

CONVENOR'S REPORT
OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON STOCK IDENTIFICATION

by
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SUMMARY

The tag comparison experiment on bluefin tuna was continued in 1972 in the western Atlantic, and reports on preliminary results are included in SCRS/72/25 and SCRS/72/27. ORSTOM continued its program of tagging yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye tuna off Africa. Scientists of ISTPM continued to tag albacore in the Bay of Biscay. The Secretariat was requested to suggest procedures for handling tagging information so a permanent archive of data can be established. The 1971 lottery winner was a Canadian fish cannery worker who received a prize of US\$ 300.

RAPPORT DU COORDONNATEUR
DU SOUS-COMITE POUR L'IDENTIFICATION DES STOCKS

par
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RESUME

Les expériences de comparaison de marques sur le thon rouge se sont poursuivies en 1972 dans l'Atlantique Occidental. Des rapports sur les premiers résultats figurent dans les documents SCRS/72/25 et SCRS/72/27. L'ORSTOM poursuit son programme de marquage d'albacore, de listao et de thon obèse au large de l'Afrique. Des experts de l'ISTPM continuent de marquer le germon dans le Golfe de Gascogne. Le Secrétariat a été prié de suggérer des processus de traitement des données de marquage de façon à permettre la création d'archives permanentes de données. La gagnante de la loterie de 1971 a été une employée d'une conserverie canadienne, qui a reçu un prix de US\$ 300.

INFORME DEL COORDINADOR
DEL SUBCOMITE DE IDENTIFICACION DE STOCKS

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RESUMEN

Se prosiguió la experiencia de comparación de marcas sobre atunes en el Atlántico occidental y se han incluido los informes de los resultados preliminares en los documentos SCRS/72/25 y SCRS/72/27. El ORSTOM continuó su programa de marcado de rabil, listado y patudo frente a las costas de Africa. Científicos del ISTPM siguieron marcando albacora en el Golfo de Vizcaya. Si pidió a la Secretaría que presentara sugerencias de métodos para el procesamiento de los datos de marcado a fin de poder establecer un archivo permanente de datos. El ganador de la lotería de 1971 fué una empleada de una fábrica de conservas canadiense que recibió un premio de US\$ 300.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Sub-Committee on Stock Identification
Convenor's Report
November 1972

Review of Progress

The Sub-Committee carried out its responsibilities by correspondence during 1972. Following is a summary of these activities. Further details may be found in the national research reports and in the special documents submitted to this ICCAT meeting.

Tag Comparison Experiment

The tag comparison experiment on bluefin tuna that was begun in 1971 by the United States and Canada was continued in 1972. A total of 732 fish (580 in 1971 and 152 in 1972) were tagged in the 2 years. This number was less than the goal of 1000 fish tagged and released for the experiment because of the late seasonal fishery in 1972. The fish were tagged alternately, the first with two Type-D tags, the second with two Type-H tags (Akyüz, 1970, FAO Fisheries Circular 101, Revision 1), etc. Returns from the tagging experiment have been received and the results to date tabulated and analyzed for this meeting (SCRS/72/25 and SCRS/72/27).

Other Tagging Experiments

National tagging programs have operated this year and the returns continue to provide information on migrations, stock structure, etc. A document submitted to the meeting (SCRS/72/31) lists the results of tagging experiments to September 1, 1972, and updates the earlier report of the Working Party on Tuna and Billfish Tagging in the Atlantic and Adjacent Seas under the FAO/UN Panel

of Experts for the Facilitation of Tuna Research. Activities in 1972 include tagging of tropical tunas (primarily yellowfin tuna and skipjack, but also some bigeye tuna) by the ORSTOM laboratories with assistance from the U.S.A. National Marine Fisheries Service, bluefin tuna and billfishes in the western North Atlantic by Canada and the United States (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution), albacore in the Bay of Biscay by ISTPM, and other species in other areas.

The Secretariat continues to maintain a supply of tags (ICCAT-return label) for use by countries which find it unfeasible to use tags with their own return label.

Reporting of Tagging Information

Release and recovery information have been reported this past year to the ICCAT Secretariat for the purposes of publicizing tagging experiments and for conducting the tag lottery. The Secretariat was asked to prepare suggestions for handling tag information so that a permanent archive of tagging data could be established, presumably at ICCAT headquarters.

Tag Lottery

The first lottery sponsored by ICCAT and held in March 1972 was won by a Canadian fish cannery worker. The winning tag was from a bluefin tuna which had been tagged in August 1970 off Block Island (New York) and recovered in 1971 by a Canadian fishing vessel. The prize was US\$ 300.

Stock Structure of Various Species

At the 1971 meeting a number of reports were received of studies in progress to delineate the stock structure of tunas and billfishes in the Atlantic Ocean. These studies are being carried out by a variety of methods. During the year further progress has been made in this area and reports on this subject are in preparation or have been completed.