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**SHORT-TERM CONTRACT FOR THE
DATA RECOVERY PLAN (ICCAT GBYP 02/2016)
OF THE ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON
BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT GBYP Phase 6)**

**FINAL REPORT
22 August 2016**

The data recovery carried out under this contract included two different data sets:

- a) an historical set of tuna trap information and data;
- b) a series of recent catch data from longliners based in the SW Sicily¹.

The tuna trap data

The ancient tuna trap data were recovered from several sets of documents, including separate sheets of old original registers belonging directly to the tuna traps, personal correspondence between the tuna trap administrator and the tuna trap owner and a very rare publication made by an officer belong to the Harport Authority in Palermo.

The tuna traps for which the data were recovered (along with the geographic coordinates of each trap) are:

¹ The LL data were provided under a confidentiality agreement concerning the name of the vessels.

- Marzamemi (years 1823, 1824, 1833, 1834, 1835 and 1836); these data are partly in addition to the data already collected under a previous contract in 2012 and they have been only very recently discovered and recovered, allowing us to fill several gaps; data are mostly by “mattanza”.
- Mondello, for the year 1926, originating from a rare manuscript document recently discovered, and total year catches for 1922.
- Scopello, yearly total catches for 1918, 1920 and 1922.
- Castellammare del Golfo, yearly total catches for 1918, 1920 and 1922.
- Magazzinazzi, yearly total catches for 1918, 1920 and 1922.
- Sant’Elia, yearly total catches for 1918, 1920 and 1922.
- Solanto, yearly total catches for 1918, 1920 and 1922.
- San Nicoló, yearly total catches for 1918, 1920 and 1922.
- Trabia, yearly total catches for 1918, 1920 and 1922.
- Torre Caldura, yearly total catches for 1920 and 1922.
- Vergine Maria, yearly total catches for 1920.
- Orsa, yearly total catches for 1922.
- Isola delle Femmine, yearly total catches for 1922.

In the case of those data which were included in ancient manuscript documents, the difficulty was mostly related to the precise understanding of the old calligraphy, which was quite difficult and complex in some letters.

In total, tuna trap data recovered under this contract included 106 fishing operations and 26 individual Bluefin tuna, plus information about additional species in the catch.

All these trap data were duly recorded in a specific Excel file and submitted to ICCAT GBYP, according to the contract, along with a pdf copy of the original documents for the records.

The Longline catch data

The data concerning the longline fishery were recovered from the harbour of Marsala, SW Sicily, where one of the most important BFL LL fleet is based.

The number of longliners sampled was 18 vessels in 2011, 15 in 2013, 17 in 2014 and 18 in 2015.

In total, it was possible to recover detailed data from each fishing operation, including in most cases the geographic position (lat-lon, the fishing effort (number of hooks, but limited to 2011, even if the number of hooks has been almost stable over the last years) and the landings (always the BFT, but sometimes also other species). In total this activity provided 666 records.

Furthermore, it was possible to recover 666 fishing operations were recovered individual data from 3060 fish, usually both FL and RW.

Unfortunately, some additional data sets that seemed potentially available at the beginning of the work, were not finally made available, mostly for confidentiality problems or because the data were still recorded by hand writing on various supports which were not made available on time. This fact reduced the total number of data that has been possible to recover.

All the LL data recovered under this contract are not included into any other LL statistical record.

According to the contract, all LL data sets were provided to ICCAT GBYP on Excel files by year.