



ANNEX 13

*26th Meeting of the
International Scientific Committee for Tuna
and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
Taipei City, Chinese Taipei
22-29 June 2026*

REPORT OF THE STATWG WORKSHOP

June 21, 2026
Taipei City, Chinese Taipei

June 2026

REPORT OF THE STATISTICS WORKING GROUP

International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

1 Overview of the STATWG

The purview of the ISC Statistics Working Group (STATWG) includes maintaining, reviewing, and reporting on the catch and effort statistics and metadata submitted annually by member nations, archiving the stock assessment data files, and maintaining the ISC Website. Category I data is total annual catch (Ic) and effort (Ie) by species and gear, Category II data is catch by gear, area, and month, and Category III data is size data by month and species.

2 Annual Workgroup Meeting

The STATWG meeting was held June 22, 2026 prior to the 26th meeting of the ISC Plenary. The STATWG chair, Jenny Suter and vice-chair, Kirara Nishikawa, opened the meeting and welcomed participants from Canada, Korea, Japan, USA, and WCPFC. Participants introduced themselves and shared the food they were most excited to eat in Taipei. We welcomed a new member, Naoto Matsubara, the ALBWG Co-chair, and Elaine G. Garvilles, who represented the WCPFC on behalf of Sung-Kwon Soh.

Participants reviewed and adopted the agenda, attached as *Appendix 1*. STATWG membership and meeting attendance follows the agenda in *Appendix 1*.

3 ISC25 Recommendations and Updates

The chair reviewed the 2025-2026 work plan and accomplishments, which are listed below.

1. The DA will continue to distribute the ISC data inventory for Category I, II, and III to ISC Data Correspondents for review by September 30, 2025. The DA will then distribute the ISC data inventory to Chairs of the species WG by October 15, and publish it on the ISC website by October 31, 2025. [COMPLETE]
2. After the Data Correspondents have reviewed and updated their metadata prior to the ISC25 Plenary, this metadata will be published on the ISC researcher's website by August 31, 2025. For 2024-2025, the DA will continue to distribute the WG member's new metadata by March 30, 2026. The Data Correspondents will review and update their new metadata by June 1, 2026 prior to the ISC26 Plenary, and this new metadata will be published on the ISC researcher's website by August 31, 2026. [COMPLETE]
3. The DA will archive PBF and ALB MSE input files. [COMPLETE]
4. The DA and the Chair of the STATWG will annually review the responsibilities, duties and deliverables of the DA to ensure that they are accurate and practical, and revise them as necessary. [COMPLETE]
5. The STATWG Steering Group will hold an intersessional meeting or conference call/webinar January 2026, if needed. [NO INTERSESSIONAL MEETING HELD IN 2026]

Other Duties

1. Work with the Webmaster to update ISC website with “Open Science” dropdown menu and WG Chair names and email addresses to contact for access to repositories on GitHub. [ONGOING]
2. Update website software. [COMPLETE]
3. E-mail sending system revisions. [COMPLETE]
4. Update website packages to resolve file size issues. [COMPLETE]
5. Change WAF service to reduce operational costs. [DONE]

4 Fishery and Data Updates

The Chair asked the data correspondents and workgroup chairs to prepare a summary of data updates, issues, or highlights. More details on these highlights can be found in the National Reports and associated presentations. During the meeting, the following were reported.

Canada: The albacore troll fishery noticed an increase in Pacific bluefin tuna bycatch in recent years and included those estimates in the data submission.

Chinese Taipei: There have been increasing catches in coastal fisheries.

Japan: No major changes. Pacific bluefin tuna catch has increased and the quota has also increased.

Korea: There has been a greater catch of Pacific bluefin tuna in coastal waters.

Mexico: “Mexican researchers from IMIPAS and academia have been engaged in recent years in reconstructing historical shark catches for the main species in Mexican fisheries, based on official total and catch data bibliographic searches of local catch composition data in publicly accessible documents such as scientific articles, theses, unpublished technical reports, conference proceedings, local species identification guides, and faunal lists (Sosa-Nishizaki et al., 2014; Sosa-Nishizaki et al., 2017; Saldaña-Ruiz et al. 2017). An assessment of the inherent uncertainty involved in the reconstruction was carried out, based on methods reported in the literature (Harper et al. 2014, Zeller et al., 2015; CCA, 2019)” - from report submitted by Mexican Institute for Research in Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (IMIPAS)

United States: Catch and effort from the deep-set buoy gear fishery that targets swordfish off of the west coast of the USA are included as MIS in the data submission since there is no code in the ISC database for this gear type. The USA is requesting adding the vertical gear code (LVT) under the Hooks and Lines category, defined by the [FAO](#).

Working Groups:

ALBWG: Chair, Sarah Hawkshaw, mentioned an issue with the reliability with albacore size data collected onboard vessels by crew in Canada.

BILLWG: Chair, Michelle Sculley, mentioned that there is a new type of fishing gear that we should be aware of called “lasso fishing” that includes a loop device instead of a hook on longline gear. The purpose of the loop is to catch swordfish. In Japan, it is called a swordfish ring. Chinese Taipei, Korea, and USA participants were not aware of the use of this gear type in their longline fisheries. The catchability of swordfish could be affected by use of this gear type.

PBFWG:

SHARKWG:

Other discussions:

The STATWG members discussed the differences between the national statistics submitted to the ISC versus the data that are used in the stock assessments. The disconnect exists due to different spatial distribution needs for each species that do not neatly fit into the ISC assumed boundary of north of 0 degrees. The size data used in the stock assessments should be similar to the national Cat III submissions to the ISC.

Michael Kinney, gave an update on the International Billfish Biological Sampling (IBBS) project for the STATWG awareness since the project is outside, but tangential to the ISC stock assessment data needs.

5 Data Submission Overview

The annual data submission deadline was June 1, 2026.

5.1 Data Report Card

The Database Administrator (DA) reviewed the status of the submissions of the national Category I, II, and III data, the national metadata reports, and the stock assessment output files. The 2025 Data Report Card for is shown in Table 1. Table 2 shows the breakdown of the data submissions by data category (I, II, III), country, and gear. Table 3 shows the breakdown of Category I catch, I effort, II, and III by country, year, and gear.

Data from most nations were submitted by the June 1, 2026 deadline. Mexico only submitted Category I total catch data, but no effort data. China has not submitted data to the ISC. Data for the Chinese fleets can be obtained from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), as per the MOU between ISC and these RFMOs.

5.2 Metadata Report

The metadata report card is shown in Table 4. The DA reviewed the metadata submission by member countries. All submissions were received on time in 2025. The metadata reports are scheduled to be published on August 1, 2026.

5.3 Stock Assessment file archive

The DA presented the status of submission of stock assessment files that are due to be submitted by November 1 each year (Table 4). PBF stock assessment in 2024, MSE input files in 2025 and ALB MSE input files were archived to ISC WEB in 2026.

6 Website

The webmaster (WM) presented the status of updates of the ISC website that are included in Section 3 above. The WM also presented the new black and white format for the ISC website and circulated the URL (<https://isc.fra.go.jp/test/top.php>) to the STATWG members for review. The STATWG members suggested a few added updates such as a separate MSE page and species categories under the BILLWG and SHARKWG pages for ease of finding all of the historical documents for one species in one place.

7 Election

The STATWG held an election during the pre-plenary meeting, aided by the ISC Chair. No new candidates were put forward. Jenny Suter was elected as STATWG chair and Kirara Nishikawa was elected as STATWG Co-chair each for another 3-year term.

8 Update of Organization Chart

The organization chart of the STATWG (Appendix 1) was reviewed and updated.

9 Wrap up and recommendations for the Plenary

The STATWG has a few suggestions for the Plenary:

1. Would it be useful to produce a summary report of the historical data holdings in the ISC database?
2. Could we have a discussion about the most useful components for National Reports and Presentations? The STATWG Chair and Co-chair noticed the reports vary in spatial and temporal resolution (North Pacific Ocean versus Pacific Ocean, reporting on all tunas and billfishes by fishery versus ISC species, annual resolution versus quarterly or monthly, etc). Some reports contain research updates, some have data sources clearly stated, some with environmental variables. The variation is interesting, yet quite variable.

The STATWG members developed the following work plan for 2026-2027:

1. *Data Inventory Report*: The Database Administrator (DA) will distribute the ISC data inventory report for Category I, II, and III to ISC Data Correspondents (DCs) for review by September 30, 2026. Following, the DA will distribute the data inventory to Species WG Chairs by October 15. The DA will publish the Data Inventory Report on the ISC website by October 31, 2026.
2. *Metadata Reports*: The DCs will review and update their metadata prior to June 1, 2027. The DA will publish the national Metadata Reports to the ISC researcher's website by August 31, 2027.

3. Stock Assessment and MSE files:
4. Website updates: The STATWG members will continue to provide feedback to the Webmaster (WM) for the new website design.
5. The Chair and Co-Chair of the STATWG will annually review the responsibilities, duties and deliverables of the DA to ensure that they are accurate and practical, and revise them as necessary.
6. The STATWG Steering Group will hold an intersessional virtual check-in meeting March 2027 to discuss data submission updates and potential agenda topics for the 2027 pre-plenary meeting.

Table 1: Data Report Card for Category I, II, III

Data submission status in 2026				
Member	CAT Ic	CAT Ie	CAT II	CAT III
CAN				
CHN				
JPN				
KOR				
MEX				
TWN				
USA				

On Time

Not Provided

TWN is Chinese Taipei, USA is United States of America

Table 2. Status of 2025 ISC data submission by data category, country and gear.

Submitted in 2026 (by 2026/06/19)																
Country	Category	Gear														
		FPN	GN	GND	HAR	LH	LLD	LP	LTR	LX	MIS	NK	PS	RG	TX	
CAN	1c								★							
	1e								★							
	2								★							
	3								★							
CHN	1c															
	1e															
	2															
	3															
JPN	1c	★		★			★	★	★		★	★	★			
	1e						★	★	★				★			
	2						★	★					★			
	3						★	★								
KOR	1c	★					★						★		★	
	1e						★						★			
	2	★					★						★		★	
	3	★					★					★	★		★	
MEX	1c												★			
	1e															
	2															
	3															
TWN	1c	★	★		★		★				★		★			
	1e						★						★			
	2						★						★			
	3						★						★			
USA	1c			★	★	★	★		★	★	★		★	★		
	1e			★	★	★	★		★	★			★			
	2			★	★		★		★		★			★		
	3						★		★					★		

Table 3. Status of submission of 2023-2025 data, by data category (1c,1e, 2, 3), country and gear.

Year	Country	Category	Gear													
			FPN	GN	GND	HAR	LH	LLD	LP	LTR	LX	MIS	NK	PS	RG	TX
2023	CAN	1c								★						
2024	CAN	1c								★						
2025	CAN	1c								★						
2023	CHN	1c														
2024	CHN	1c														
2025	CHN	1c														
2023	JPN	1c	★		★			★	★	★		★	★	★		
2024	JPN	1c	★		★			★	★	★		★	★	★		
2025	JPN	1c	★		★			★	★	★		★	★	★		
2023	KOR	1c	★					★						★		★
2024	KOR	1c	★					★						★		★
2025	KOR	1c	★					★						★		★
2023	MEX	1c												★		
2024	MEX	1c										★		★		
2025	MEX	1c												★		
2023	TWN	1c	★	★		★		★				★		★		
2024	TWN	1c	★	★		★		★				★		★		
2025	TWN	1c	★	★		★		★				★		★		
2023	USA	1c			★	★	★	★		★	★	★		★	★	
2024	USA	1c			★	★	★	★		★	★	★		★	★	
2025	USA	1c			★	★	★	★		★	★	★		★	★	

Table 3. Category 1e continued.

Year	Country	Category	Gear													
			FPN	GN	GND	HAR	LH	LLD	LP	LTR	LX	MIS	NK	PS	RG	TX
2023	CAN	1e									★					
2024	CAN	1e									★					
2025	CAN	1e									★					
2023	CHN	1e														
2024	CHN	1e														
2025	CHN	1e														
2023	JPN	1e							★	★	★				★	
2024	JPN	1e							★	★	★				★	
2025	JPN	1e							★	★	★				★	
2023	KOR	1e							★						★	
2024	KOR	1e							★						★	
2025	KOR	1e							★						★	
2023	MEX	1e											★		★	★
2024	MEX	1e											★		★	★
2025	MEX	1e														
2023	TWN	1e							★						★	
2024	TWN	1e							★						★	
2025	TWN	1e							★						★	
2023	USA	1e				★	★	★	★		★	★			★	
2024	USA	1e				★	★	★	★		★	★			★	
2025	USA	1e				★	★	★	★		★	★			★	

Table 3. Category 2.

Year	Country	Category	Gear													
			FPN	GN	GND	HAR	LH	LLD	LP	LTR	LX	MIS	NK	PS	RG	TX
2023	CAN	2								★						
2024	CAN	2								★						
2025	CAN	2								★						
2023	CHN	2														
2024	CHN	2														
2025	CHN	2														
2023	JPN	2						★	★					★		
2024	JPN	2						★	★					★		
2025	JPN	2						★	★					★		
2023	KOR	2						★						★		
2024	KOR	2						★						★		★
2025	KOR	2	★					★						★		★
2023	MEX	2										★		★		
2024	MEX	2												★		
2025	MEX	2														
2023	TWN	2						★						★		
2024	TWN	2						★						★		
2025	TWN	2						★						★		
2023	USA	2			★			★		★	★			★	★	
2024	USA	2			★	★		★		★	★			★	★	
2025	USA	2			★	★		★		★	★			★		

Table 3. Category 3.

Year	Country	Category	Gear													
			FPN	GN	GND	HAR	LH	LLD	LP	LTR	LX	MIS	NK	PS	RG	TX
2023	CAN	3									★					
2024	CAN	3									★					
2025	CAN	3									★					
2023	CHN	3														
2024	CHN	3														
2025	CHN	3														
2023	JPN	3							★	★						
2024	JPN	3							★	★						
2025	JPN	3							★	★						
2023	KOR	3							★					★		
2024	KOR	3	★						★					★		★
2025	KOR	3	★						★				★	★		★
2023	MEX	3												★		
2024	MEX	3												★		
2025	MEX	3														
2023	TWN	3							★					★		
2024	TWN	3							★					★		
2025	TWN	3							★					★		
2023	USA	3							★		★					★
2024	USA	3							★		★					★
2025	USA	3							★		★					★

ISC Gear Codes*

Code	Gear	Name	LX	Hook-and-line	Hooks and lines (not specified)
FPN	Set-net	Stationary uncovered pound nets	MIS	Other gears	Miscellaneous gear
GND	Gill-net	Driftnets	NK	Not specified	Gear not known or not specified
GN	Gill-net	Unspecified Gill-net	PS	Purse-seine	Supporting nets with purse lines (purse-seine)
HAR	Harpoon	Harpoons	RG	Sport	Recreational fishing gears
LH**	Handline	Handline gear	TX	Trawl	Trawl (not specified)
LLD	Longline	Drifting longlines			
LP**	Pole-and-line	Pole-and-line			
LTR	Troll	Trolling lines			

* FAO 1999. Definition and classification of fishing gear categories. FAO Fish. Tec. Pap. 222 Rev.1.

** IATTC code.

Table 4: The data submission status of stock assessment files by the ISC species Working Groups

	ALBWG	BILLWG			PBFWG	SHARKWG	
	ALB	SWO	MLS	BUM	PBF	BSH	SMA
2017							
2018							
2019							
2020						Sensitivity	
2021	MSE						Indicator
2022							
2023							
2024							
2025					MSE		
2026							
	Stock assessment was done, and stock assessment files will be submitted by November 2026.						
	Stock assessment was done, and stock assessment files were submitted.						

Appendix 1: Agenda

TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

STATISTICS WORKING GROUP

Monday, June 22, 2026

13:00 - 17:00

Taipei City, Chinese Taipei

Document Distribution Site: <https://sites.google.com/view/isc26-documents/home>

AGENDA

13:00	1. Opening 1.1. Roll call and introduction 1.2. Orientation and announcements	Jenny
13:30	2. Adoption of Agenda 2.1. Review and updates	Jenny
13:45	3. ISC25 STATS WG Recommendations and Updates 3.1. Review of 2025-2026 Workplan 3.2. Accomplishments	Jenny/ Kirara
14:10	4. Fishery and data updates 4.1. Canada 4.2. Japan 4.3. Korea 4.4. Mexico 4.5. Chinese Taipei 4.6. USA 4.7. Working Groups	All
15:10	5. Break	
15:20	6. Data Submission Overview 6.1. Data report card 6.2. Data reporting issues by country	Kirara

	6.3. Metadata Report review and update 6.4. Stock Assessment file archive	
15:40	7. ISC Website - Overview of new design	Kirara
16:00	8. IBBS update and data sharing	Michael
16:20	9. Election - 3 year term	Rob
16:30	10. Wrap up and Recommendations for the Plenary	Jenny

Members and attendance:

Name	Role*	Country	Email	Attendance
Jenny Suter	Chair	USA	jenny.suter@noaa.gov	x
Kirara Nishikawa	Vice chair/DA/WM	JPN	nishikawa_kirara68@fra.go.jp	x
Sarah Hawkshaw	ALBWG/DC	CAN	Sarah.Hawkshaw@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	x
Keisuke Sato	DC	JPN	sato_keisuke31@fra.go.jp	
Hidetada Kiyofuji	HOD	JPN	kiyofuji_hidetada20@fra.go.jp	x
Shuya Nakatsuka	PBFWG	JPN	nakatsuka_shuya49@fra.go.jp	x
Yasuko Semba	SHARKWG Vice-chair/ DM	JPN	semba_yasuko25@fra.go.jp	
Hiromu Fukuda	PBFWG DM	JPN	fukuda_hiromu57@fra.go.jp	x
Heewon Park	DC	KOR	heewon81@korea.kr	x
Luis Daniel Carrillo-Colín	DC	MEX	luis.carrillo@imipas.gob.mx	
Ren-Fen Wu		TWN	fan@ofdc.org.tw	
Weijen Wang	DC	TWN	weijen@ofdc.org.tw	x
Michael Kinney	SHARKWG	USA	michael.kinney@noaa.gov	x
Michelle Sculley	BILLWG	USA	michelle.sculley@noaa.gov	x
Yuhong Gu	DC	USA	yuhong.gu@noaa.gov	
Sung-Kwon Soh (attended by Elaine G. Garvilles)		WCPFC	sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int	x
Naoto Matsubara	ALBWG Vice-chair	JPN		x
Robert Ahrens	ISC chair	USA		x

*Chair, Vice-chair, DA=Database Administrator, WM=Webmaster, DC = Data Correspondent, XXWG = Workgroup Chair, DM = WG Data Manager

Review of the ISC25 Workplan

The STATWG members agreed and developed the following work plan for 2025-2026:

1. The DA will continue to distribute the ISC data inventory for Category I, II, and III to ISC Data Correspondents for review by September 30, 2025. The DA will then distribute the ISC data inventory to Chairs of the species WG by October 15, and publish it on the ISC website by October 31, 2025. [DONE]
2. After the Data Correspondents have reviewed and updated their metadata prior to the ISC25 Plenary, this metadata will be published on the ISC researcher's website by August 31, 2025. For 2024-2025, the DA will continue to distribute the WG member's new metadata by March 30, 2026. The Data Correspondents will review and update their new metadata by June 1, 2026 prior to the ISC26 Plenary, and this new metadata will be published on the ISC researcher's website by August 31, 2026. [DONE]
3. The DA will archive PBF and ALB MSE input files. [DONE]
4. The DA and the Chair of the STATWG will annually review the responsibilities, duties and deliverables of the DA to ensure that they are accurate and practical, and revise them as necessary. [DONE]
5. The STATWG Steering Group will hold an intersessional meeting or conference call/webinar January 2026, if needed. []

Other Duties

6. Work with the Webmaster to update ISC website with "Open Science" dropdown menu and WG Chair names and email addresses to contact for access to repositories on GitHub. [ongoing]
7. Update website software. [DONE]
8. E-mail sending system revisions. [DONE]
9. Update website packages to resolve file size issues. [DONE]
10. Change WAF service to reduce operational costs. [DONE]