

NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

SERVICE D'ÉTAT  
DES AFFAIRES MARITIMES

SERVICE TERRITORIAL  
DE LA MARINE MARCHANDE  
ET DES PÊCHES MARITIMES

PORT SAMPLING AT NOUMEA  
NEW CALEDONIA

The programme

The port sampling activity at Nouméa, currently carried out by the New Caledonia fisheries service, was initiated by SPC-TBAP staff under the South Pacific albacore programme.

By the end of 1992, the fisheries service staff of New Caledonia commenced to collect weights and lengths but unlike SPC staff has no means to collect hard parts.

The samples are collected each week among the catches from 2 small tuna longliners on which fish are chilled in ice/seawater slurry during the 6 day fishing trip.

Since the fish are intended to be sold on the sashimi market and sent via airplane to Japan, the fishing activity is very timely-regulated, so is the sampling activity.

Until now the fisheries service staff has not been able to go in for sampling the catches from the freezer-longliners whose fishing trips are long (1 to 2 months) and unregular.

### The sampling procedure

As soon as the boats arrive at port fish are unloaded and proceeded to where they are sorted.

All the fish that are sent to Japan must be weighted individually: these are yellowfin, striped marlins and large albacore during the high season (austral winter).

Other fish are either sold on the local market (then weighted individually) or kept frozen at port before being transshipped onto a freezer to canneries of the region (mainly albacore).

In 1993 the 2 sampled boats unloaded about 13,500 fish among which 4,500 were sent to Japan.

As the processing area is small, port sampling must be carried out to minimize interference but it's not easy, anytime.

The data collected are reported on forms from SPC (see copy attached). Information on fishing area are given by the captains or found on the fishing logsheets.

A team of 2 persons can sample both the boats each week. One of them measures the fish and checks the weight, if any. Meanwhile, the other person reports the data on the form.

Each week the team tries to sample at least 50% of the fish unloaded and almost all the fish sent to Japan can be measured.

### Projects in 1994

It is planned that 2 new boats commence to operate from Nouméa in the first quater of 1994.

2 teams of samplers will then be needed and one of them will be from the New Caledonia Maritime College: each week, 2 of its trainees will take part of the sampling to learn how to collect port samples and perhaps to anlyse the figures, if they feel like doing it ...!

LONGLINE TRANSHIPMENT SAMPLING

Block 1: General and operational details

Port:	Date: / /	Sampler:
Vessel Name:	Flag:	Registration No :
Trip dates: Date of departure: ___ / ___ / ___		1st Day recorded on logsheet :
Date of return: ___ / ___ / ___		
Fishing area :	° N / S	° E / W

Block 2: Total sampling details by species

	YFT	BET	ALB	BFT	BLZ	BLM	MLS	SWO	SBS	OTH
Number										
Σ lengths										
Σ weights										

Block 3: Sampling data

No	Species	Length	Weight	Rej	No	Species	Length	Weight	Rej
1					26				
2					27				
3					28				
4					29				
5					30				
6					31				
7					32				
8					33				
9					34				
10					35				
11					36				
12					37				
13					38				
14					39				
15					40				
16					41				
17					42				
18					43				
19					44				
20					45				
21					46				
22					47				
23					48				
24					49				
25					50				

## INSTRUCTIONS

There are three blocks of data to be completed on the form.

### Block 1: general and operational information

Port: Specify port where transshipment sampling takes place  
Date: Specify the date (day/month/year) on which sampling was carried out  
Sampler: Sampler's name  
Vessel Name: Specify vessel name  
Flag: Nationality under which vessel is registered  
Registration No: Specify vessel registration number; this must be filled in for Taiwanese vessels.  
Trip dates: Specify the dates of departure from and return to port and the first day where a position was recorded on the logsheet for that trip (even if it was in transit).  
Fishing area: Specify the south-west corner of the 5° square in which most fishing took place during the trip, as indicated in the vessel's logbook, e.g. if most fishing took place at 5°-10°N, 130°-135°E, then 10°N, 130°E should be specified by writing in the "10" and "130" and circling the "N" and the "E"

### Block 2: catch details

Specify the total number of each species sampled, the sum of the lengths of each species measured and the sum of the weights recorded for each species. The species codes used are:

<u>Code</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
YFT	yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>
BET	bigeye tuna	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>
ALB	albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>
BFT	bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>
BLZ	blue marlin	<i>Makaira mazara</i>
BLM	black marlin	<i>Makaira indica</i>
MLS	striped marlin	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>
SWO	broadbill swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>
SBS	shortbill spearfish	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>

Enter catch number for other species under OTH, and list the species included in this category in the margin.

### Block 3: sampling data

Each form has space for 50 fish to be sampled.

Species should be indicated by the codes given above and the common names for other species.

For tuna, length is measured as a straight line (i.e. not along the curve of the body) from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork in the tail. For billfish, measure from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork in the tail. If the lower jaw is missing, measure from the back of the eye orbit to the fork in the tail and put "(O)" in the second column under the length heading; if the head is missing, measure from the anterior base of the pectoral fin to the fork in the tail and put "(P)" in the second column under the length heading.

Weight will normally be gilled and gutted weight, but if whole weight is measured and recorded, put "(W)" after the weight. If the fish is weighed in POUNDS, put "(LB)" in the second column under the weight heading.

If the fish is rejected, put "(R)" in the Rej column.

If more than 50 fish are sampled from a single unloading, use a second sampling form. The first two blocks can be left blank (they will already be filled in on the first form) except for port, vessel name and date, which must be re-entered exactly as they appear on the first form. Continue recording species, length, weight and sex in the third block. Use as many forms as necessary to sample the unloading. Number the pages in the space provided at the top of the form and staple them together; be sure to number the pages correctly.