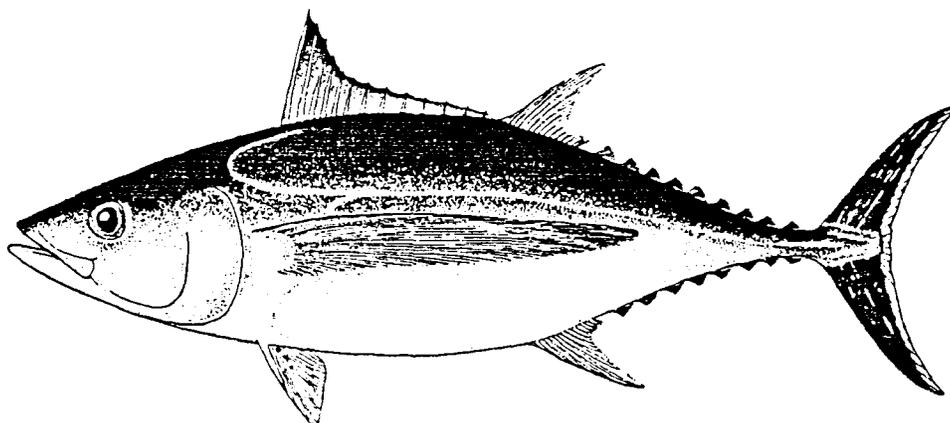


Current status of the SPAR database

**Tuna and Billfish Assessment Programme
South Pacific Commission**



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INTRODUCTION

At the Second South Pacific Albacore Research (SPAR 2) Workshop, held in Suva from 14 to 17 June 1989, the participants agreed to the offer made by SPC to act as a clearinghouse for the receipt and distribution of albacore data. Further, at the Second Consultation on Arrangements for South Pacific Albacore Fisheries Management, held from 2 to 7 March 1990 in Honiara, Solomon Islands, the meeting agreed that, as an interim arrangement prior to the establishment of the South Pacific Albacore Scientific Advisory Group, data will be provided to SPC by all fishing parties, and that SPC will compile all data and make it available for distribution.

Guidelines for the submission of data were proposed at SPAR 3, held in Nouma, New Caledonia, from 9 to 12 October 1990. These included:

- (1) Catch and effort data for surface fisheries aggregated by 5° square and month for the fishing season should be made available on or before September 1st following the end of the most recent fishing season.
- (2) Catch and effort data for longline fisheries aggregated by 5° square and month for the calendar year should be available on September 1st, 20 months following the end of the calendar year.
- (3) Provisional estimates of total annual catch for longline fisheries should be made available on September 1st, 8 months following the end of the calendar year.
- (4) Length-frequency data stratified by 5° latitude by 10° longitude by month should be available at the same time as aggregated catch and effort data.

Catch and effort data covering longliners from Australia, New Caledonia and Tonga are held in the SPC Regional Tuna Fisheries Database. These daily catch and effort data in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database, covering fishing activities up to and including 1990, were aggregated by 5° square and month and transferred to the SPAR Database.

Requests for catch and effort data that are not held in the SPC Regional Tuna Fisheries Database were sent by fax in July 1991. Only data from the United States (covering American troll vessels), New Zealand (covering New Zealand trollers) and Taiwan (covering Taiwanese longliners), were received. Aggregated catch and effort data were not received for Japanese longliners, Korean longliners and Taiwanese driftnet vessels.

Provisional estimates of the 1990 longline catch were requested of Australia, Japan, Korea, New Caledonia, Taiwan and Tonga; however, no provisional catch estimates were received.

Length frequency data for the current reporting period were received from French Polynesia (covering American troll vessels), New Zealand (covering New Zealand trollers) and the United States (covering American trollers). Additional length frequency data were collected by SPC observers aboard American and New Zealand trollers, and by SPC staff sampling landings of New Caledonian longliners. No length frequency data were received covering Australian, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese or Tongan longliners or Taiwanese driftnet vessels.

Table 1. Availability of data for the SPAR Catch and Effort Database

SOURCE	VESSEL NATIONALITY	GEAR TYPE	TIME PERIOD	STATUS	COMMENTS
AUSTRALIA	AUSTRALIA	L	1985-1990	✓	Transferred from the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database.
JAPAN	JAPAN	G	1983/84-1987/88	-	Requested of NRIFS.
JAPAN	JAPAN	G	1988/89-1989/90	-	Provided to SPC during SPAR 3, Oct/90, though not available for distribution to SPAR group.
JAPAN	JAPAN	L	1952-1961	-	Requested of NRIFS.
JAPAN	JAPAN	L	1962-1980	✓	Published by the Fisheries Agency of Japan.
JAPAN	JAPAN	L	1981-1988	-	Provided to SPC during SPAR 3, Oct/90, though not available for distribution to SPAR group.
JAPAN	JAPAN	L	1989	-	Requested of NRIFS.
KOREA	KOREA	L	1958-1974	-	Requested of NFRDA.
KOREA	KOREA	L	1975-1980	✓	Published by the National Fisheries Research and Development Agency.
KOREA	KOREA	L	1981-1982	-	Requested of NFRDA.
KOREA	KOREA	L	1983-1987	✓	Published by the National Fisheries Research and Development Agency.
KOREA	KOREA	L	1988-1989	-	Requested of NFRDA.
NEW CALEDONIA	NEW CALEDONIA	L	1983-1990	✓	Transferred from the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database.
NEW ZEALAND	NEW ZEALAND	T	1968/69-1981/82	-	Catch data only for 1968/69-1981/82. Requested of MAF.
NEW ZEALAND	NEW ZEALAND	T	1982/83-1990/91	✓	Provided by MAF.
TAIWAN	TAIWAN	G	1987/88	-	Data are unavailable at Tuna Research Center, Taiwan National University.
TAIWAN	TAIWAN	G	1988/89	✓	Provided by the Tuna Research Center, Taiwan National University.
TAIWAN	TAIWAN	G	1989/90-1990/91	-	Requested of the Tuna Research Center, Taiwan National University.
TAIWAN	TAIWAN	L	1954-1966	-	Data are unavailable at Tuna Research Center, Taiwan National University.
TAIWAN	TAIWAN	L	1967-1985	✓	Published by the Tuna Research Center, National Taiwan University.
TAIWAN	TAIWAN	L	1986-1989	✓	Unpublished data provided by the Tuna Research Center, National Taiwan University.
TONGA	TONGA	L	1982-1990	✓	Transferred from the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database.
UNITED STATES	UNITED STATES	T	1986/87-1990/91	✓	Data provided by NMFS.

Key: G, driftnet; L, longline; T, troll; ✓ available; - unavailable

Table 2. Availability of data for the SPAR Size Frequency Database

SOURCE	VESSEL NATIONALITY	GEAR TYPE	TIME PERIOD	STATUS	COMMENTS
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN	L	1987-1989	✓	Presented to SPAR 2, June 1989, by the Bureau of Rural Resources.
FIJI	TAIWAN	L	1990	✓	Port sampling in Levuka.
FIJI	TONGA	L	1990	✓	Port sampling in Levuka.
FIJI	NEW ZEALAND	T	1989/90	✓	Port sampling in Levuka.
FIJI	UNITED STATES	T	1989/90	✓	Port sampling in Levuka.
FRENCH POLYNESIA	UNITED STATES	T	1986/87-1990/91	✓	Port sampling in Papeete. Weights available. Number of fish injured available.
JAPAN	JAPAN	G	1988/89-1989/90	-	Provided to SPC during SPAR 3, Oct/90, though not available for distribution to SPAR group.
JAPAN	JAPAN	L	1952-1985	-	Requested of NRIFSF.
JAPAN	JAPAN	L	1986-1988	-	Provided to SPC during SPAR 3, Oct/90, though not available for distribution to SPAR group.
JAPAN	JAPAN	L	1989-1990	-	Requested of NRIFSF.
NEW ZEALAND	NEW ZEALAND	T	1972/73-1985/86	-	Requested of MAF.
NEW ZEALAND	NEW ZEALAND	T	1986/87-1989/90	✓	MAF observer data.
SPC	FIJI	T	1990/91	✓	Observers aboard chartered vessels.
SPC	JAPAN	G	1988/89	✓	Port sampling in Nouméa by SPC staff.
SPC	JAPAN	G	1989/90	✓	Sampled by SPC observers on JAMARC vessel.
SPC	NEW CALEDONIA	L	1990	✓	Port sampling in Nouméa by SPC staff.
SPC	NEW ZEALAND	T	1988/89-1990/91	✓	Sampled by SPC observers.
SPC	UNITED STATES	T	1988/89-1990/91	✓	Sampled by SPC observers.
UNITED STATES	JAPAN	L	1962-1972, 1987	✓	} Pago-based vessels: annual data; no area.
UNITED STATES	KOREA	L	1962-1989	✓	
UNITED STATES	TAIWAN	L	1964-1989	✓	
UNITED STATES	UNITED STATES	T	1986/87-1990/91	✓	

Key: G, driftnet; L, longline; T, troll; ✓ available; - unavailable

Table 3. Length frequency samples taken by SPC observers

SEASON	VESSEL	FLAG	PERIOD	
1988/89	BARBARA H	UNITED STATES	22-MAR-89	17-APR-89
	DANIEL SOLANDER	NEW ZEALAND	27-DEC-88	09-FEB-89
	SOLANDER II	NEW ZEALAND	16-JAN-89	18-JAN-89
1989/90	ATU	NEW ZEALAND	08-MAR-90	17-MAR-90
	DANIEL SOLANDER	NEW ZEALAND	14-NOV-89	20-DEC-89
	DANIEL SOLANDER	NEW ZEALAND	02-JAN-90	16-MAR-90
	DAY STAR	UNITED STATES	03-MAR-90	05-MAR-90
	KARIQA	NEW ZEALAND	25-NOV-89	19-DEC-89
	KARIQA	NEW ZEALAND	18-MAR-90	08-APR-90
	MATU WHAO RUA	NEW ZEALAND	19-MAR-90	14-APR-90
	SAN TE 18	NEW ZEALAND	20-JAN-90	19-MAR-90
1990/91	ANNA MARIA	UNITED STATES	14-JAN-91	15-FEB-91
	CIMARRON	UNITED STATES	16-FEB-91	31-MAR-91
	DANIEL SOLANDER	NEW ZEALAND	20-DEC-90	13-JAN-91
	DANIEL SOLANDER	NEW ZEALAND	13-MAR-91	24-MAR-91
	JEANNIE	UNITED STATES	12-FEB-91	12-MAR-91
	OHAU	NEW ZEALAND	26-DEC-90	13-JAN-91
	SOLANDER 3	FIJI	15-DEC-90	25-MAR-91
	SOLANDER II	NEW ZEALAND	13-JAN-91	10-FEB-91
	SOUTHERN PACIFIC	NEW ZEALAND	01-APR-91	28-APR-91
	TYLO	FIJI	30-MAR-91	07-MAY-91