

IOTC size data review: Status update

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Project objectives

- Review the procedures used for the collection and processing of size data from large-scale tuna longline fisheries in the Indian Ocean
 - Review data types, sources, validation and processing
 - Address quality concerns
 - Compare data from different sources
 - Explore reasons for discrepancies, in particular the marked decrease in small fish from Taiwanese fleet
 - In coordination with stock assessment expert, consider effects on assessments
 - Where needed, recommend changes to size data collection and processing
 - Report to IOTC WPs and SC
 - Liaise with other RFMOs

Current status

- Review data types, sources, validation and processing
 - Discussions and interviews with data providers complete.
- Address quality concerns
 - Advised by Taiwan about reasons for data problems, which datasets are unlikely to be representative, and which can be used.
- Delays
 - Original reporting schedule was WPTT October 2019.
 - Data provision completed 6 March 2020, reporting rescheduled to 2020.
 - Data sharing agreements with Japan and Korea
 - Originally expired 30 November 2019, extended to 31 March 2020.
 - Need further extension to 30 November 2020.