



**CCSBT-EC/0410/10**

## **7. Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation**

### **Purpose**

To provide relevant background information to support the Extended Commission's deliberations on the setting of a total allowable catch (TAC) for 2005 and its distribution among the members.

### **Status of the SBT Stock**

The Extended Scientific Committee at SC9 concluded:

“The assessments and indicators presented at the 2004 SAG agree that there was at least one year of markedly low recruitment amongst the 1999-2001 year-classes. These support the recruitment concerns outlined in the 2003 SAG report. Moreover the lack of small fish in the longline fisheries and other indicators raised concern that there may have been several years of markedly lower recruitment among those year-classes. There are also some concerns regarding possible reductions in spawning stock size.

“These possibly weaker year classes are moving through the surface fishery and are now becoming a size where they should be caught in the long line fisheries. Thus it will be several more years before the impact of low recruitment in these years would be fully felt by the longline fisheries and about 10 more years before these age-classes enter the spawning stock. If reduced recruitment continues into the future, then under current catch levels the stock would certainly decline.

“However, if the lower recruitment occurs for only a few years, and recruitment then returns towards the level of the mid 1990s, a Management Procedure would likely be able to provide TAC that allows for a reasonable probability of stock rebuilding. The robustness of Management Procedures is being tested against various durations of low recruitment.

“Based on all the evidence reviewed at the SAG and SC, the probability of further stock decline under current catch levels was judged to be greater than in 2001, when an increase or decline under current catches was considered equally likely.

“One approach for CCSBT would be to take the following steps

- Maintain the process towards finalizing scientific advice on MPs at SC 2005. CCSBT 2005 will then be in a position to initiate the process towards the implementation of a Management Procedure. There will be an urgent need for CCSBT to agree Meta-Rules for dealing with low recruitment indicators;
- Between CCSBT 2004 and SAG/SC 2005 assure the maximum possible monitoring of recruitment trends through analysis of length frequency, tag returns, and retention and targeting patterns in the long line fisheries; tagging, aerial surveys acoustic estimates of juveniles in Australia waters; and direct ageing from otoliths from all fisheries. During this period Meta-Rules to deal

with exceptional circumstances, particularly extended periods of poor recruitment, will be developed;

- At SC 2005 conduct an analysis of the full set of indicators of recruitment and of spawning stock biomass agreed at SC 2004; and

“Depending upon the outcome of the indicators analysis there would be two possibilities:

- If indicators suggest that recruitment has not markedly declined on an ongoing basis CCSBT could rely upon the basic Management Procedure to govern future TAC changes;
- If indicators at SAG/SC 2005 suggest an ongoing marked reduction in recruitment, then the MP Meta-Rule being developed would need to be invoked and CCSBT 2005 would need to consider TAC reductions as soon as possible. Such TAC reductions would likely be substantial and the size of reduction would be designed to arrest stock decline and lead to rebuilding. The probability of arresting stock decline and of rebuilding from different levels of TAC reductions would be evaluated using the MP conditioning models; and

“Over and above the steps outlined in paragraph 0 there also remains the possibility for CCSBT to implement a TAC reduction as soon as possible. Given the uncertainty in recruitment trends the SC cannot at this point advise on what level of TAC reduction would provide for specified probabilities of rebuilding. However, any TAC reduction would increase the probability of stock recovery under all possible recruitment scenarios”

### **Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and National Allocations**

At CCSBT10 the Extended Commission agreed to a TAC of 14,030 tonnes for members as shown in the following table:-

Australia	5,265 tonnes
Japan	6,065 tonnes
New Zealand	420 tonnes
Korea	1,140 tonnes
Taiwan	<u>1,140 tonnes</u>
	14,030 tonnes

An aggregate catch limit of up to 900 tonnes was also set for cooperating non-members. Distributions to non-members against this limit were:-

Indonesia	800 tonnes
Philippines	50 tonnes
South Africa	30 tonnes*

\* Initial offer

Meeting document CCSBT-EC/0410/26 submitted by New Zealand relating to the adjustment of national quotas is relevant to this agenda item.