



WPB13: BILLFISH DATASETS AVAILABLE

LAST UPDATED: 01/09/2015

The following datasets are available for download. Please inform the IOTC Secretariat if you encounter any problems accessing the data. The data have been submitted to several validation procedures at the Secretariat; however, the procedures may not be exhaustive enough to uncover all potential problems.

If you discover any major inconsistencies in the data, please contact the Secretariat as soon as possible at: secretariat@iotc.org or data.assistant@iotc.org

Data Catalogues

The file [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA02--Catalogue.pdf](#) (as of 27-08-2015) contains information on the amount of nominal catches strata for which catch and effort and/or size frequency data are available by species.

Data for the stock assessment of Striped marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish

The excel file [IOTC-2015-WPB-DATA03-SA_Rev1.xls](#) (as of 16-07-2015) contains the data for the stock assessments of Striped marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish (1950–2013), as prepared by the IOTC Secretariat. Please refer to the worksheet NOTES within the Excel file for reference.

Striped marlin – by area:

- The excel file [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA04 JPN LL CPUE.zip](#) (as of 20-07-2015) contains the Stripe marlin CPUE indices by area derived for the deep-freezing longline fleets of Japan as provided by the scientists concerned (1976-2013). Note that this file will be updated if new estimates are provided by the scientists concerned.
- The excel file [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA05 TWN-CHN LL CPUE.zip](#) (as of 20-07-2015) contains the Striped marlin CPUE indices by area derived for the deep-freezing longline fleets of Taiwan,China, as provided by the scientists concerned (1980-2013). Note that this file will be updated if new estimates are provided by the scientists concerned.

Striped marlin – all areas:

- The excel file [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA15 JPN LL CPUE \(All areas\).zip](#) (as of 01-09-2015) contains the Striped marlin CPUE indices (all areas) derived for the deep-freezing longline fleets of Japan as provided by the scientists concerned (1976-2013). Note that this file will be updated if new estimates are provided by the scientists concerned.



Indo-Pacific sailfish – all areas

- The excel file [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA16 SFA CPUE.zip](#) (as of 01-09-2015) contains the Indo-Pacific sailfish CPUE indices, as provided by the scientists concerned (1950-2014). Note that this file will be updated if new estimates are provided by the scientists concerned.

Nominal Catches

Total catch estimates per Fleet, Year, Gear, IOTC Area and species. The catches not reported by species or gear were assigned by gear and/or species by the Secretariat, using information from alternative sources. The catches estimated for 1950-2014 and details about the data source and data quality can be found in the Excel spreadsheet [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA06.zip](#) (as of 29-07-2015) (compressed with WinZip).

Catch and Effort

Catch and effort data (as of 29-07-2015) are presented as three different files (csv files compressed with WinZip):

- vessels using drifting longlines — [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA07-CELongline.zip](#)
- vessels using pole and lines or purse seines — [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA08-CESurface.zip](#)
- vessels using gears other than those referred to above — [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA09-CECoastal.zip](#)

Or click here if you want to download the above three files in one go [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA10-CEALL.zip](#)

Catches (in tonnes or/and in number) and effort are recorded per Fleet, Year, Gear, Type of School, Time Interval (month or quarter usually), grid (usually 1 degree square areas for surface gears and 5 degrees square areas for longlines) and species.

Catches and effort are not available for all Nominal catches strata. When recorded, the catches in these datasets might represent the total catches of the species in the year for the fleet and gear concerned or represent simply a sample of those.

More details about the catch and effort information available and the way in which the above text files might be read can be found in [IOTC-2014-WPB12-DATA11-CEref.zip](#) (compressed with WinZip).

Size frequency data

The size frequency data available in the IOTC databases is presented in [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA12-SFBIL.zip](#) (xls file compressed with WinZip); it includes all size data available for **swordfish, black marlin, blue marlin, striped marlin, and Indo-Pacific sailfish** (as of 29-07-2015).

The following standard lengths are used for billfish species:



- Fork length: straight length from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail. Used for swordfish (SWO), striped marlin (MLS), and Indo-Pacific sailfish (SFA);
- Eye to fork length: straight length from the eye orbit to the fork of the tail. Used for blue marlin (BUM), and black marlin (BLM).

All size data strata not recorded as standard length was converted into standard length by using the equations available for each species. Fish recorded under size class intervals other than those used for billfish species was assigned to the corresponding size class interval(s) for each species (first class is 15cm for all billfish species and class interval is 3cm).

Equations: The equations used to estimate standard lengths from non-standard measurements and to estimate weight from the available lengths can be found in [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA13-Equations.pdf](#) (as of 29-07-2015)

Details about the type of SF data available can be found in [IOTC-2015-WPB13-DATA14-SFref.zip](#) (compressed with WinZip) (as of 29-07-2015).

Further information:

For any questions regarding the datasets published by the IOTC Secretariat, please contact secretariat@iotc.org or data.assistant@iotc.org