

## IOTC Working Party on Billfish:

### Data available

(as of March 2006)

#### Data Catalogues:

The file **CAT\_BILL06.pdf** contains information on the amount of nominal catches strata for which catch and effort and/or size frequency data are available for billfish species (Catalogues on Data Availability for billfish species). The assumed qualities of the nominal catches, catches and effort, and size frequency data available for each strata are also presented (Catalogues on data quality for billfish species).

#### Nominal Catches:

Total catch estimates per Fleet, Year, Gear, IOTC Area and species. The catches not reported per species or gear were assigned to the corresponding gears and/or species by the Secretariat.

The catches estimated for 1950-2004 and details about the data source and data quality can be found in the spreadsheet:

**NCBIL.xls** (compressed with WinZip)

#### Catches and Effort:

Catch and effort data are presented as three different files:

- vessels using drifting longlines — **CELL.txt**
- vessels using pole and lines or purse seines — **CEPSBB.txt**
- vessels using gears other than those referred to above — **CEOTHR.txt**

Catches (in tonnes or/and in number) and effort are recorded per Fleet, Year, Gear, Type of School, Time Interval (month or quarter usually), grid (usually 1 degree square areas for surface gears and 5 degrees square areas for longlines) and species.

Catches and effort are not available for all Nominal catches strata. When recorded, the catches in these datasets might represent the total catches of the species in the year for the fleet and gear concerned or represent simply a sample of those.

More details about the catch and effort information available and the way in which the above text files might be read can be found in **ReadMeCE.xls**

#### Raised catches per area for swordfish (New):

The Secretariat estimated catches of swordfish per fleet, gear, (School type), year, month and 5 degrees square grid from the available nominal catches. These can be found in **C\_SWO\_raised.csv** (compressed with WinZip)

The catches for all available strata were assigned per month and 5 degrees square area. More details about this process can be found in **CAS\_TablesSWO.xls** (see size frequency data below)

**Size frequency data:**

The available data on the sizes of billfish species caught by the different fisheries are presented in two different formats:

(Raw) size frequency data: all data available for marlins, Indo-Pacific sailfish and short-billed spearfish is presented in the following text files:

**SF\_BUM\_030306.txt** contains the data available for the blue marlin (BUM)

**SF\_BLM\_030306.txt** contains the data available for the black marlin (BLM)

**SF\_MLS\_030306.txt** contains the data available for the striped marlin (MLS)

**SF\_SFA\_030306.txt** contains the data available for the Indo-Pacific sailfish (SFA)

**SF\_SSP\_030306.txt** contains the data available for the short-billed spearfish (SSP)

All files are contained in the WinZip file **SF\_BILL\_030306.zip**

Only the available data are shown in this case. Data, when available, might refer to size data raised to the total catches in the strata concerned or to the original sample data. More details about the amount of data available and information contained in the above text files can be found in **ReadMeSF.xls** (compressed with WinZip).

(Processed) size frequency data or Catch-at-Size data: The available size data for swordfish was raised to the total catches recorded for the species. The results of this process are presented as:

The estimated size frequency data per Fleet, gear, (type of school), year, quarter and 5 degrees square areas are recorded in **CAS\_SWOdet.csv**

The above data in aggregated format are presented in **CAS\_TablesSWO.xls**. The latter spreadsheet contains also information on how the catch-at-size tables were generated, amount of data substitution required, average weights estimated from the estimated data and other information.

**For further information:**

Please, do not hesitate to contacting the IOTC Secretariat ([mh@iotc.org](mailto:mh@iotc.org) or [data.assistant@iotc.org](mailto:data.assistant@iotc.org)) if you have any question regarding these datasets.