

Introduction

Since 2005, the ICCAT Statistical Bulletin has been published in a new format covering all the time series of the nominal catch data available in the Secretariat database. With this new edition, the Secretariat wants to further enhance the use of this publication by providing an electronic version of the data and figures, in a CD format. The current edition provides the catch and other statistics series starting in 1950 up to 2015.

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.11-12].

The ICCAT tagging database was also reviewed and cleaned. Section V of this volume gives a summarized overview of this information maintained at the Secretariat. 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 CD for incomplete or incongruent tagging data.

Data used in this publication correspond to June 2017 and are subject to possible revisions. Thus, it is recommended that potential users of this information consult the ICCAT web site (www.iccat.int) in order to verify the availability of more recent versions.

Data sources

The statistics in this publication represent the scientific working groups best estimates, according to the decision 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 the size sampling, the catch and effort data available, and the rules for substitution adopted by the SCRS over the past years. The vertical or horizontal lines in 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 Dept.

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 9 major species

Temperate tunas	Tropical tunas	Billfishes	Swordfish
Albacore and Bluefin	Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack	Blue marlin, Sailfish and White marlin	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