

Original: English

SCRS PROTOCOL TO REPORT ZERO CATCHES FOR THE MAIN ICCAT SPECIES IN TASK I

Background:

The Commission, the Secretariat, and the SCRS had faced in the past the difficulty to identify if the ICCAT CPCs are in compliance with the ICCAT statistical reporting obligations, in particular with respect to the Task I annual catches. The problem lies in anticipating with a reasonable confidence, the expected Task I species catch composition (both positive and zero catches) that need to be reported by each ICCAT CPC in each one of their fisheries (fleet/gear combinations, able to fish any of the ICCAT major species). This difficulty was exacerbated with the adoption by the Commission of *Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non fulfillment of reporting obligations* [Rec. 11-15], which explicitly requires the submission of zero catches. Since the SCRS and the Secretariat acknowledged that the reporting of zero catches for each species/gear/area combination is a nearly impossible task, there has been confusion on the rules to report zero catches. This protocol is aimed to clearly establish the rules for the reporting of zero catches in the submission of Task I catch data.

Definitions:

Two types of “zero catch” were identified:

- a) Real “zero”: effective annual based zero catches of a given species having behind a fishing activity (fleet/gear combination) in a given region of the ICCAT convention area.
- b) Global “zero”: informative zeros, reported by an ICCAT CPC aimed to inform that no fishing activity took place in the ICCAT convention area (ALL species/ gears/ fleets).

While the both types of zeros are important in terms of compliance; Type (a) zeros are the most useful for scientific purposes.

Protocol to report “zeros”:

The following criteria shall be applied:

- A “**real zero**” catch shall be reported:
 - i. By stock/management unit, flag, year, and gear
 - ii. For the following species:
 - 10 tuna & like species: BFT, ALB, BET, YFT, SKJ, SWO, BUM, WHM, SAI, SPF
 - 3 sharks: BSH, POR, SMA
 - 6 small tuna: BON, LTA, KGM, FRI, SSM, BRS
 - shark prohibited species: FAL, SPZ/SPL/SPK/, OCS, ALV/PTH/BTH
 - iii. The real zero catch represents the entire removals (landings + dead discards).
- A “**global zero**” (a) requires that:
 - i. The reporting CPC inform the Secretariat that, no fishing activity (National & chartered fleets) catching any of the major ICCAT species took place in the ICCAT area in a particular year.

Reporting Rules:

The Secretariat will prepare an electronic form with a matrix containing rows with each stock/management unit for the species listed above and columns with the major ICCAT gear groups (see **Table 1**). CPCs will then be required to fill the matrix as follows:

1. A value of ZERO (0) will be entered to indicate a REAL ZERO for that particular stock/gear combination. The real zero values reported using the above mentioned matrix don't have to be reported using the form ST02-T1NC.
2. A value of ONE (1) will be entered to indicate that the CPC had an annual positive catch for that particular stock/gear combination. The positive catches have to be reported using the form ST02-T1NC.
3. A value of NEGATIVE ONE (-1) will be entered to indicate that the CPC had no fishing activity for associated to that particular stock/gear combination.

Validation:

All the "*Eligible zeros*" reported in fulfillment with the abovementioned "*Reporting rules*" are considered "Valid". Only the "valid" zeros will pass the current SCRS filtering (filters 1 and 2) criteria and therefore will be considered for compliance purposes. The Secretariat should ensure a systematic validation process by developing the proper tools that ensures an effective and transparent scrutiny of the zeros and its appropriate storage (storing the valid ones and eliminating the non-valid ones).

Table 1. Matrix of stocks and gear groups to report real zero catches, positive catches, and global zeros. Refer to the text for an explanation of how to fill the matrix.

	<i>Gear Groups</i>								
	<i>LL</i>	<i>PS</i>	<i>BB</i>	<i>HAND</i>	<i>GILL</i>	<i>TRAW</i>	<i>TROL</i>	<i>TRAP</i>	<i>HARP</i>
BFT-E									
BFT-W									
BET									
ALB-N									
ALB-S									
ALB-M									
YFT									
SKJ-E									
SKJ-W									
BUM									
WHM									
SAI-E									
SAI-W									
SPF-E									
SPF-W									
BSH-N									
BSH-S									
POR									
SMA									
BON									
LTA									
KGM									
FRI									
SSM									
BRS									
FAL									
SPZ									
SPL									
SPK									
OCS									
ALV									
PTH									
BTH									