IMPLEMENTATION OF SPACE-TIME DATABASE BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT AND FISHERIES ON A DAILY BASIS

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ABSTRACT

In order to prepare for the implementation of the future regional longline database (COI) in a more dynamic and didactic manner, while taking into consideration the spatial and temporal series, the creation of an animated product in which eight months of daily SST charts (between 5°N and 40°S and 35°E and 80°E) and swordfish and albacore longline catch data are superimposed, has been reported by ORSTOM-IFREMER La Réunion.

This future database, managed by a geographical information system (GIS), should integrate several types of supplementary data about oceanographic parameters (vorticity, wind stress, sea colour) and fishing statistics (CPUE, effort for important species, and bycatch).

The combined information from these different data strata will highlight the possible correlations between catch and environment. This tool will be used in decision-making for the longline fishery and a general understanding of the dynamic relationship between pelagic resources and their environment.

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FOREWORD

Since 1985, the Indo-Pacific Tuna Development and Management Programme (IPTP), a UNDP/FAO regional programme, has been convening and sponsoring the Expert Consultations on Indian Ocean Tunas, to provide a forum for the dissemination of research results and the exchange of information on the status of the tuna stocks and tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean.

The latest meeting, the 6th Expert Consultation on Indian Ocean Tunas, was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 25-29 September, 1995. It was attended by 51 scientists from the national institutions of 20 countries and representatives of two international bodies responsible for tuna management in other oceans, in addition to staff from FAO and IPTP, and 62 national reports and scientific papers were presented, a record for these Consultations. The increasing participation of scientists from nations bordering the Indian Ocean is particularly encouraging, as a measure of the interest that the tuna fisheries are generating in the nations of the region, the collection of working documents presented in this volume is a significant sample of the most recent research on Indian Ocean tunas and the status of the fisheries.

This volume includes the working documents made available to the participants in the Consultation. Frequently, comments made during the discussions that followed each presentation put the results presented in context; these discussions are summarised in the companion volume, *Report of the Sixth Expert Consultation on the Indian Ocean Tunas* (IPTP/95/GEN/23), published earlier this year by IPTP. Since the working documents formed the basis for the discussions and conclusions reached by the Consultation, they are reproduced here in substantially the same form in which they were presented at the meeting, with editorial changes.

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