

WPNT DATA OVERVIEW – STRUCTURE, CONTENTS, AND CODE LISTS

IOTC Secretariat

Datasets Overview

This document lists the datasets made available for the Data Preparatory Meeting of the 15th session of the IOTC Working Party on Neritic Tunas [WPTNT15](#). These data have undergone several validation procedures by the Secretariat; however, these procedures may not be sufficiently comprehensive to identify all potential issues.

Code Lists

The datasets contain codes that are available from the [IOTC Reference Data Catalogue](#), as well as from the GitHub repositories of the IOTC Secretariat (<https://github.com/iotc-secretariat/iotc-data-reference-codelists>) and the Fisheries Data Interoperability Working Group (<https://github.com/fdiwg/fdi-codelists/tree/main/regional/iotc>).

Retained Catches

Retained (formerly “nominal”) catch (RC) data correspond to the total annual estimates of fish caught, expressed in live weight equivalent (metric tonnes, t), and retained by fishing fleet, fishery, IOTC main area, retention reason, and species.

Catches that were not reported by individual species or gear have been assigned to the appropriate gear type and/or species by the Secretariat following methodologies endorsed by the Scientific Committee.

As of 1st July 2025, retained catches for the period 1950–2023 are available in the zipped CSV file at [IOTC-2025-WPNT15-DATA02](#).

Geo-Referenced Catches and Efforts

Geo-referenced catch and effort (CE) data are available for all fishery categories (longline, surface, and other gears) reported to the Secretariat. Catches (in tonnes and/or numbers of individuals) are recorded by fishing fleet, year, gear, type of school, time interval (usually monthly), spatial stratum (typically CWP square grids of 1°×1° for surface fisheries and 5°×5° for longline fisheries), and species. Effort data are recorded by fishing fleet, year, gear, type of school, time interval, and spatial stratum, but are not stratified by species.

Please note that not all fisheries reported catches, and therefore geo-referenced data are not available for all retained catch strata. Some recorded geo-referenced catches do not represent the total catches of all species for the relevant fleet and gear in a given year, but rather constitute only a sample.

Additionally, except for longline fisheries, the IOTC does not prescribe specific units for effort reporting, which may result in variability in the nature of effort data available over time.

As of 1st July 2025, geo-referenced catches for the period 1950–2023 are available in the zipped CSV file at [IOTC-2025-WPNT15-DATA03](#).

Geo-Referenced Size Frequencies

Size-frequency (SF) data represent the number of fish in the catch, classified by fishing fleet, year, gear, type of school, time interval (usually monthly), spatial stratum (typically CWP square grids of 5° × 5°), and fork length class. These datasets may originate from samples or have been raised to represent the total catch (see [Raising code list](#)).

Size measurements have been consolidated following the processing steps described in [IOTC-2020-WPDCS16-16](#). Table 1 listed the conversion factors and morphometric relationships officially used to convert neritic and seerfish species size measurements to fork lengths

As of 1st July 2025, size-frequency data for the period 1952–2023 are available in the zipped CSV files at:

- [IOTC-2025-WPNT15-DATA04](#)

Table1. IOTC reference length-weight power relationships for Indian Ocean neritic tunas and seerfish. FL = fork length (cm); TL = total length (cm); RD = round weight (kg)

Code	Species	Length type	a	b	Min length	Max length	Reference
LOT	Longtail tuna	FL	2.0000e-05	2.83000	40	120	Kaymaram et al. (2011)
KAW	Kawakawa	FL	2.6000e-05	2.90000	20	65	IPTP (1989)
FRI	Frigate tuna	FL	1.7000e-05	3.00000	20	45	IPTP (1989)
BLT	Bullet tuna	FL	1.7000e-05	3.00000	10	40	IPTP (1989)
COM	Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	FL	1.1760e-05	2.90020	20	200	IPTP (1989)
GUT	Indo-Pacific king mackerel	TL	1.0000e-05	2.89445	15	68	Dutta et al. (2012)