

Provisional Agenda
Second Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group
14-16 April, 2010
Tokyo, Japan

1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1. Welcome

1.2. Confirmation of Chair

1.3. Introduction of participants

1.4. Terms of Reference and Adoption of Agenda

The broad purpose of the SFMWG (from the Terms of Reference - attached) is to (i) develop a draft Strategic Plan which sets out a common view of the strategic direction of the Extended Commission in managing the SBT fishery; and (ii) develop a draft Fisheries Management Plan for SBT comprising management objectives for the SBT stock and ecologically related species consistent with modern standards of international fisheries management. This includes a rebuild strategy for SBT that is consistent with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the precautionary approach and other technical measures for managing the SBT stock as appropriate.

2. Development of the CCSBT Strategic Plan

CCSBT 16 noted that the Draft Strategic Plan developed by New Zealand for the Extended Commission (provided at Attachment 16 of the CCSBT 16 report) had yet to be adopted and that further development and consideration of the plan will be considered at the SFMWG meeting in April 2010.

Development of the Strategic Plan is intended to be one of the primary tasks of this SFMWG meeting.

3. Development of the rebuilding strategy for managing the SBT stock

The first SFMWG meeting provided advice on a number of matters concerning management and rebuilding of the SBT stock, including that: Rebuilding the stock to SSB_{MSY} (Spawning Stock Biomass at Maximum Sustainable Yield) was confirmed to be the objective of the CCSBT; an interim target reference point of 20% of SSB_0 is required to move the stock from its current low level; a Management Procedure (MP) would be finalised in 2010 for implementation in 2011; and it was not necessary at this stage to implement special management arrangements for the spawning grounds.

The second SFMWG meeting will be required to further develop the rebuilding strategy, including: consideration of appropriate timeframes for reaching 20% of SSB_0 and other performance targets for the MP to be "tuned" for. This is closely related to aspects of the next agenda item.

4. Advice to the Management Procedure Technical Working Group and Extended Scientific Committee in relation to development of the Management Procedure.

As part of the Resolution on the Total Allowable Catch and Future Management of Southern Bluefin Tuna, CCSBT 16 stated that the Management Procedure (MP) should be finalised in 2010 for agreement by the Extended Commission at its annual meeting in 2010. In order to finalise the MP, the Technical Working Group and the ESC will require advice in a number of areas, including:

- How often should the TAC be changed after 2012? In previous MP development, TAC changes were limited to every three years at the request of the Extended Commission. However, given the poor SBT stock status, more frequent changes would be desirable to avoid larger adjustments.*
- What time lag will be required from TAC calculation by the MP to implementation of that TAC? However, for the 2012 TAC, no lag is assumed. The 2012 TAC would be calculated in Jul-Sep 2011 by the MP using CPUE to 2010. Implementation of the TAC would therefore be almost immediately after this in the case of Australia.*
- What are the maximum and minimum acceptable changes in TAC at each step (in previous MP development, values of 5000 t and 100 t were used).*
- What performance (rebuilding) levels should the MP be tuned to? In previous MP development, the MPs were tuned so that the median SSB in 2022 was 0.9, 1.1 and 1.3 of the current (2004) value. However, a different criteria (tuned so that there was a 90% probability - based on the reference set - of being above current in 2022) ended up being used when the ESC recommended an MP in 2005.*
- What additional performance statistics does the Extended Commission require? At present, the full list requested for the constant-catch projections will be used.*
- Other requests for advice may arise through ongoing technical work on the MP prior to the SFMWG meeting.*

5. Presentation of action plans developed by Members in accordance with the “Resolution on action plans to ensure compliance with Conservation and Management Measures”

At its first meeting, the SFMWG stressed the importance of obtaining accurate verified data and noted that some Members were not obtaining sufficient verification of their data. Those Members were encouraged to obtain more systematic ways to verify their data. CCSBT 16 later adopted a Resolution on action plans to ensure compliance with Conservation and Management Measures. This resolution requires each Member and Cooperating Non-Member to submit to the Secretariat by 1 April 2010, an action plan to ensure its compliance with the Commission’s conservation and management measures, in particular its allocation under the global quota for SBT.

This agenda items provides an opportunity for Member’s and Cooperating Non-Members to present their action plans and to allow for early feedback regarding the action plans.

6. Future work for the SFMWG

Specification of any intersessional work to be completed before CCSBT 17 and recommendation for holding any additional meetings of the SFMWG.

7. Other Business

8. Close of Meeting

8.1. Adoption of Report

8.2. Close of meeting

Terms of Reference
Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group
(Attachment 15 of the CCSBT 15 Report)

In response to the recommendations of the performance review of the Extended Commission completed in 2008, the Extended Commission has agreed the following Terms of Reference for a Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG).

Composition

1. The SFMWG shall consist of the Commissioners from members of the Extended Commission, the Secretariat, and as appropriate, other experts in fisheries management and fisheries science. Numbers of participants will be kept to a minimum.
2. The first meeting will be chaired by Japan.

Functions

3. The broad purpose of the SFMWG shall be:
 - i. To develop a draft Strategic Plan (SP) which sets out a common view of the strategic direction of the Extended Commission in managing the SBT fishery.
 - ii. To develop a draft Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) comprising management objectives for the SBT stock and ecologically related species consistent with modern standards of international fisheries management
 - iii. In relation to ii, develop:
 - a rebuild strategy for SBT that is consistent with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the precautionary approach
 - other technical measures for managing the SBT stock, as appropriate
4. The SFMWG shall take into account any relevant advice from the subsidiary bodies of the Extended Commission.

Workplan

5. The first meeting of the SFMWG will focus on item iii outlined above.
6. The first meeting SFMWG will be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 14-17 April 2009 and any necessary follow up work to the SFMWG meeting will be completed intersessionally before CCSBT16.
7. The recommendations of the SFMWG will be considered by the Extended Commission at CCSBT16.