ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

EIGHTEENTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES (Noumea, New Caledonia, 4-9 August 1986)

PROPOSED REVISION OF THE REGIONAL DAILY CATCH REPORT FORMS

(Paper prepared by the Secretariat)

The South Pacific Commission Tuna and Billfish Assessment Progamme has, as one of its main priorities, the responsibility of establishing and maintaining catch and effort statistics of commercially important tuna and billfish for stock assessment purposes in the Western Pacific. The majority of this data comes from logsheets filled out by foreign fishing vessels in fulfilment of the vessels' access agreement. It has now been eight years since the introduction of a standardized South Pacific Commission regional form for reporting daily catch and effort for the large scale commercial tuna fisheries in the region. The TBAP is pleased to report that significant progress has been made on the adoption of these forms and that the major portion of the data that we now receive comes on the standard forms.

As could be expected, the experience we have gained with these forms and their associated data suggest some possibilities for improvement. The revisions proposed were designed to provide continuity of the current data base, improve the usefulness of the data, make the forms easier to fill out, and coincide with the tuna research needs within the South Pacific Commission region.

Changes to the logsheets have been generally suggested in response to problems we have encountered with lack of sufficient specificity, or clarity of the data item requested. Added items included on the revised forms request information that is already maintained on board most vessels and may encourage the logsheets routine use by vessel operators for their recording purposes as well.

Categories have been added to explicitly include bigeye tuna. Thunnus obesus, on the purse seine and pole and line forms in order to gain more data on this important species. Although the juvenile bigeye most often caught by these gears are difficult to distinguish from juveniles of the yellowfin, Thunnus albacares, most fishermen should be able to make this distinction. Skipjack. Katsuwonus pelamis, has been explicitly included in the revised longline form because we have had them reported in sufficient quantity under "others" category, they have been historically recorded by the Japanese, and, as skipjack caught by longline gear are generally larger and older, it is of biological interest to have this data. On the proposed longline forms we have also provided a code to allow distinction in recording between the southern bluefin tuna. Thunnus maccovii and the northern bluefin tuna. Thunnus thynnus.

In addition, translation of the instructions and forms into the languages of the major DWFNs are being investigated. Much of the data reporting problems have stemmed from language barrier problems and translation of the forms would obviously encourage more accurate reporting.

The following pages include the revised instructions, logsheets, and further notes of the changes for catch reporting forms for distant water pole-and-line vessels, purse seine, and longline vessels.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING DAILY TUNA CATCH RECORD PURSE SEINE VESSELS

CATCH REPORT FOR THE WATERS OF - Give country in whose waters vessel is fishing, e.g. Papua New Guinea.

YEAR - Give current calendar year, e.g. 1986.

VESSEL NAME - Give name in full, e.g. Western Pacific. For group seine operations, give the name of the catcher vessel.

COUNTRY OF REGISTRATION - e.g. USA.

REGISTRATION NUMBER - Official number given by country of registration, e.g. 564010.

<u>6ROSS REGISTERED TONNAGE</u> - To nearest tenth of a tonne, e.g. 985.9.

<u>GROUP SEINER VESSELS</u> - If your vessel is part of a group seine operation, give the names of all other vessels in the operation, e.g. name the carrier vessels, search vessels etc. that you are working with.

NET LENGTH AND DEPTH - Give net dimensions in fathoms or metres but specify which.

LICENCE/PERMIT NUMBER - Give complete number of permit allowing you to fish in these waters, e.g. PNG 82/1234

NAME OF CAPTAIN - Give name in full.

<u>PERMIT HOLDER'S SIGNATURE</u> - Must be signed by the permit holder as the person accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the catch declaration.

<u>AERIAL ASSISTANCE</u> - Indicate whether or not your vessel uses aerial assistance at any stage of the fishing operation, i.e. searching and/or setting.

<u>WEIGHT UNITS</u> - Indicate whether pounds and short tons are used or kilograms and metric tonnes to record size ranges and catch for each species.

DEPARTURE PORT - Give full name of port and date from which this cruise started, e.g. Hawaii 86-09-25.

<u>UNLOADING PORT(S)</u> - Give full name and dates of all ports entered for unloading but not termination of the cruise, e.g. Guam 86-11-14. **NOTE:** Include as an unloading port, any transfer of catch to another vessel, giving the name of the vessel as the port of unloading name.

ARRIVAL PORT- Give full name of port and date at which the cruise is terminated, e.g. San Diego 87-01-01.

NUMBER OF CREW - Give total number of officers and crew on board.

DATE - Give the month then the day for all days, regardless of whether or not the vessel was fishing.

BEAUFORT SCALE - Give the Beaufort wind scale from 0 - 12, e.g. 2, for a day when wind was 4-6 knots.

<u>SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE</u> - Record the sea surface temperature at noon position for each day to the nearest tenth degree centigrade, e.g. 27.6° C.

VESSEL SEARCH TIME - Give the total hours spent looking for schools of fish from the vessel

<u>AERIAL SEARCH TIME</u> - Give the total hours spent looking for schools of fish from the air. Do not include aircraft time spent setting net or other purpose than actually searching for fish.

ACTIVITY - Give a code number, using the codes provided, to record the day's activity, e.g. 1 for a day spent at sea not fishing.

<u>SET NUMBER</u> - Space for 3 sets per day are provided. If more are made in one day, carry it over to next set of rows. If no sets are made, use the first row to give noon position corresponding to the daily records to the left.

SET OR NOON POSITION - Give, for all sets, latitude and longitude to the nearest minute, and add N or S for north or south latitude and E or W for east or west longitude. On days where no sets are made, give noon position

<u>SCHOOL TYPE</u> - Give a code number, using the codes provided, for school type. Select a code on the basis of the principal feature of the school.

TIME SET - Give the local time in hours and minutes of when the set began, e.g. 1125 hrs.

<u>CATCH AND SIZE RANGE</u> - Record the total catch retained for each species in metric tonnes or short (US) tons as specified in heading. Give the size range in kilograms (or pounds) for each species, e.g. 1.5 - 2.5 kg for skipjack

OTHER SPECIES - Give the code(s) of the dominant species of any other fish retained, using the codes provided, and record total catch of this group

WELLS - Give well numbers in which the catch from the set was loaded.

<u>DISCARDS</u> - All discarded fish must be recorded. These include all species caught but not retained on board or recorded as part of the total catch. Use the code key provided to identify the species.

NOTES ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO SPC PURSE SEINE LOGSHEETS:

CURRENT VERSION	PROPOSED REVISION	REASON
***	Net Length	Added in order to monitor gear development changes and effort, as may affect fishing power.
***	· Net Depth	Added in order to monitor gear development changes and effort, as may affect fishing power.
***	Aerial Assistance	To be used to monitor effort measures related to fishing power.
***	Weight Unit	There has been some confusion regarding the weight unit used on the current forms. The proposed revision includes this information to clarify whether metric or standard units are used on the logsheet.
***	Unloading Port(s)	Records show that port of arrival, asked in the current forms, often does not reflect the port of unloading. Port of unloading is useful for determining overall fleet activities and for structuring more detailed sampling.
***	Beaufort Scale	This item added to provide a record of weather conditions as may affect fishing activities.
***	Vessel Search Time	In order to gain information on school abundance and effort, sighting data are an important statistical component for stock assessment purposes.
***	Aerial Search Time	In order to gain information on school abundance and effort, sighting data are an important statistical component for stock assessment purposes.
Comment Codes	Activity Codes	"Activity" provides a more accurate description of the codes requested.

^{***} This item does not appear on currently used SPC logsheets.

CURRENT YERSION	PROPOSED REVISION	REASON
Average weight	Size Range (wt)	Average weights are difficult to estimate and may not be descriptive of the sizes of fish caught. Size ranges are easier to record and more accurately reflect the size composition of the catches.
***	Well Nos.	This item is useful to trace catches to cannery receipts for verification of actual versus reported catch and to aid in more detailed sampling by area—time strata.
***	Billfish No. (Discards)	In order to monitor billfish catch by seiners, this item was included in the proposed revised forms.

GENERAL

In attempting to design a logsheet useful for effective stock monitoring yet not too difficult to fill out, distribute and receive, the current purse seine logsheet has been modified to what may be considered the basic information required. The overall layout has been broken down into heading information, daily information, and individual set information. The change in format allows for more detail on general daily conditions while retaining the information at the set level. The forms currently in use are filled out for individual sets, with no real provision for recording essential daily information. Furthermore, in filling out the currently used SPC logsheet, there has been some confusion and some sets have gone unrecorded, particularly for days when more than one set was made.

On the proposed logsheets, codes describing activities, school types, and species for "others" and "discards" were modified to avoid ambiguities experienced with the current forms.

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ALB - Albacore, Binnaga

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2 - Rippler/Breezer

3 - Birds only

7 - Animals (whales, shark)

6 - Any other reason for no sets.

OTH - Other Species

SHK - Shark

BET - Bigeye, Mebachi

RRU - Rainbow Runner

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING DAILY TUNA CATCH RECORD POLE-AND-LINE VESSELS

CATCH REPORT FOR THE WATERS OF - Give country in whose waters vessel is fishing, e.g. Papua New Guinea.

YEAR - Give calendar year to which this catch report refers year, e.g. 1986.

MONTH - Give month to which this catch report refers. Use numbers from 1 - 12 for January to December, e.g. 9 for September.

VESSEL NAME - Give name in full, e.g. Hatsutori Maru No. 5

COUNTRY OF REGISTRATION - e.g. Japan.

REGISTRATION NUMBER - Official number given by country of registration, e.g. TK1-970.

GROSS REGISTERED TONNAGE - To nearest tenth of a tonne, e.g. 254.9.

NUMBER OF AUTOMATIC POLES - Record the number of automatic poles used regularly.

NUMBER OF CREW - Give total number of officers and crew on board.

LICENCE/PERMIT NUMBER - Give complete number of permit which allows you to fish these waters, e.g. PNG 82/1234.

NAME OF CAPTAIN - Give name in full.

<u>PERMIT HOLDERS SIGNATURE</u> - Must be signed by the permit holder as the person accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the catch declaration.

MAJOR BAIT SPECIES - Give common name of the 2 most important species used.

DEPARTURE PORT - Give full name of port and date from which this cruise started, e.g. Shimizu 86-09-25.

<u>UNLOADING PORT(S)</u> - Give full name and dates of all ports entered for unloading but not termination of the cruise, e.g. Yaizu 86-11-14. **NOTE:** Include as an unloading port, any transfer of catch to another vessel, giving the name of the vessel as the port of unloading.

ARRIVAL PORT - Give full name of port and date at which the cruise is terminated, e.g. Yokosuka 87-01-01.

DAY - Days of the month are numbered and should be filled out correspondingly. Use only one sheet per calendar month,

NOON POSITION - Give latitude and longitude to the nearest minute, and add N or S for north or south latitude and E or W for east or west longitude.

<u>ACTIVITY</u> - Give a code number, using the codes provided, for record of the day's activity, e.g. 1 for a full day in transit.

BEAUFORT SCALE - Give the Beaufort wind scale from 0 - 12, e.g. 2, for a day when wind was 4-8 knots

HOURS SPENT SEARCHING - Give the total hours spent looking for schools of fish during the day.

AMOUNT OF BAIT ON BOARD - Give the amount in kilograms of live bait on board at the start of the day.

AMOUNT OF BAIT CHUMMED - Give the estimated amount, in kilograms, of live bait used on all schools fished and chummed that day.

NO. OF SCHOOLS CHUMMED - Give the total number of schools chummed during the day.

NO. OF POSITIVE RESPONSES – Give the number of schools from which fish were caught, i.e. a positive response to the bait chummed.

<u>CATCH AND SIZE RANGE</u> - Record the total catch for each species in metric tonnes. Give the size range by weight for each species, e.g. 1.5 - 2.5 kg for skipjack.

OTHER SPECIES - For all other species caught give, using the codes provided, the species and total catch in tonnes.

NOTES ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO SPC POLE-AND-LINE LOGSHEETS:

CURRENT VERSION	PROPOSED REVISION	REASON
* * *	Number of Automatic Poles	The number of poles used while fishing is included in the proposed revision because it is directly related to vessel fishing power.
***	Unloading Port(s)	Records show that port of arrival, asked in the current forms, often does not reflect the port of unloading. Port of unloading is useful for determining overall fleet activities and for structuring more detailed sampling.
Comment Codes	Activity Codes	"Activity" provides a more accurate description of the codes requested.
***	Beaufort Scale	This item is added to provide a record of weather conditions as may affect fishing activities.
***	Hours Spent Searching	In order to gain information on school abundance and effort, sighting data are included as an important statistical component for stock assessment purposes.
***	Amount of Bait on board	Measures of effort for pole-and-line vessels need considerable standardization and factors, such as the quantity of bait on board, are included in the proposed revised forms as a likely source of bias. This sort of information is routinely recorded on board vessels and does not represent extra effort for the reporter.
***	Amount of Bait Chummed	Measures of effort for pole and line vessels need considerable standardization and factors, such as the quantity of bait used on a given day, are included in the proposed revised forms as a likely source of bias. Also, these data may be used to incorporate bait utilization with seasonal behaviour and abundance fluctuations.
***	Number of Schools Chummed	As above, this item is included to help standardize effort factors for pole-and-line vessels.

^{***}This item does not appear on current SPC logsheets.

CURRENT VERSION PROPOSED REVISION REASON

No. of Positive Responses

As above, this item is included to help standardize effort factors for pole and line vessels.

Average weight

Size Range (kg)

Average weights are difficult to estimate

Average weights are difficult to estimate and may not be descriptive of the sizes of fish caught. Size ranges are easier to record and more accurately reflect the size composition of the catches.

POLE-AND-LINE VESSELS CATCH REPORT FOR THE WATERS OF: TOKELAU

YEAR 86 MONTH 5

DATE

LOGSHEET #

Vessel Name . DAITOKI MARU Nº 2 Country of Registration : JAPAN Registration Number:

KP 1-296 Gross Registered Tonnage: ____ 139.9

Licence/Permit

Licence/Permit Number: 84-281-01-013
Name of Captain: CHIKAO Holder's Signature: M. Nauro

	PORT NAME	YY	MM	DD
DEPARTURE PORT	Shimizu	85	12	14
UNLOADING	Rabaul	86	2	2
PORT(S)				
ARRIVAL PORT	Shimizu	86	6	15

NOTE:

Please record all days. regardless of catch.

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SPECIES CODES:

LTA - Mackerel Tuna, Black Skipjack, Yaito

FRI - Frigate Tuna, Bullet Tuna, Mejika

ALB - Albacore, Binnaga

DOT - Dogtooth, Isomaguro

BIL - Billfish, Kajiki

SHK - Shark, sa-me

RRU - Rainbow Runner, Okiburi

DLF - Dolphinfish, Mahimahi, Shira

WAH - Wahoo, Sawara

OTH - Other Species

ACTIVITY CODES:

0 - A day fishing

- 1 A full day in transit between fishing grounds or to (or from) fishing grounds.
- 2 A full day not fishing due to a breakdown.
- 3 A full day not fishing due to bad weather.
- 4 A full day searching for fish with bait on board but no fish caught.
- 5 Partial day searching but no fish caught
- 5 Any other reason for no catch, please specify:

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SPECIES CODES:

LTA - Mackerel Tuna, Black Skipjack, Yaito

LOGSHEET #

NOTE:

Please record all days, regardless of catch.

FRI - Frigate Tuna, Builet Tuna, Mejika

ALB - Albacore, Binnaga

DOT - Dogtooth, isomaguro

BIL -Billfish, Kajiki

SHK - Shark, sa-me

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING DAILY TUNA CATCH RECORD LONGLINE VESSELS

CATCH REPORT FOR THE WATERS OF - Give country in whose waters vessel is fishing, e.g. Papua New Guinea.

YEAR - Give calendar year to which this catch report refers, e.g. 1986.

<u>MONTH</u> - Give month to which this catch report refers. Use numbers from 1 - 12 for January to December, e.g. 9 for September.

VESSEL NAME - Give name in full, e.g. Nankai Maru No. 18.

COUNTRY OF REGISTRATION - e.g. Japan.

REGISTRATION NUMBER - Official number given by country of registration, e.g. TK1-970.

GROSS REGISTERED TONNAGE - To nearest tenth of a tonne, e.g. 254.9.

LICENCE/PERMIT NUMBER - Give complete number of permit allowing you to fish these waters, e.g. PNG 82/1234

NAME OF CAPTAIN - Give name in full.

<u>PERMIT HOLDER'S SIGNATURE</u> - Must be signed by the permit holder as the person accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the catch declaration.

NUMBER OF HOOKS PER BASKET - If the number of hooks per basket varies, give the average number used during this cruise.

MAIN-LINE LENGTH BETWEEN FLOATS - Give the average length in metres of main-line between floats.

FLOAT-LINE LENGTH - Give the average length in metres of the float-line.

BRANCH-LINE LENGTH - Give the average length in metres of the branch-line

BAIT USED - Give common name, e.g. saury or squid, of the two most used types of bait.

ABILITY TO LOCATE THERMOCLINE - Circle Y for yes if vessel regularly uses bathythermographs to locate the depth of thermocline, N for no if thermocline depth is not generally known prior to setting.

NUMBER OF CREW - Give total number of officers and crew on board.

DEPARTURE PORT - Give full name of port and date from which this cruise started, e.g. Shimizu 86-09-25.

<u>UNLOADING PORT(S)</u> - Give full name and dates of all ports entered for unloading but not termination of the cruise, e.g. Yaizu 86-11-14. **NOTE:** Include as an unloading port, any transfer of catch to another vessel, giving the name of the vessel as the port of unloading.

ARPIVAL PORT - Give full name of port and date at which the cruise is terminated, e.g. Yokosuka 87-01-01.

DAY - Days of the month are numbered and should be filled out correspondingly. Use only one sheet per calendar month.

NOON POSITION - Give latitude and longitude to the nearest minute, and add N or S for north or south latitude and E or W for east or west longitude.

NUMBER OF HOOKS - Give the total number of hooks set for each day

ESTIMATE OF MAXIMUM HOOK DEPTH - Give the best estimate of maximum hook depth in metres for each day's set

<u>SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE</u> - Record the sea surface temperature at noon position for each day to the nearest tenth degree centigrade, e.g. 27.6° C.

TIME SET - Give the local time the set commenced in hours and minutes, e.g. 1840

ACTIVITY - Select the appropriate activity code number from the code box, e.g. 1 for a day spent at sea without fishing.

NUMBERS OF FISH AND TOTAL WEIGHTS - Give the number of pieces and the total weight of the retained catch for each species.

The total number and weight for each species must appear at the bottom of the page. NOTE:

Indicate whether bluefin catch is northern bluefin or southern bluefin species (N or S).

<u>DISCARDS</u> - All fish caught but not retained on board for sale must be recorded. These include all species caught but not retained on board or not officially unloaded for any other reason.

NOTES ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO SPC LONGLINE LOGSHEETS:

CURRENT VERSION	PROPOSED REVISION	REASON
Distance Between Floats	Main-line Length Between Floats	A problem exists in current forms as to how to interpret distances. Sometimes distance between floats was given as distance over water while other times it was recorded as the length of the main-line.
Comment Codes	Activity Codes	"Activity" provides a more accurate description of the codes requested.
**	Unloading Port(s)	Records show that port of arrival, asked on the current forms, often do not reflect the port of unloading. Port of unloading information is useful for determining overall fleet activities and for structuring more detailed port sampling.
***	Est. of Max. Hook Depth	In order to gain information on depth versus species composition and effort differentials, and due to the fact that most masterfishermen already calculate for hook depth, this item was added to the proposed forms.
***	Time Set	This was added to look at the diurnal effects on catch and catch composition.
Bluefin	Bluefin (N or S)	The current form does not allow for distinctions between the two different species—northern and southern bluefin.
***	Skipjack	Details of longline skipjack catch have been historically recorded and are of interest in studies of these usually larger, older fish which are not generally caught by other gears
Discards (weight)	Discards (number)	As discarded fish are often partially eaten by sharks, discarded weight was changed to numbers of fish, which should be easier to record and more meaningful.

^{***}This item does not appear on the currently used SPC logsheets.

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SPC/Fisheries 18/WP.3/Add.1 29 July 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

EIGHTEENTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 4-8 August 1986)

PROPOSED REVISION OF THE REGIONAL DAILY CATCH REPORT FORMS

Notes on Comments Received Concerning Draft Revisions to Regional Daily Catch Logsheets

INTRODUCTION

We have had excellent responses and feedback to the original draft of the revised daily catch and effort forms. The following is a list of the comments regarding the revised forms that we have received from within the region and from other organizations responsible for the monitoring of tuna and billfish stocks. The comments and suggestions have been very encouraging and the Secretariat is confident that the quality of the forms will be the best possible for the evolving commercial tuna and billfish fisheries within the region. Notes follow each comment considering the appropriateness of the comments to the revised daily catch report forms.

Comment or Suggestion

Note

GENERAL -

Include more species in the "discards" and "others" codes, i.e. all the billfish etc.

Ask for off-loading weights of catches to go with the bottom sums of total catches.

Ask for the name of the fishing master.

Discards should not be requested as not likely to be reported reliably

Beaufort scale use questionable.

Include a scale to approximate the number of vessels working closely together.

Ask for the vessels trip number for that year.

Leave space for tag recapture information to be filled in.

Translate forms into the languages of the major foreign fishing nations.

Codes would become cumbersome and thus less likely to be filled out accurately. Billfish bycatch details are a sensitive issue and thus, are not likely to be filled out reliably.

In principle, a very desirable data requirement but complicated in view of recordings by country visits rather than a total fishing trip. Best to get unloading data from port sampling or from cannery sales receipts.

Recommended as important information for standardizing fishing effort.

While accurate data from all vessels can not be expected regarding discards, what is reported is useful to estimate minimum discard quantities. Observer programmes can collect further details for calibration purposes.

In lieu of creating another set of codes for sea conditions which directly affect fishing activity, Beaufort wind scale was chosen as it is an international maritime code.

increases the complexity of the forms too greatly. This question is more appropriately addressed by observers.

Not practical because of problems in defining what constitues a fishing trip.

Strongly recommend for inclusion as a reminder to be aware of tagged fish. If not on forms themselves, at least include mention in the instructions.

Plans to have the forms translated have been made.

Comment or Suggestion

Note

Address weight unit problems at a higher level, i.e. make arrangement with U.S. to fill out forms using pounds and short tons and other nations to use metric.

Aerial search assistance—airplanes generally spot schools for more than one vessel.

Include information on current during sets.

Use "Depth of Net" and "Length of Net" rather than "Net Depth" and "Net Length" to avoid possible confusion.

Add information on the success of each individual set, i.e. the fraction of the school that is caught.

POLE-AND-LINE

Use average number of poles used for each fishing operation, eliminate automatic poles.

Number of schools chummed ambiguous and hard to define, information not expected to be reliable.

Positive response to chum ambiguous and hard to define.

Use buckets of bait instead of kilograms to assist recorder.

Clearly it is best to have the person filling the form out to use the weight units he is most familiar with. U.S. captains often work on non-U.S. boats. Furthermore, without a clear statement of the units used, it is difficult to be sure of the units used.

Understanding this is important and should be kept in mind for reference when interpreting the significance of aerial assistance in locating schools.

Not all vessels record ocean current information while setting their net. Also, it is not clear how such information would be used in analyses.

This problem is acknowledged and will be changed on the final version of the forms.

We feel that the level of detail would be too great, such data can be better collected by observers. Such estimates would be likely to vary greatly between captains as well.

Crew size is correlated with the number of man-poles and it is of use to compare levels of fishing with respect to automation and technology etc. as relative measures of fishing power.

It is felt that the fishermen reporting will not be biased by literally interpreting this request. In lieu of asking details about each school fished, this will at least give relative measure of the amount of fishing going on.

As above, some measure of how well fish are responding is considered useful. Furthermore, these types of details provide guidelines for countries involved in developing pole—and—line fisheries.

Suggestion acknowledged and will be implemented in the final version of the new forms.