

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

3RD MEETING

**La Jolla, California (USA)
15-18 May 2012**

**DOCUMENT SAC-03-11d
DATA COLLECTION FOR LONGLINE FLEETS**

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The recent recommendation for observers to cover 5% of the effort of the longline fleets may result in the rapid development of several parallel programs to achieve this goal. In order to make the best use of the information obtained, it is critical that the programs develop along consistent lines that will ensure the quality and consistency of the data.

For this purpose, the IATTC staff recommends the use of the following forms, available on the [IATTC website](#), together with instructions on how to fill them out.

1. For unobserved trips:
 - a. Regional [Longline logbook form](#) (to be filled by fishers)
 - b. [Gear description](#) forms (to be filled in port)
 - c. [Landings](#) forms (filled at landing sites)
2. For observed trips:
 - a. [Longline - normal](#)
 - b. [Gear description](#) forms (filled by observers or in port)

In all appropriate cases, it is recommended to identify the hooks using the codes in the [Hook Catalog](#) developed by the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan-IATTC program, also available on the website.

These forms have been developed with the input of many researchers from the international community, and it may be of interest to convene a meeting of all those running or planning to run observer programs to answer any questions, add any elements deemed necessary (*e.g.* add line-weighting system in areas with seabird interactions), and achieve full agreement on the content of the forms.