kilos of quota recor	ded in box i	above from my/our quota h	noidings:
SFR Holder	A. Brazil	Signa	SFR ature /	A. Brozil	Date: 2 / 2 / 10
Part 3	Boat 1	Box	t 2	Во	et 1 Boat 2
Purse Seine Boat Name	IA 1			Dist. Symbol 02	53
SBT02 Log P	No: Page No: L	Log No: Page No:	[r of mortalities during and transfer to tow cage
Progressive	total of retained to I		Ī	Numbe	r of mortalities retained during pursing and
mortalities (during tow (G3=SBT)	038) 2 Average Welght sam	L nie from To	transfer	r to tow cage
Sample Da		Name of Person Sa		_	of Person Sampling
28 / 1 /		T. Smith		T. Smith	
Average Weight In	Kg No. of Fish t	aken from tow cage		Boat 1	Boat 2
E 18.25	4	2	Fam Stockin Form No	FSAU 10 00101	
I declare that the Int	formation which I pro	ovide on the form to be	a complete:	and accurate record.	
AFMA Agent's Name	Т. Рорру	AFMA Ag Sign	ent's <i>T.</i> ature	Рорру	Date: 3 / 2 / 10

Appendix C

Tow Cage Size Monitoring Report

143	05/06				
	Towlde	ntification			
			Lock to Ame to		
twicase ID		Critch Disposal Form	Sook No. Page No.		
box Nember for Season	g	FRA Pecebel Hember.			
	Catch In	formation			
attaler Vessel		AFBIA Forms			
aptive location		(Mark 1-17)			
late of First Trans # r o Tow Cage					
ante of LactTransfer Tow Cage					
bran Versse II	<u> </u>				
hate Tour En ded		Total Veight of Rish Captured in this Tow Cage:			
impter of Blortalite : krkg Catckleg	<u></u>	Extracted Valght/ligit			
Render of Blorbille s Aring Tow		Total Number of Bortalities :			
imber of Borbib's ebies endoffor ad Pelace to Fam	_	Tobi Number of Ash:			
	Average Weight	Sample Information			
Sample Cate	Wheres	Wheres Average Length Av			
	Fish Coun	t Information			
Transfer Ca b Video Count	Tonnage	State Cage ID 56	tic Cage Owner		
orbits number of the fit is not sixed:	-				

	2005/06				
		Towlden	tification		
Dow Cage ID Dow Number for Season		8	Cath Disposal F		Book No. Page No
		Average W	Keight Data		
100.000	46 Rith Sample		Number o	of Under 199g R	th 0
We gat	Leigh	Тај		Under 189g	R in
				Weight	Leogt

Appendix D

Flow of Data from Data Sources to Reports







