

## **NOTE UPON ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC STATISTICAL NEEDS OF PURSE SEINERS FLEETS DURING THE IOTTP**

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The tagging programme presently planned by the IOTC, the so-called IOTTP (Indian Ocean Tuna Tagging Programme), will introduce new statistical requirements. These new statistical needs will be essential to allow a full efficiency of the data processing of tag recoveries.

The major new statistical requirement will be in relation with the tracability of fish marketing. In the present statistical system, the only requirement is to know the landed weight of tunas at the end of each trip. A new statistical requirement should now be introduced as soon as possible (for instance early in 2003) in the IOTC statistical system during the IOTTP. In this new system, the following information should be recorded set by set, and fully computerized in all national data bases :

- If the fish is landed by the vessel in the landing port, targeting a local cannery.
- Or if the fish is transhipped on a reefer, and in this case the final destination (port) of this reefer.

This information will be used in conjunction with the estimates of rates of tag "identification" by fishermen and canneries that will be estimated for each port and landing process/final market (using results obtained from tag seeding experiments that will be planned by the IOTTP). This information upon marketing itineraries will be essential to allow to do optimal analysis of tag recovery rates.

In practical terms, these new information should be (1) collected by the various national offices that are already collecting log book data in landing ports and (2) introduced in the log book data base. Ideally, this new market information should be collected for every set and for all tuna transhipped or landed in the ports of Victoria, Antsiranana, Mombasa and Phuket. In terms of data base, this additional information should be incorporated, set by set, in an improved log book data base (AVDTH or WINTUNA). It should also be planned in this additional data coding that some sets of mixed sizes and species could possibly be marketed towards different markets (for instance with a mixture of small tunas canned in Seychelles and large yellowfin sent to Italy). It should also be noted and kept in mind that this new information could be of wide interest at national levels in order to allow economical studies; such information should then be interesting to be maintained in the landing data bases after the IOTTP.

For practical reasons of confidentiality, this detailed set-by-set information will not be submitted to the IOTC. However, this additional information should be fully operational and available to the IOTC experts and IOTC working groups that will be in charge of the data processing and analysis of recovery rates. A full consistency of the tag-recoveries and log book data bases should be well planned in advance in order to allow this future integrated analysis.