



CCSBT-EC/1110/12

## Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation

### Purpose

To provide relevant background information to support the Extended Commission's deliberations on the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), Research Mortality Allowance for 2012, and allocation of the TAC from 2012.

### (1) Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

At CCSBT 16, the Extended Commission reached agreement on the TAC and its allocation for 2010 and 2011 as described at Attachments A and B. The average TAC for 2010 and 2011 was set to 9449t, with Members being given the flexibility to decide on the split of their allocation between 2010 and 2011. CCSBT 17 further decided that this TAC allocation was considered a 2 year total TAC, and could be distributed across the two year period, with unused catch from the first year carried forward to the second year. CCSBT 17 also agreed that there would be no carryover of unused quota from 2010/2011 to 2012.

A decision on the TAC for 2012 is required at CCSBT 18. The August 2011 Special Meeting of the CCSBT agreed that the management procedure will be recommending the TAC for 2012 to 2014 inclusive.

Recommended TACs for the 12 variants of the management procedure that are being considered are provided in paper CCSBT-EC/1110/18.

### (2) Research Mortality Allowance

The following requests for Research Mortality Allowance for 2012 were endorsed by the Extended Scientific Committee at its meeting in July 2011:

- 1.0t for trolling survey in the 2011/2012 season by Japan; and
- 5.0t for continued deployment of archival and pop-up satellite tags.

The Extended Commission needs to decide whether to approve this request.

### (3) Allocation of the TAC

Allocation issues to be considered by CCSBT 18 include:

- Review of Japan's reduced allocation in accordance with paragraph 66 of the Report of CCSBT 13, which states:  
*"The members also agreed that, taking into account the findings of the review panel on the Japanese Market anomalies, the allocated catch of Japan should remain fixed at 3,000t for the minimum period of 5 years beginning from 2007. The Extended Commission will review the level of this allocation in 2011, and if the stock situation prevailing at the time will permit and the compliance measures put in place by the Extended Commission and the relevant authorities of Japan are deemed sufficient to ensure that all unreported catches are eliminated, this level will be reviewed."*
- The allocation to South Africa for when it ratifies its Membership to the CCSBT (see the letter from South Africa provided at Attachment C);
- How CCSBT will allocate shares of the TAC to future new Members; and
- Clear, predefined rules for allocation of the TAC whenever it is changed by the MP.

These issues were discussed at the August 2011 Special Meeting of the Extended Commission without being resolved. However, agreement was reached on certain general points relating to allocation of the TAC as follows:

- Members that have taken voluntary catch reductions should be able to cease taking those reductions.
- All Members have an interest in returning to their nominal allocations as expressed in the report of CCSBT 16, and in moving all Members towards these nominal allocations as soon as the status of the stock allows.
- A process needs to be developed for returning Japan's actual allocation of the TAC to its nominal percentage. The timing, rate and achievement of status of conditions mentioned in paragraph 66 of the Report of the CCSBT 13 for return are subject to further discussion.
- South Africa's circumstances as a range State for SBT were recognised, and serious consideration to the level of allocation to South Africa is underway. Any new allocation in accordance with Article 8(4) of the Convention will be subject to South Africa acceding to the Convention.
- In the event of a TAC increase, all Members should receive some proportion of that increase even in circumstances where part of the additional TAC may be applied on a non-proportional basis (e.g. allocation to new Members, return of past allocations etc.)
- Unless a CNM accedes to the Convention, the allocations of CNMs will remain at status quo levels during the first TAC-setting period.

Further guidance on allocation is provided in Article 8.4 of the Convention, which specifies that:

- “4. In deciding upon allocations among the Parties under paragraph 3 above the Commission shall consider:*
- (a) relevant scientific evidence;*
  - (b) the need for orderly and sustainable development of southern bluefin tuna fisheries;*
  - (c) the interests of Parties through whose exclusive economic or fishery zones southern bluefin tuna migrates;*
  - (d) the interests of Parties whose vessels engage in fishing for southern bluefin tuna including those which have historically engaged in such fishing and those which have southern bluefin tuna fisheries under development;*
  - (e) the contribution of each Party to conservation and enhancement of, and scientific research on, southern bluefin tuna;*
  - (f) any other factors which the Commission deems appropriate.”*

**Extract from the CCSBT 16 Report of the Decision Concerning  
the TAC and its Allocation**

49. The Extended Commission agreed to a “Resolution on the Total Allowable Catch and Future management of Southern Bluefin Tuna”, which is provided at **Attachment 13 [Attachment B to this paper]**. The Extended Commission also decided, as part of interim management measures, to adopt a TAC based on binding allocated catch limits for 2010 – 2011 as follows:

	Nominal catch (tonnes)	Allocated catch (tonnes)	Effective catch limit
Japan	5665	2261 (2010 – 2011)	2261 (2010 – 2011)
Australia	5665	4270 (2010 – 2011)	4015 (2010 – 2011)
New Zealand	1000	754 (2010 – 2011)	709 (2010 – 2011)
Korea	1140	859 (2010 – 2011)	859 (2010 – 2011)
Taiwan	1140	859 (2010 – 2011)	859 (2010 – 2011)
Indonesia	750	651 (2010 – 2011)	651 (2010 – 2011)

50. The Extended Commission agreed that each Member shall be bound to the allocation in column three above.
51. Furthermore, to contribute to the rebuilding of the SBT stock, Australia and New Zealand will make additional annual voluntary reductions of 255t and 45t respectively for 2010 and 2011, as outlined in the effective catch limit (column 4) of the above table.
52. The Extended Commission also agreed, for the purposes of paragraph 2(b) of Article 11 of the CCSBT Convention, that the budget shall be divided in proportion to the nominal catch in column two above.
53. The Extended Commission agreed on interim catch allocations for Cooperating Non Members for 2010, as follows:

	Allocated catch (tonnes)
The Philippines	45
South Africa	40
European Community	10

54. The Extended Commission also agreed to start discussion from 2010 Extended Commission meeting on quota allocation rules which may be used from 2012 allocations.
55. When deciding the quota allocation for 2012 and beyond, the report of the ESC shall be fully considered.

**Resolution on the TAC from CCSBT 16 (Attachment 13)**

**Resolution on the Total Allowable Catch  
and Future Management of Southern Bluefin Tuna**

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

*Gravely concerned* about the current status of the stock and, in particular, the most recent stock assessment from the Extended Scientific Committee advising that the spawning stock biomass is between 3% and 8% of the original spawning biomass,

*Taking account* of the recommendation of the Extended Scientific Committee that the Extended Commission effect a meaningful reduction in catch below the current total allowable catch of 11,810t,

*Conscious* of its obligation to conserve and manage the stock of southern bluefin tuna with the aim of its optimum utilisation,

*Mindful* of the desirability of allowing the fishing industry time to adjust to immediate and sustained reductions in the total allowable catch,

*Determined* to rebuild the status of stock to an interim rebuilding target reference point of 20% of the original spawning biomass within a reasonable timeframe,

*Noting* reductions will need to be sustained for a considerable period of time in order to allow the stock to rebuild,

*Recognising* the obligations of each Member and Co-operating Non-Member of the Extended Commission to take the necessary steps to ensure that the level of catch complies with its national allocation and to give effect to the conservation and management measures adopted by the Extended Commission,

In accordance with paragraph 3(a) of Article 8 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, the Extended Commission decides as follows:

1. The global TAC for the 2010 and 2011 fishing seasons shall be reduced to an average level over the two years of 80%<sup>1</sup> of the current global TAC.
2. Accordingly the average global TAC for each of the 2010 and 2011 fishing seasons shall be 9449t.
3. By 15 November 2009, each Member shall provide formal advice to the Secretariat regarding how it will split its allocation<sup>2</sup> between the 2010 and 2011 fishing seasons.
4. The CCSBT Management Procedure (MP) should be finalised in 2010 for agreement by the Extended Commission at its annual meeting in 2010.
5. An emergency rule should be developed as part of the MP for exceptional circumstances such as recruitment lower than historically low levels.

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<sup>1</sup> Each Member's catch in the first year should be reduced as much as possible and Members should endeavor to reduce by at least 10% below current levels

<sup>2</sup> Members' agreement on national allocations is explained in the report of the Extended Commission.

6. The MP should be implemented in 2011 and be the basis for TAC setting for 2012 and beyond.
7. In the event that an MP cannot be finalised by 2012, the Extended Commission shall adopt a reduction of the TAC for the 2012 fishing season to a level of 5,000t - 6,000t unless the Extended Commission decides otherwise based upon the new stock assessment.



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

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6 January 2011

Mr Robert Kennedy  
Executive Secretary  
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Dear Sir

## **RE: South Africa's Ratification of the CCSBT Agreement**

The South African Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries; branch Fisheries (hereafter referred to as the Department) conveys its best wishes for the New Year to the CCSBT Secretariat and all Member Parties.

At the 2009 and 2010 Extended Commission meetings of the CCSBT South Africa expressed interest to ratify the CCSBT agreement and also indicated that it would require an increase in country quota allocation for the following reasons:

- a) South Africa is one of four range states for southern bluefin tuna and lies adjacent to one of the most important longline fishing grounds, but despite this, its allocation has been less than 0.5% of the TAC;
- b) South Africa has recently developed its tuna longline fishery with the first commercial long-term fishing rights allocated to South African nationals in 2005, but the development of this fishery is impeded as the current southern bluefin tuna quota of 40t is too small to allow any targeting of this species;
- c) The Department is responsible for the management of its tuna fisheries with stringent measures in place which exceeds CCSBT's management and conservation measures. Furthermore, South Africa has also complied with CCSBT's reporting requirements, and;
- d) In terms of the conservation of southern bluefin tuna South Africa is the most important Port State with approximately 20% of the global TAC passing through our ports. Consequently, South Africa has taken initiatives to ensure that our ports are not used as ports of convenience for the landing/transshipment of this species and is in regular correspondence with the CCSBT regarding its port state activities.

It is hereby confirmed that South Africa has started the ratification process, but in finalizing this process, South Africa would like to engage with the Member Parties to negotiate the terms of ratification at the upcoming Third Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group meeting in Tokyo (29 March – 1 April 2011). In discussing South Africa's allocation it is hoped that the criteria in Article 8(4) of the Convention text shall be equitably applied to South Africa. In so doing South Africa should receive a quota that would be similar to other developing range states like New Zealand and Indonesia.

South Africa does acknowledge the challenges faced by Member Parties to initially reduce allocations in order to rebuild the stock and thereby we would like to propose the following means of lessening the impact of South Africa's increased allocation on Member Parties:

- 1) South Africa's increase in allocation should be considered on a stepwise progression over three – four years;
- 2) South Africa's first allocation should be in the order of 300-400 t and should be implemented immediately the year following the ratification of the CCSBT agreement;
- 3) South Africa's membership contribution to CCSBT shall be based on the current allocation for the year and not the final allocation agreed to, and;
- 4) South Africa's allocation shall be re-considered should the TAC increase due to a possible rebuilding of the stock biomass.

We firmly believe that South Africa has important contributions to make to CCSBT in terms of management, research and conservation of southern bluefin tuna, and we sincerely hope that the terms of South Africa's ratification of the CCSBT's agreement shall be favourably considered by all Member Parties.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Johann Augustyn**  
**Designation: Deputy-Director General (Acting): Fisheries**