
Preliminary evaluation of the ROS and EMS data fields for the Pole and Line Fishery

1. Mandatory fields proposed to be optional

1.1. Special Equipment or Machinery

- As this field is not being used for CPUE standardization, **Live Bait Tanks Capacity** we propose to keep this optional.

1.2. Fishing Operation

- With the current EM technology, **School Sighting Cues and School Types** may not be possible to detect. We suggest making this field optional, to be revised at a later date. VMS data can be used to ascertain fishing around aFADs as there is a registry of aFADs installed.
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1.3. Depredation Details

- **Depredation Source** is not possible to be recorded for each specimen, as depredated specimen will not be landed on deck. This fish will be eaten whole most of the time.
- **Predators Observed** will also not be possible to record with EM.

1.4. Catch Details

- During a fishing event, the catches will be landed on deck and put in the holds within a matter of minutes. Hence, it is not possible for EM to record the **Number** and **Weight** of the individual specimens as described. This information can be collected through port sampling and logbooks, and the total weight of the catches can also be estimated.

2. Mandatory fields not applicable

2.1. Fishing Operations

- **Sampling Protocol** – the as described is not applicable as in this fishery poles are used to fish, instead of lines as stated.

3. Other Suggested changes to the Data Fields

3.1. Observed Trip Summary

- As pole and line fishing trips are significantly shorter compared to any other gear type trips, we suggest including the option of recording the **Number of Days**

Searching and **Number active fishing days** fields in **Hours** as well, whenever applicable.

3.2. Tuna Fishing Event

- Fishing during pole and line fishing trips are recorded as **Event Number**. So, we suggest renaming the **Set Number** as such.

3.3. Vessel Daily Activity Information

- The vessel activity **Time** should be recorded as at the start of every fishing activity and every two hours from sunrise to sunset or until the end of the trip.
- The vessel **Position** should be recorded as at the start of every fishing activity and every two hours from sunrise to sunset or until the end of the trip.

4. Fields that are Mandatory which are difficult to record with EM

4.1. Catch Details

- **Species** of each fish brought onboard is impossible to record with the technology available right now as the catch will be, almost immediately, put in the hold after it is brought on deck.
- As pole and line fishing events are very short (in most instances this is a matter of minutes) it would be near impossible for EM to record the **Fate** of each catch.
- In pole and line fishing trips the human observers we have onboard also use their experience to determine the species composition of tuna species. This is based on a number of factors such as school type etc. For EM we will have to use a similar approach to ascertain species composition as it is a high volume fishery that a lot of action takes place over a short period of time. The electronic logbook reports that will be submitted before the catch is landed will also be used to tease out species composition. So, having the **Sampling Methods for Obtaining Total Catch Estimates per Species** mandatory will be a challenge.

5. Fields suggested to be removed

5.1. Vessel Daily Activity Information

- Suggest removing the **Activity** field under this section. Trip start and end time, as well as the fishing event start and ends times are already being recorded, which are the relevant data to be recorded for pole and line fishing trips.

5.2. Bait Biometric Information

- As bait biometric information is not collected as part of tuna stock research and as bait is not a species managed by IOTC, **fields under this section** should be removed.

5.3. Bait Tag Details

- As bait tagging activities are not possible and as bait is not a species managed by IOTC, **fields under this section** should be removed.

5.4. Bait Fishing Event, Bait Catch Details, Bait Specimen Information, Bait Additional Details on Non-Target Species and Bait Additional Catch Details on SSIs

- As bait is not a species managed by IOTC, **fields under these section** should be removed.
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