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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry ABARES

Preparation of Australia's southern bluefin tuna catch and effort data submission for 2013

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CCSBT-ESC/1309/07

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 includes a new section on the data validation procedures used and a section detailing an error that was discovered in one of the queries used to derive the length frequency component of the data submission.

1 Introduction

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), 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 2013, the following reports were submitted to the data exchange:

- Aggregated Catch and Effort data 2011 and 2012
- Raised Catch 2011 and 2012
- Total Catch by Fleet 2011 and 2012 (quota and calendar year)
- Catch at Size data 2011 and 2012
- Non-retained Catches 2011 and 2012.

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
- Indonesian Longline Fishery Age and Size Composition
- Raised Catch-at-age for the Australian Surface Fishery
- CPUE series
- Aerial Survey Index
- Commercial Spotting Index.

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

2 Data Sources

For the 2013 data submission, there were four sources of data used to produce the data reports. These were: the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) 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 the 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 2013 data submission were the AL06 (pelagic longline), TPB03 (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) **Fishing_Effort** contains fishing method used and fishing effort information (e.g. number of hooks for longline operations; search hours for purse seine operations).
- 4) **Operation_Longline** contains other information on longlining operations (e.g. length of mainline).
- 5) **Operation_Pole** contains other information on poling operations (e.g. number of poles used).
- 6) **Vessel** contains information on each licensed vessel; vessel name is used to identify individual vessels when determining the number of vessels that fished.
- 7) **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.

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 Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) 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 2012. A sample of one of the reports produced by the database is given in Appendix C.

For each tow cage, fish were sampled until 40 fish 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 tows. 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 2012, 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 2011 and 2012. The AFMA observer data were also used to produce the "Non-retained Catches" reports for 2011 and 2012. 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 2011 and 2012 data submissions. 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.

3 Data Preparation

Raw data files of database tables from the AFMA Daily Fishing Logs, Catch Disposal Records and Observer databases are acquired late in the first quarter of each calendar year. The data are loaded 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 Pty Ltd. Standard queries and procedures have been established 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.

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 INGRES 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 Error in Historical Data

In 2012, it was discovered that there was an error in one of the queries used to create the length frequency component of the annual data submission. The error only relates to the number of small fish (under 10 kg) that were used in the sample number and therefore small fish are underrepresented when raised to total catch. This error effects the 2006 to 2010 data submissions. The overall number of fish remains unchanged, just the distribution of these fish into length classes has been modified. This also means that catch at age data will need to be revised. New files will be provided once the change to this historical data is accepted by CCSBT.

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Table 1 Comparison of numbers of fish in length categories between original data submissions and the revised submissions.

6 Closing Remarks

The description of data preparation and submission in this report applies to the 2011 and 2012 commercial fishery catch and effort data supplied to the CCSBT. ABARES can provide more details of data collection and data processing methods upon request.

7 References

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Eveson P, 2011 Updated growth estimates for the 1990s and 2000s, and new age-length cut points for the operating model and management procedures, CCSBT-ESC16/1107/09, CCSBT 16th Meeting of the Scientific Committee, 19–28 July 2011, Bali, Indonesia

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, TPB03, PS01A)

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with any wildlife or o on a "Wildlife and O	Did you have an interaction with any witdlife or other protected species? Please tick Yes No No No I yes, please enter details on a "Wildlife and Other Protected Species" Form at the back of this book	please tick Ye	of this	No K			Please	provide a	an estimat	e of the tir 8	Please provide an estimate of the time taken to complete this form 8 mina	olete

Appendix B

Example Catch Disposal Forms (CR4A, SBT03B, SBT04B)

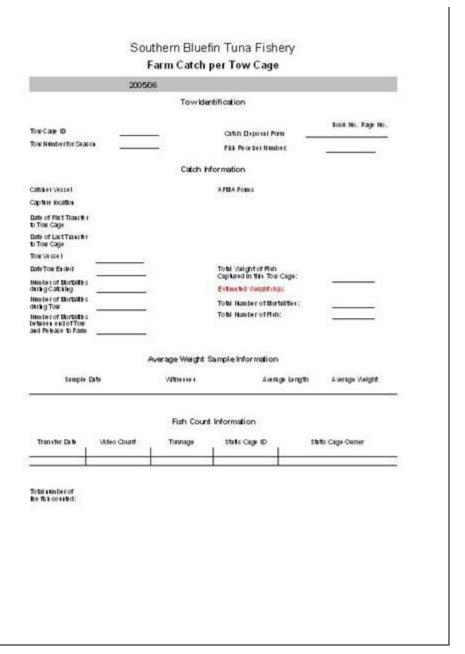
CR4A Form	
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Catch Disposal Record	Book No. Page No.
Part A: SFR Holder or Authorised Representative to	- I
Holder Tuna International P/L	Boat Name Hunter IV Dist. 0999
Area Fished Tas Vic NSW	SA WA QLD Please provide an estimate
Fishing Method Pole Purse Seine 🖌 Lor	ngline Trolling of the time taken to complete this form.
Trip Start Date 8 / 7 / 04 Trip End	Date 14 / 7 / 04 Hrs. 5 mins
Port Unloaded Tuncurry Date Unloa	
Whole Catch Consigned Part Catch Consigned	Book No. Page No. Other CR4A details
Name of Receiver Tuna Exporters P/L	
Name of Transporter Bradley Transport	Trailer Date/Time of Departure of Type of Vehicle Consignment from point of Vehicle Reg Unloading
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Truck YLT-091 14 / 7 /04 15:30
SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA	
Number Total Accurate Weight Kg Form Code	
3 300 B	
	Form Codes W means Whole Weight – No Processing
of Fish Total Accurate Weight Kg Form Code	A means SBT that has been gilled and dutted 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
I declare that the information I have provided in Part A to be a complete and accurate record.	b. the tail is not wholly removed.
SFR Holder or Authorised Representative	
Printed Name	
JOHN WELSH	
Signature & Date	
J. Welsh ! 141710	
	Forward White copy to AFMA within 24 hours of unloading.
Part B	Leave Green copy in book
l acknowledge that Leave received for transportation the amount of fish referred to in Part A.	n Send the Blue and Yellow copies with the
Printed Name of Driver	fish to the receiver of your fish.
PETER BRADLEY	
Signature & Date	
Peter Bradley 1417 10	<u>4</u>

SBT03B Southern I Farm Tran		na Fishery	,						L	og No:	Page No:
Section 1											
	Boat Name	MARY LO	U				Dist. Syml	bol DE	123		
Pe	ermit Holder	A B CUTI	ER					arrier Boat nit Number	40	0100	
Tow Cage	D Number	T800									
Fish Rec	ceived From	🗸 Purse Seir	ne Boat – C	omplete	Section	ns 1, 2, 4	and 7, then Se	ection 5 or	6		
Fish Rec	ceived From	Carrier Bo	at – Compl	ete Sectio	ons 1, 3	3, 4 and 7	, then Section	5 or 6			
Section 2	2			Trans	fer De	otails					
Name of Pu	rse Seine Boa	t Dist. Symbol		& Time nsfer Star	ted		e & Time nsfer Finished	Estim Weight (SBT02 Book No	
BLUE	OCEAN	333	20 / 12 /	09 9	:30	22 / 12	/09 11:30	5	0	111	05
Section 3 Carrier SBT03A	Previous Boat Name	Page No:	A Record Mortalitie "G3" of P	s Record	ed in B	Box G	Dist. Syml	A Record Recorde Previous	d in Box	"G" of	E
Section 4	20/ 12 /		Reco	rd a Date for Ea	+ Nun ch 24 f	nber of Me hr Period.	This Tow ortalities				
Date	20/12	21/12	22/12	23/	12	24/12	· · · ·		_		
Number Date	5	1	3	4	+	2			+		
Number					$\overline{}$				+		
Date								<u> </u>	+		
Number											
Total Mortaliti	ies During This	s Tow		F 15			N	Progress Nortalities (15
Total Mortaliti	ies Retained to	b Land During	This Tow	G2 4			Progress Retained to	ive Total of Land (G1 &			4
Section 5		То	w Cage T	ransfer	red To	Anothe	r Carrier Bo	at			
Carrier	Boat Name	MISTY M	00N				Dist. Syml	ool FJ	308		
	SBT03B Book No	333 SBTO Page	3B No 2					e/Time Tow Fransferred		12 / 0	9 06:30
Section 6	;		Fish	Transfe	rred T	o Fish R	eceiver				
Date/Tim Transfer Ende		1 :	Receiv	Name er Permit	of Fist Holde					Receiver Number	
	re that the ir Permit Holder		vhich I ha	ve prov	ided o	on this fo	orm to be a	complete	and a	ccurate	record.
	SON MANN	-	Sig	gnature	đ,	Manning			I	Date <mark>25</mark>	/ 12 / 09

SBT04B Southern Bluefi Farm Catch Disj						L	og No: Page No:
	Josai Record						
Part 1 Fish Receiver Permit Holder Name	McNally Fresh	Fish				age ID Numb	
Fish Receive Permit Holder Numbe		9			SBT03B		og No: Page No: 198 15
-	ssive total of all mor				17		
	mortalities recorded number of retained			<u> </u>	2		
			elpt of the to		2		
		Transfer	from Tow	Cage to F	arm		_
	Transfer Date	Farm N Cage			Live Fish Cou	int	
	29/01/10	CO	01		4,802		
	30/01/10	CO)2		1,098	\mathbf{x}	
							4
					OV.		
Total Num	ber of mortalities		7	Count To	tal ^c 5	5,900]
	F=A+B+J	35		Weight To		07675	ī
	Nortalities H = F x E Average Weight in Kg)	638.75		D = C rage Weight in	Kg)]
Total Weight o	f Fish In Kg 1	08313.75		AFMA's Agent	and I agree with a he information whi	nd verify the cou	count conducted by nt taken. he form to be a complete
Video Reference Num No. of Videos view	ber (1) 160	0-1		FRPH	loider	E. Watso	ht
		\rightarrow		RP	F 11.		
Video Referenc	e Date 2 / 2	/10	Signat		E, Wateon	D	ate: 2 / 2 / 10
Part 2 Lauthor	ise AFMA to deduct th	e SBT kilos of	quota record	ed in box I a	bove from my/o	ur quota holdir	nge:
SFR Holder	A. Brazil		Signat	FR ure 1	4, Brazil	D	ate: 2 / 2 / 10
Part 3	Boat 1		Boat:	2	_	Boat 1	Boat 2
Purse Seine Boat Name	-				Dist. Symbol	0253	
SBT02 12	Io: Page No: 1 4	Boat 2 Log No: P	age No:	4	16	Number of pursing and	mortalities during i transfer to tow cage
	total of retained to l Juring tow (G3=SBT)		3	•	^H 1		mortalities retained ng pursing and
	• •	Average We	and sample	e from To	w Cage		ow cage
Sample Dat			Person Sam			Signature of P	erson Sampling
28 / 1 /		T. Sm	Ith			Smith	
Average Weight In	Kg No. of Fish t	aken from tov	v cage		Boa		Boat 2
E 18.25	4	2		Fam Stocking Form No	FSAU 10		
I declare that the inf	ormation which I pro	vide on the	form to be a		-	ecord.	
AFMA Agent's Name	Т. Рорру		AFMA Age Signal	nt's <i>T. I</i>	Рорру	Dat	e: 3 / 2 / 10

Appendix C

Tow Cage Size Monitoring Report



	2005/06				
		Towider	ntification		
Tow Caye ID			Cath Disposal Form		Book No. Page No.
four Number for Season	. <u> </u>		Pick Receiver Number	t.	· ?
		Average V	Veight Data		
	46 Rith Sample		Number of Un	der Hillig R	sh 0
We get	Length	тај		Under 194g	1 M 45
				egat	Leagth

Appendix D

Flow of Data from Data Sources to Reports

