Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss.,
doi:10.5194/essd-2016-40-RC1, 2016

Open Access Earth System Science Data Discussions

Interactive comment on "Standardization of a geo-referenced fishing dataset for the IndianOcean Bigeye Tuna, *Thunnus obesus* (1952–2014)" *by* Teja A. Wibawa et al.

A.W. Diamond (Referee)

diamond@unb.ca

Received and published: 20 October 2016

My expertise in this area is very limited; I suspect I was asked to review because of my work on seabirds in the Indian Ocean in the past, including identifying tuna as critically important in making prey available to seabirds fishing at the surface of tropical oceans. I therefore have an interest in seeing trends in the tuna fishery as they might affect the ability of many species of seabirds, especially frigatebirds, terns and boobies, to obtain sufficient food. The work presented here is clearly very important in providing consistent data from many datasets of variable quality, and I commend the authors for attempting to do this. I do suggest a few concepts could be better explained for the non-expert reader - if there are any such in this journal! I did not clearly understand the

Printer-friendly version

Discussion paper

concept of "raising catch data" to "the nominal catch"- could the authors explain just what is a nominal catch, and why it is necessary to raise the existing data to it? The disparity between the two (Table 1 and Figure 4) is so large that it reduces confidence in the reliability of the data resulting after the complex adjustments that the authors have made. Nonetheless, the steep increase in tuna catches over the time covered (Figure 1) is dramatic and important; thus it is particularly reassuring to see from Figure 6 that CPUE has not declined as much as might be expected, except in the Japanese longline fleet.

I have a few suggestions for improving the English which are given below.

p.1 L 27 delete 'of' between Eastern and Indian

L 32 'of' should be 'for'

p.2 l 15 delete 'to'

p.3 l 33 Need to say what was the cutoff length (or weight) between 'large' and 'small' purse-seiners.

p.5 l 24 change 'to be provided' to 'being provided'

p.9 l 15, delete "it"

p.11

l.23 This is the first mention of Iran, India, Pakistan and Oman! l. 26 insert "on" between "based" and "fishing"

p.13 l. 4 "for" should come after "searching"

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., doi:10.5194/essd-2016-40, 2016.