



Report from the Extended Scientific Committee

Purpose

To consider the Report of the Twenty-First Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC21), incorporating the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC).

Introduction

The Report of the Twenty-First Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC21) is provided to this meeting as CCSBT-EC/1610/Rep02.

The ESC Chair will provide a presentation of the ESC's report at this agenda item with a detailed summary of the advice and recommendations from the ESC. A copy of the ESC Chair's presentation is provided as paper CCSBT-EC/1610/18.

Some of the key points arising from the ESC meeting include:

- Unlike in 2013 and 2014, the reported catch of Members and Cooperating Non Members in 2015 was below the global TAC. However, the estimates are preliminary at this stage.
- The ESC agreed that the scale of the potential catches from non-Member effort were sufficient to require further attention by the EC.
- Based on the 2014 stock assessment, the stock remains at a very low state estimated to be 9% (8-12 80% P.I.) of the initial spawning stock biomass, and below the level to produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY). However, there has been some improvement since the 2011 stock assessment and the fishing mortality rate is below the level associated with MSY.
- Overall there are signs of higher recruitment in recent years and there are some consistent positive trends in the longline CPUE. This suggests that some relatively strong cohorts are moving through the fishery, although these have yet to contribute to the spawning stock. The ESC noted that increased recruitment is of itself not necessarily indicative of increased spawning stock biomass
- In relation to the TAC for 2017 and 2018-2020:
 - In evaluating whether to take action for exceptional circumstances, the ESC took into account the EC's intention to take account of Non-Cooperating Non-Member catches and to implement the agreed common definition of Attributable SBT Catch in the 2018-20 TAC block and longer term;
 - The ESC recommended that there is no need to revise the Extended Commission's 2014 TAC decision regarding the TAC for 2017. Therefore the recommended TAC for 2017 remains 14,647t; and
 - The recommended annual TAC, from the Management Procedure (MP), for the years 2018-2020 is 17,647t. The ESC concluded there was no reason to take action to modify the 2018-20 TAC recommendation in relation to its review of exceptional circumstances.

- The ESC recommended that the MP approach¹ (as opposed to the Direct Approach) for unaccounted mortalities should be used for future TAC recommendations beyond the 2018-2020 block. A new MP using the MP Approach would provide TAC advice to the EC for Members' and Cooperating Non-Members' (CNMs) attributable catches that would be robust to the additional catches included in testing and tuning of the MP.
- The ESC recommended that the EC consider dialogue between Commissioners and Scientists in their work plan, similar to that which occurred as part of the development and adoption of the Bali Procedure. It is proposed that MP concepts and implications for the stock could be communicated to, and discussed with, Members and Commissioners prior to the scheduled EC Meeting in 2018. Engagement intersessionally in 2018 (between the OMMP² meeting in June and the ESC meeting in September), which may require several iterations as candidate MPs are developed, would facilitate MP refinements to meet the EC's objectives and improve the adoption and implementation process. This would lead to MP adoption at the EC Meeting in 2018, and TAC setting in 2019, thus avoiding the potential risk of MP adoption and TAC setting in the same year (2019).
- To support the technical process for MP development, the ESC recommended engagement of a consultant for inter-sessional work and attendance at OMMP meetings and the ESC, as occurred in previous MP development processes.
- The ESC recommended that the EC consider conducting the scientific aerial survey in 2018. This is to mitigate the risk presented by stopping the current recruitment index (the aerial survey) before the new recruitment index (gene-tagging) is demonstrated to have been applied successfully.

Other recommendations from the ESC included:

- A reiteration of the ESC's previous requests that relevant CDS and market data be made available to allow technical evaluation of catch assumptions to be used in the OM and MP testing process.
- That the ESC and ERSWG Chairs represent the CCSBT at the joint tuna RFMO Ecosystems Based Fisheries Management meeting in December 2016 and provide feedback to the CCSBT/ERSWG on outcomes of the meeting.
- That the EC approve the proposal at **Attachment A**, in which data should be provided for figures included in ESC reports. This would allow more flexible use of those figures by Members and others because the data would allow the figures to be presented in different ways.

Prepared by the Secretariat

¹ The "MP approach" is to re-tune the MP to different scenarios that cover the plausible scenarios of catches from non-Members and have the MP recommend a TAC that takes into account the uncertainties in the non-Member catch. The "Direct approach" is to estimate the non-Member catch and then set aside an allowance to take account of non-Member catch before allocating the remainder of the global TAC to Members and CNMs.

² Operating Model and Management Procedure technical meeting.

Proposal for Data file submission for figures in ESC Reports

This working paper proposes a rule and process for handling of data files to draw figures (“data file”) in ESC Reports.

Providing a data file is expected to have the followings advantages.

Member scientists can modify figures to be understood easily, such as using their own language or different aspect ratio or colour, when presenting it to other scientists, managers, industry, mass-media and the general public. It facilitates understanding of SBT stock and CCSBT. It is useful for the MP development process which requires understanding and participation of managers and industry.

Scientists outside of CCSBT get the opportunity to be interested and be involved in studying the SBT stock.

General rule is as follows:

- Wherever possible and practical, figures provided for use in the main text of ESC reports should be accompanied by the data used to draw those figures. Data for figures in attachments to the report should be provided if requested by the ESC.
- The data file will be available for the participants of the ESC meeting.
- As for the ESC Report, the data file is confidential until the adoption of the ESC Report in Commission meeting.
- The Secretariat will manage these data files and, subject to the previous point, provide them to Members and the general public etc. on request.

Detail points:

- The data will be limited to those required to draw the graph.
- The data to be provided can be simplified, e.g. omit data for outlier in boxplots, or reduce levels of gradation in colour chart.
- The author of the figure, or the ESC can choose to not provide the data.
- The data file should be submitted to be used in widely used software, e.g. EXCEL.
- The data file should be submitted in 10 working days after ESC finished.

Use of data:

When these data are used, full reference must be provided to the source of the figure and data (i.e., the relevant ESC report). If there is an intention to re-use the data or figure in a scientific publication or other report, approval must be obtained from the authors.