



CCSBT-ESC/1809/42

Report from the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group

Purpose

To provide the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) with a summary of the report and recommendations from the March 2018 meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG).

Background

The Report of the Fifth Meeting of the SFMWG is provided to this meeting as CCSBT-ESC/1809/Rep02.

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

1. *Desirable Behaviour and Specification of the new Management Procedure (MP)*

- Most Members were of the view that the long-term target for the SBT fishery should be a spawning biomass at or above the biomass level that would produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY).
- The meeting agreed:
 - That once the current interim rebuilding target of 20% of the unfished spawning stock biomass (SSB₀) has been reached, there should be a high probability that the stock would not fall below this level beyond 2035.
 - To the following objectives for use in the initial round of Candidate Management Procedure (CMP) testing:
 - Tuning biomass levels of 0.25, 0.30, 0.35 and 0.40 percent of SSB₀;
 - CMPs be tuned to a 50% probability of achieving the tuning biomass levels;
 - The tuning timeframe for CMPs will be 2035, but if the timeframe is too short and the initial results are numerically unstable or unsuitable, the Operating Model and Management Procedure (OMMP) Technical Group will increase the timeframe by five years or whatever is necessary noting that the projections will extend to 2045; and
 - All CMPs should achieve the current objective of providing at least a 70% probability of reaching 20% of SSB₀ by 2035.
 - To a variety of performance statistics that the technical experts would examine and that the technical experts would present the most relevant statistics to the Extended Commission (EC). In relation to catch performance measures, smoothness in catch (low average annual variation in catch) and avoidance of large TAC decreases after increases were considered to be of particular importance.
 - To keep a three-year quota block as is the case with the current MP. The first TAC decision from the new MP would be made in October 2020 and this will provide the TAC for 2021-2023. Subsequent TAC decisions will have a one-year gap between the recommendation and implementation of the TAC (e.g. the MP will recommend the TAC for 2024-2026 in 2022).
 - That maximum TAC changes of 2,000 t, 3,000 t, and 4,000 t would be examined in the first instance and, if this did not provide sufficient contrast for

comparison, a maximum TAC change of 5,000 t would be added for some scenarios.

- The meeting considered possible risks with respect to development of the new MP, which included whether the new gene tagging research would provide suitable recruitment estimates for MP development and the risk of an abundance estimate not being available in a future year. It was noted that early indications were that gene tagging is producing recruitment abundance estimates consistent with recent estimates of recruitment from the operating model and that the gene tagging has some advantages over the previous aerial survey with respect to collecting the necessary data. It was agreed that the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) should continue to advise the EC of risks that it identifies and of potential options on how best to respond to them.

2. CCSBT Fisheries Management Plan

- There was consensus that while consolidating information about the CCSBT's fishery management into a Fisheries Management Plan would be useful, it was not considered to be a priority at the present time.

3. Review of future allocation model – particularly in relation to new Members

- There was no consensus for the CCSBT to develop detailed allocation rules in advance of an application for an allocation of the TAC

4. CCSBT's processes with respect to Ecologically Related Species

- Most Members agreed that the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) has been ineffective.
- No consensus was reached on whether the CCSBT's Convention provided a mandate to pass measures on ERS, but it was noted that CCSBT is in a similar situation as ICCAT and IOTC and that both of these RFMOs have also adopted measures in relation to ERS.
- The meeting agreed that one possible way of implementing binding ERS measures for CCSBT Members without duplicating the effort of other tuna RFMOs is to create a CCSBT Resolution that requires CCSBT Members to follow the ERS measures of the relevant tuna RFMOs. It was agreed that such a proposal would be prepared by the European Union and New Zealand for consideration at CCSBT 25, although a final decision on the proposal would be subject to internal consultations including legal scrutiny by relevant Members.
- The meeting recommended some technical changes to the ERSWG's Terms of Reference and that Members would provide further suggested revisions to the Secretariat intersessionally so that the Secretariat could provide a paper to CCSBT 25 containing the combined revisions from all Members.
- Substantial debate was held in relation to whether the ERSWG should report directly to the EC (but providing the opportunity for the ESC to comment on the reports of the ERSWG) as per the current practise, or whether the ERSWG should be a subsidiary body of the ESC and report to the ESC, with the ESC then reporting to the EC on ERS matters. The ERSWG's Terms of Reference are ambiguous on this matter and further discussion is required to resolve this situation.
- The meeting considered a draft questionnaire developed by the Secretariat as part of the review of the implementation of the CCSBT's Recommendation on ERS. The meeting agreed to a number of changes that should be made to the questionnaire before it is sent to Members for completion. The meeting also agreed that the

questionnaire should not be conducted on an annual basis and that it should be either a once off or an infrequent survey.

5. *Review of the form and function of the Compliance Committee*

- Members did not agree to a proposal to separate the Compliance Committee meeting from the EC but supported ad-hoc expert Compliance working groups being convened from time to time as required.
- New Zealand noted it will develop a proposal regarding ad-hoc expert compliance meetings for Members to evaluate at CC 13 and CCSBT 25 and noted that such a proposal may ultimately reduce the technical burden on the Compliance Committee.