
PROPOSAL FOR A TECHNICAL DATA WORKSHOP TO SUPPORT THE REPORTING OF FISHERIES STATISTICS TO THE IOTC

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, LAST UPDATED: 15TH NOVEMBER 2023

Purpose

To encourage participants at the 19th Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS19) or other representatives from CPCs to participate in the technical data workshop to be conducted by the IOTC Secretariat next year.

Background

Last year the WPDCS18 express concern that non-reporting of fishery data continues to fundamentally affect the quality of stock assessments and management of IOTC species (particularly neritic tunas and billfish), and that the overall quality and reporting coverage is disproportionately related to a number of CPCs important for artisanal fisheries, and agreed to reflect the urgent need for improvements in the program of work, by prioritising those activities that focus on data collection and management of artisanal and small-scale fisheries. Also, the Secretariat proposed a new approach for a more rigorous characterization of the fisheries of relevance to the IOTC, together with updated data reporting forms for the submission of statistical data and reference data catalogue for supporting the data submissions. The WPDCS AGREED on the new electronic forms for the reporting of fisheries statistics and RECOMMENDED that the SC ENDORSE them, NOTING that they will greatly assist data management tasks by the Secretariat, as well as ensuring that all data are reported to the IOTC in a consistent manner.

Proposal for the IOTC technical data workshop

The aim of the workshop will be to provide guidance for the use of the updated IOTC reporting forms, as the familiarization with the [Data reference catalog](#) and [fisheries identification wizard](#); tools developed by IOTC DATA Section to support the improvement of the IOTC member countries to report data from all their fleet segments, in accordance with the requirements of the Resolutions 15/01 and 15/02.

The workshop is designed for professionals involved in National data collection and reporting systems, but also open to all CPCs professionals who are interested to learn more about the IOTC data process as well and opportunity to exchange experiences and practices about the systems in place for each of the members.

The workshop will consist in a number of sessions that will cover:

Overview of data collection and reporting related to IOTC Resolutions

This section will consist in a full review of the IOTC Conservation and management Measures in place related with statistical data reporting, identifying the data requirements of each resolution and how those are transposed to the mandatory data elements of each data set that are required to report by a given CPCs or fishery according the IOTC reporting cycle.

IOTC Characterization of fisheries

This section will be an exercise in which the participants will be mapping the active fisheries in the IOTC and subject to reporting obligations by the [fisheries Identification wizard](#) developed by the Secretariat to support a better characterization and codification of fisheries catching tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean.

How to report statistical data to the IOTC Secretariat

After the fisheries mapping exercise the participants will have their fisheries characterized and identified accordingly with the new coding system. The following step will be the review of the updated IOTC reporting forms in parallel with the [Data reference catalog](#). This tool works together to ensure that the data submitted to the Secretariat complies with the IOTC data standard requirements.

The participant will be encouraged to test their available data for the following submission cycle, or in case that this not be possible perform the exercise with previous data available. The next task will consist in simulating a full submission of the statistical data filling the forms accordingly with the new format and code system.

Data validation process

The final exercise will consist in the validation of the forms by the Online data validation system. Examples of the potential errors to be encountered will be part of the exercise as well a review and the possible ways to amend the issues encountered to ensure a successful final submission of the data.

Open discussions are expected in all the sessions to allow the participants to highlight the difficulties or setbacks hindering on the data reporting as well an opportunity to test the tools developed by the Secretariat and receive feedback for improvement.

Workshop dates and location

The Secretariat expects to develop two workshops, one for the countries of the eastern region and one for the countries of the western region in order to facilitate the attendance and logistics of the participants. Dates and places to host the workshop sessions needs to be defined.