

PROPOSITION FOR CREATING TUNA FISHING BOAT REGISTER

Assistant Executive Secretary

I. PROPOSAL BY THE CONSULTATION

At the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Consultation on Global Tuna Statistics, (Dec. 1985, Colombo), the Group set up five immediate goals in which the regional tuna agencies would cooperate to achieve. The second was the establishment of a world tuna fleet data base (See SCRS/86/B.)

The main objective in establishing a world data base is to provide an indication of the growth and distribution of fishing power, information which would be essential for the management of world tuna stocks (COM-SCRS/87/16). A secondary objective is that such a data base would help in monitoring the movement of fleets and, consequently, all the catches and fishing activities. It would be particularly helpful as the fishing vessels are increasing their mobility between oceans.

This proposal was reaffirmed and further defined in detail at the second meeting of the Consultation (La Jolla, May, 1987; COM-SCRS/87/16). At present, FAO has designed a system to store, process and retrieve data on tuna fishing vessels, during 1986. The system has been developed on a VAX 11/730. The data format and items to be entered into the system were also discussed by the Group and some suggestions were made. Details are found in Document SCRS/87/16.

II. REGISTRATION FORMAT PROPOSED BY THE CONSULTATION

A list of the entries of the FAO data base system is shown in Appendix 3 of COM-SCRS/87/16. The Group considered them just as a detailed sample of possible elements of this data base. There was much discussion on the details but it was also recognized that to complete such entries for all the fishing vessels would be a very difficult task. The attendants felt that the base could be designed to include maximum information since there could be some boats for which we would have all the information, but, for the time being, only essential information could be collected for most of the fishing vessels.

III. FISHING VESSELS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION

The Consultation decided that "initially the system should be kept as simple as possible. Thus, recording in the early stages could be primarily for purse seiners, longliners and baitboats over fifty gross registered tons. However, if data for vessels outside this criterion were readily available, agencies would be encouraged to supply these data."

IV. EXPECTED OUTPUT

"The Consultation agreed that output should be classified by various categories, e.g.,

- class category of vessel
- gear type of vessel
- country of registration
- area of operation

The country of registration list can then be used and augmented by discussions with the individual countries concerned. The agencies should have access to the basic data file for processing data for their own needs."

V. ICCAT RESPONSIBILITY AND PROPOSAL FOR SCRS

As a participating member of the Consultation, ICCAT should collaborate in establishing the world tuna fishing vessel register. It would be a difficult task and requires much collaboration by member countries. However, it would be essential for ICCAT's own work. Presently, we have some difficulties in monitoring fishing activities of all the fishing fleets. Particularly, with the increase in joint ventures and flags of convenience, monitoring the registration of fishing boats is becoming very important.

1. Present status

ICCAT member countries should have at least a list of tuna fishing vessels with some specifications (even though they are not as detailed as the FAO list). The Secretariat has only a limited vessel list including names, registration countries and sometimes the size of the vessels. This list is used for monitoring port sampling and, therefore, it includes only those boats which became the subject of Secretariat sampling. For example, Japanese longliners, FIS seiners, etc., are not included.

The Secretariat list is not very up to date since the registrations change very frequently and we are not informed of these changes. In other words, the list is very incomplete in its coverage, amount of information and currentness.

2. Proposed procedures which ICCAT may follow

Should ICCAT decide to start boat registration, the following steps may be taken:

TUNA FISHING VESSEL REGISTRATION FORM

- i) Scientists should agree on what categories of boats should be covered and what items of information should be collected.
- ii) A national correspondent should be assigned by each national section on this matter.
- iii) The boat list should be submitted with the necessary information to the Secretariat.
- iv) The Secretariat should create a data base for vessel registration and summary output should be circulated among the countries concerned to check for missing boats (flag of convenience, etc.) or double counting.
- v) The Secretariat should submit the register to FAO as input for the world register.
- vi) The Secretariat should be responsible for eliminating double entries between oceans in collaboration with the Consultation Group (other tuna agencies).
- vii) Annually, each national correspondent should submit to the Secretariat a list of changes in registration (i.e., additional boats, change of registration or specification, withdrawal from fishery, etc.). The Secretariat should send a reminder with a form for this, when it sends out requests for catch statistics.
- viii) Present requests for fishing power statistics should be continued since small boats may not be covered by the boat register and also it will serve for cross-checking the large boat registers.

3. Boats to be covered

As suggested by the Consultation, longliners, purse seiners and bait-boats of over 50 GRT should be covered. However, a list of any boats smaller than 50 GRT should also be encouraged.

Any boats which have fished in the Atlantic (including Mediterranean) should be included in the registration, even if the boat is not fishing at the moment in the Atlantic. This would cause some double reporting with other oceans which could later be eliminated through inter-agency collaboration.

4. Information to be included in boat register

The maximum information to be included should be the same as the format found in FAO register system. However, minimum requirements should also be specified so that the excess of requirements would not discourage the collection of boat information.

Table 1 lists the items which could be reported from national offices to the Secretariat. However, the list should be carefully reviewed by scientists and boat experts before being finalized.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

IDENTIFICATION

Current vessel name:
 Previous vessel name(s):
 Current country of registration:
 Previous country(s) of registration:
 Registered number:
 Date of current registration:
 Vessel flag:
 Fishing type:
 Fishing method:
 Hull material:

CONSTRUCTION

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

Ship owner:
 Propulsion type:

Country/Shipyard:
 Year built:
 Year of launching:
 Date:

DIMENSIONS (meters)

Overall length:
 Registered length:

Length between perpendiculars:
 Breadth extreme:
 Depth moulded:
 Draught maximum:
 Upperdeck height:
 Lower deck height:

VESSEL CAPACITY

Gross registered tons:
 Net registered tons:
 Draft capacity (MT):

Dead-weight tons:
 Gross tonnage:
 Hold capacity (cm³):

CAPACITY

Main engine (hp):

Main engine (kw):
 Speed in knots:
 Fuel capacity (cm³):
 Lubricant capacity (cm³):
 Fresh water capacity (cm³):
 Distillation system (mc/24h):
 For trim sea water boxes (cm³):
 Anti-rolling boxes (cm³):

FISHING AND NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT

Availability: Sonar	Faximile receiver
Radar	Gyrocompass
Loran	Others
Decca	
Omega	
Satellite navigational system	
Helicopter	

PERSONNEL

Number of crew:	Number of officers:
	Number of petty officers:
	Number of seamen:
	Number of helicopter personnel:

OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS

Activity status:
Signal letters:
Radio call sign:
Base country:
Base port:
Major fishing area - sub-area:
Freezing capacity (MT/24h):