

Preparation of Australia's southern bluefin tuna catch and effort data submission for 2020

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

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Summary

On behalf of the Australian Government, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) has compiled aggregated catch and effort, catch by fleet, raised catch, catch at size, and non-retained catch for submission to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). This has been compiled from a number of databases including daily fishing logbooks, catch disposal records and fisheries observer reports, collected and managed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. The Australian catch of southern bluefin tuna from the surface (purse seine) fishery is also sampled by contracted field staff prior to release into farm cages. The sample data include 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 copies 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 2021, the following reports were submitted to the data exchange:

- Aggregated Catch and Effort data 2019 and 2020
- Raised Catch 2019 and 2020
- Total Catch by Fleet 2019 and 2020 (quota and calendar year)
- Catch at Size data 2019 and 2020
- Non-retained Catches 2019 and 2020
- 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 (Daily Fishing Logs, Catch Disposal, PISCES and Observer 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 2021 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 Seatec 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. From the 2016–17 season, Seatec have been using a version of this database for this purpose. 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. In 2021 these databases were then synced to a SQL MI database in the Azure Cloud 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 Seatec 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 SQL MI system on the Azure Cloud. 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 2019 and 2020 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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NOTE • If tagged fish / animals or banded birds are captured, please complete tag form at back of book and return to AFMA.

Muspement Habries Australian Purse Seine and Pole Daily Fishing Log - For Southern Bluefin Tuna Only TPB03A

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ority S	01.07	WATERCRESS	Ш	NF Code see	above	4	6 5	2	1	3	4						Anneny 300 kg		Damaged Skipjack				Did C	_	
Australian Fisheries Management Authority PO Box 7051	Roat Name	M	I did not work in this fishery between	- 8	Defail seboo	_		10	10	10							y Au.		aged				5	불	
Australian Fis Management PO Box 7051	Roat Name		I did not work in this fishery betw	Fishing Date	Date	1 /10	1 /10	1 /10	1 /10	1 /10	1 /10	_	_	_	_	Comments	Ann		Dam						
Austra Mana Po Bo	Roat	Boal	I did			16/	17/	18/	18/	19/	20/	_	_	_	_	ပ္ပီ									

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

	Bluefin Tuna Fishery		В	ook No.		Pa	ge No.	
atch Disp	osal Record		L					
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Holder or Authorised Repr	esentative	to Com	plete				
SFR Holder Tu	una International P/L		Boat Name	Hunte	r IV		Dist. Symbol	0999
rea Fished	Tas Vic	NSW [SA	- WA	QLD	F	Please provid	e an estimate
ishing Metho	d Pole Purse Sei	ne 🖊 L	.ongline	Tı	rolling		of the time complete this	e taken to form.
rip Start Date	8/7/04	Trip En	d Date	14 /	7 / 04		Hrs	s. 5 mins
ort Unloaded	Tuncurry	Date Un	loaded	14 /	7 / 04		1118). 3 milis
Whole Ca	atch Consigned Part Catc	h Consigned	Book N	o. Pag	e No.	ther CR4	A details	
ame of Rece	eiver Tuna Exporters	P/L						
lame of ransporter	Bradley Transport			Type of Vehicle	Trailer Vehicle Reg	Date/ Consi	Time of Depa ignment from Unloading	point of
			_	Truck	YLT-091	14 /	7 /04	15:30
	SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TU	NA						
Number of Fish		Form Code						
3	300	В						
art A to be	at the information I have pr a complete and accurate r r Authorised Representative	Form Code		W A B	means Who means SBT gutted so th a. the gill pla b. the tail is means SBT gutted so th	that has tat: ates are rewholly rer that has tat: ates are ne	- No Process been gilled and emoved; and πoved, been gilled an	nd
JOHN W								*
gnature & D	ate							
J. W. art B acknowled	elsh ge that I have received for of fish referred to in Part A	14 / 7 / (!	Forward White 24 hours of unit Leave Green of Send the Blue fish to the rece	loading. opy in boo and Yellov	ok. v copies with	the
PETER E	RADLEY	······································		L				
ignature & D	ale							
Peter T	Bradley	1417 1	04		-			

SBT03B Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Farm Transit Log

	D 11
Log No:	Page No:

Section 1										
Carrier	Boat Name	MARY L	DU			Dist	. Symbol	DE 1	23	
Pe	ermit Holder	A B CUT	TER					ier Boat Number	400100	
Tow Cage	ID Number	T800								
Fish Rec	ceived From	V Purse Se	ine Boat – Co	omplete Secti	ons 1, 2, 4	and 7, t	hen Section	on 5 or 6		
Fish Rec	ceived From	Carrier B	oat – Comple	te Sections 1	, 3, 4 and	7, then S	Section 5 o	or 6		
Section 2	!			Transfer D)etails					
Name of Pu	rse Seine Boa	at Dist. Symbol		& Time sfer Started		ate & Tim ansfer Fi		Estimate Weight (To	e of SBT02 onnes) Book No	SBT02 . Page No.
BLUE	OCEAN	333	20 /12 /0	9:30	22 / 12	/09	11:30	50	111	05
Section 3										
Carrier	Previous Boat Name					Dist	. Symbol			
SBT03A	Log No:	Page No:	Mortalities	of Retained to Recorded in evious SBT0	Box 0	31	R			E
Section 4	1		Record	of Mortaliti	es Durin	g This T	low lo			
Date/Time	20/ 12 /	09 09:30	7	d a Date + No for Each 24	umber of N	Nortalities				
Date	20/12	21/12	22/12	23/12	24/13	2				
Number	5	1	3	4	2					
Date						T				
Number										
Date										
Number										
Total Mortaliti	ies During Thi	is Tow		F 15				rogressive talities (E		15
Total Mortaliti	ies Retained t	o Land During	g This Tow	G2 4				Total of M		4
Section 5	4	T	ow Cage Tr	ansferred	To Anoth				,	
Carrier	Boat Name	MISTY N	100N			Dist	. Symbol	FJ30)8	
	SBT03B Book No	333 SBT Page	03B No 2			(Date/Ti Cage Trar	me Tow nsferred	25/ 12 / 0	9 06:30
Section 6			Fish T	ransferred	To Fish	Receive	г			
Date/Tim Transfer Ende		<i>l</i> :	Receive	Name of Fi r Permit Hold					Fish Receiver ermit Number	
Section 7										
	re that the i Permit Holder			e provided	on this	form to	be a cor	mplete a	nd accurate	record.
n	SON MAN			nature 0	. Manning				Date 25	/ 12 / 09

SBT04B Log No: Page No: Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Farm Catch Disposal Record Tow Cage ID Number T600 Fish Receiver McNally Fresh Fish Permit Holder Name Carrier Boat/s Page No: Log No: Fish Receiver SBT03B Log and 9999 Permit Holder Number 15 Page No/s Progressive total of all mortalities during tow (G = SBT03B) 17 Total number of mortalities recorded from date of receipt of tow cage 2 Record the number of retained to land mortalities from the date 2 of receipt of the tow cage. Transfer from Tow Cage to Farm Farm Number Transfer Date Live Fish Count Cage No. 29/01/10 C01 4,802 30/01/10 C02 1,098 5,900 Count Total Total Number of mortalities 35 Weight Total 107675 D = C x E (E: Average Weight in Kg) Total Weight of mortalities H = F x E 638.75 (E: Average Weight in Kg) I have had the opportunity to witness the verified count conducted by AFMA's Agent and I agree with and verify the count taken. I declare that the information which I provide on the form to be a contained and accurate record. Total Weight of Fish in Kg 108313.75 Video Reference Number (1) FRP Holder E. Watson No. of Videos viewed (2) FRP Watson Date: 2 / 2 / 10 2 Video Reference Date Signature Part 2 I authorise AFMA to deduct the SBT kilos of quota rded in box I above from my/our quota holdings: SFR SFR Holder A. Brazil A. Brazil Date: 2 / 2 / 10 Signature Part 3 Boat 1 Boat 2 Boat 1 Boat 2 Purse Seine Boat Name Dist 0253 TUNA 1 Symbol Boat 2 Log No: Number of mortalities during Log No: Page No: Page No: 16 SBT02 pursing and transfer to tow cage Number of mortalities retained to land during pursing and transfer to tow cage Progressive total of retained to land mortalities during tow (G3=SBT03B) J1 Average Weight sample from Tow Cage Name of Person Sampling Sample Date Signature of Person Sampling 28 / 1 / 10 T. Smith T. Smith Average Weight in Kg No. of Fish taken from tow cage Boat 1 Boat 2 Farm Stocking Form No. 18.25 F\$AU 10 00101 42 I declare that the information which I provide on the form to be a complete and accurate record. AFMA Agent's Name AFMA Agent's Signature Т. Рорру Date: 3 / 2 / 10

Appendix C: Tow Cage Size Monitoring Report

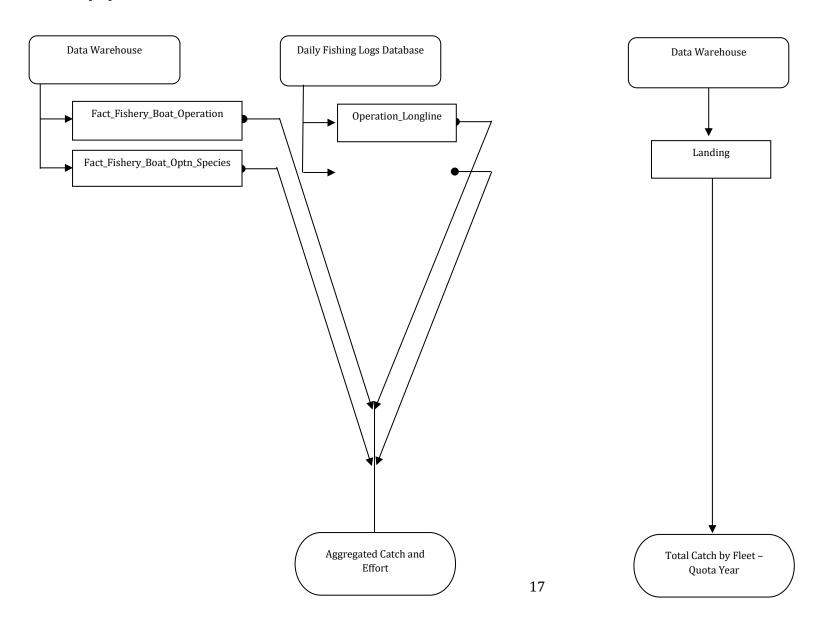
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Farm Catch per Tow Cage

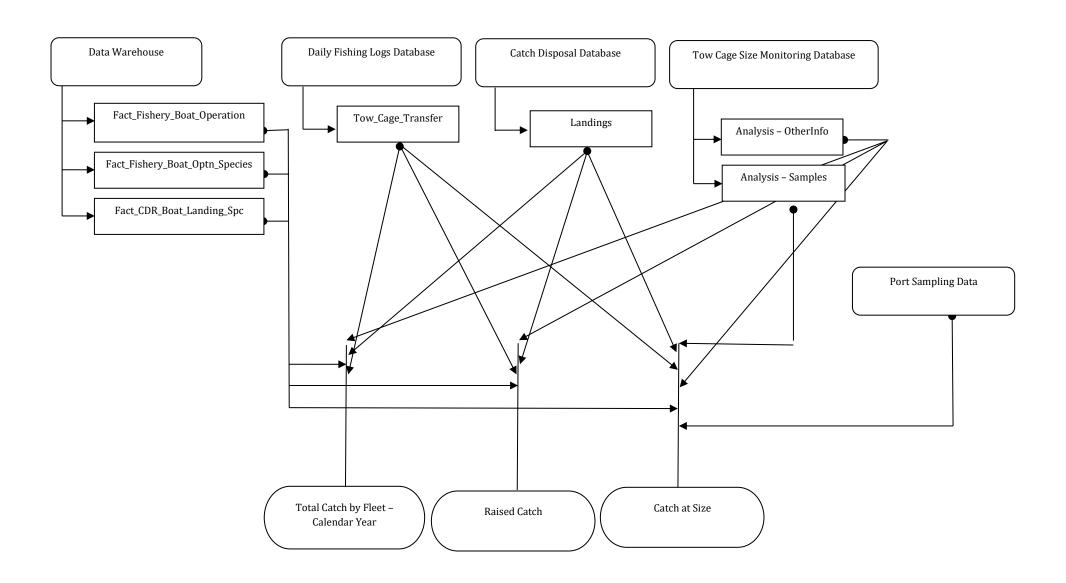
	Tow Ide	ntification		
		•		Book No. Page No.
	Catch In	formation		
		AFMA Forms		
	-			
	_			#Tunel
			_	#Type!
		Total Number of Mo	talities:	
		Total Number of Fish	n:	
	Average Weight S	ample Information	1	
ite	Witnesses	Avera	age Length	Average Weight
	Fish Count	Information		
Video Count	Tonnage	Static Cage ID	Stat	ic Cage Owner
	#Type!			
0				
	ute	Average Weight State Witnesses Fish Count	Catch Information AFMA Forms Total Weight of Fish Captured in this Tow Estimated Weight (k Total Number of Mon Total Number of Fish Average Weight Sample Information Average Witnesses Average Fish Count Information Video Count Tonnage Static Cage ID	Catch Disposal Form Fish Receiver Number: Catch Information AFMA Forms Total Weight of Fish Captured in this Tow Cage: Estimated Weight (kg): Total Number of Mortalities: Total Number of Fish: Average Weight Sample Information with the Witnesses Average Length Fish Count Information Video Count Tonnage Static Cage ID Static

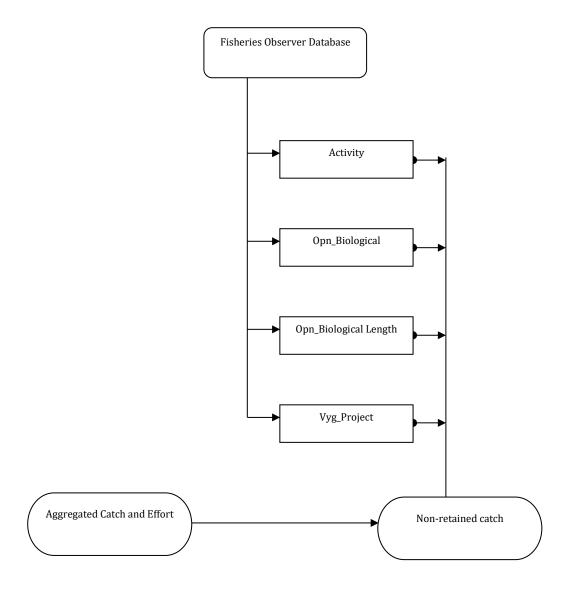
Data preparation

		To	w Identification	
Tow Cage ID Tow Number for Season		_ 	Catch Disposal Form _ Fish Receiver Number: rage Weight Data	Book No. Page No.
		AVCI	age Weight Data	
	40 Fish Sample		Number of Under 10kg	ı Fish
Weight	Length	Tag	Tamber of Orland Fore	,
			Under 10	0kg Fish
			Weight	Length

Appendix D: Flow of Data from Data Sources to Reports







References

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