

Guidelines for the preparation of National Reports to IOTC Scientific Committee

At its Fourth Session, the Scientific Committee agreed to request from its Members and Cooperating Non-Member Parties, that National Reports be prepared and presented regularly at its Sessions.

The National Reports will be listed as Information Documents presented to the Scientific Committee and each delegation will be asked to briefly introduce its Report during the Session. The Report should include information for the most recent complete year and the four previous years, if possible. Recent developments in each fishery for tropical tunas (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye) should be highlighted, and where important, fisheries for small tunas and billfish as well as any available information concerning by-catch from tuna fisheries.

In general, the National Report should include information on:

1. General Fishery Statistics
 - a. Catch by species, for each gear type
 - b. Fleet structure
 - c. Available information on the catches of non-target, associated and dependent (NTAD) species
 - d. Description of recent changes in the national data collection and processing systems

This section is intended to provide a summary of the main features of the tuna fisheries for the reporting party. As such, it does not replace the need for submission of data according to the IOTC Mandatory Data Requirements listed in IOTC Resolution 01/04.

2. Report on the implementation of recommendations of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee has produced a number of recommendations concerning collection of information and research on the relevant resources. A summary of the general recommendations will be listed in the IOTC website.

3. National Research Programs currently in place

The reporting party is invited to describe current scientific research taking place in institutions under its responsibility. The emphasis should be placed on describing the activities rather than the results of the scientific research, which would be more appropriately reported in the species Working Parties.

4. Any other relevant information