

Introduction

Since 2005, the ICCAT Statistical Bulletin has been published in a new format which covers all the time series of the nominal catch data available in the Secretariat database. Starting with the 41st volume, the Secretariat has sought to enhance the use of this publication by providing an electronic version of the data and figures. The current edition provides the catch and other statistics series from 1950 up to 2016.

The data related to fishing vessels included in section VI were obtained through the Secretariat statistical data request (Task I-FC) and may differ from the Compliance information stored in the data base on the Record of Vessels 20 m or greater [Rec. 13-13].

Section V of this volume gives a summarized overview of the information maintained at the Secretariat in the ICCAT tagging database. Further data processing and verification will be needed, in collaboration with national scientists, to validate the entire tagging database. Scientists are encouraged to review the database for incomplete or incongruent tagging data.

Data received up to July 2018 have been used in this publication and are potentially subject to revision. Therefore, it is recommended that users of this information consult the ICCAT web site (www.iccat.int) in order to check availability of more recent versions.

Data sources

The statistics in this publication represent the scientific working groups' best estimates, as per decisions taken by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). Therefore, they may not coincide exactly with the official statistics provided to the Secretariat by the Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. Supplemental data are collected directly from the fleets at the landing ports by national scientists, or are estimated from trade data and the Statistical Document Program information. The statistics for some of the fleets with minor catches of tuna are collected through the Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Service (FIDI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Attention!

The data used to develop the fishing maps included in Section IV are from estimates made by the Secretariat to redistribute the nominal catches reported by large geographical areas into 5x5 degree squares. They are based on size sampling, available catch and effort data, and the rules for substitution adopted by the SCRS in past years. The vertical or horizontal lines on the maps shown in section 4 delimit north/south or east/west stock species. All the information published in this volume was compiled and processed by the ICCAT Statistics Department.

Explanatory note

Conversion factors

Species	Area	Equation
Albacore & Bigeye	Atlantic & Med.	$RWT=DWT \times 1.13$
Bluefin	Atlantic & Med.	$RWT=GWT \times 1.16$
Swordfish	Northwest Atlantic	$RWT=DWT \times 1.33$
Swordfish	Central-East Atlantic	$RWT=DWT \times 1.32$
Swordfish	Southwest Atlantic	$RWT=(GWT/0.80)^{0.9852}$
Swordfish	Southeast Atlantic	$RWT=GWT \times 1.14$
Billfishes	Atlantic & Med.	$RWT=DWT \times 1.20$

RWT=round weight GWT=gilled and gutted DWT=dressed weight

Units

All the information published is in round weight and metric tons.

Acronyms used

CP	NCC	NCO
ICCAT Contracting Party	Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity	Non-Contracting and non-Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entities

In facilitating the synthesis of the information we have used the species groups and fishing gears defined below.

Major tuna species

For statistical reasons this definition groups the following 10 major species

Temperate tunas	Tropical tunas	Billfishes	Swordfish
Albacore and bluefin	Bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack	Blue marlin, sailfish, white marlin and longbill spearfish	Swordfish

Major shark species

This definition presently includes the following species

Shortfin mako	& Mako sharks	Blue shark	Porbeagle
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	<i>Isurus spp</i>	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	<i>Lamna nasus</i>

Major fishing gears

The 4 groups of fishing gears are

LL	BB	PS	OTH
Longline	Baitboat	Purse seine	Other fishing gears

Area unit

All	AT.E	AT.W	AT.S	AT.N	MED	UNCL
Atlantic + Mediterranean	East Atlantic	West Atlantic	South Atlantic	North Atlantic	Mediterranean	Unclassified