



CCSBT-EC/1110/11

ADOPTION OF A MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

Purpose

To adopt a Management Procedure, including associated specifications.

Background

The Resolution on the Total Allowable Catch and Future Management of Southern Bluefin Tuna adopted at CCSBT 16 specified that a Management Procedure (MP) should be implemented in 2011 and be the basis for TAC setting for 2012 and beyond. The resolution also specified that 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.

In discussing the MP, it should be noted that the CCSBT Strategic Plan¹ specifies that parameters should be set for the MP that ensure the precautionary principle is applied and ecosystem management is incorporated.

A number of decisions have already been taken by the Extended Commission in relation to the MP. These include:

- Decisions by CCSBT 17 (October 2010) that the MP would involve:
 - tuning to a 70% probability of achieving the interim rebuilding target;
 - setting 3-year TACs; and
 - minimum TAC changes of 100t.
- Decisions by the Special Meeting (August 2011) that the MP would:
 - be based on the “Bali Procedure” as recommended by SC16;
 - not require an initial reduction period prior to implementation of the MP;
 - have no lag between the first TAC recommendation and implementation of that TAC, and a one year lag between subsequent TAC recommendations and associated implementations of those TACs; and
 - use the Metarule process recommended by SC15 for identifying and dealing with exceptional circumstances.

Decisions that still need to be taken by CCSBT 18 in relation to the MP are:

- The timeframe required to reach the interim rebuilding target (2030 or 2035).
- The maximum size of TAC changes (3,000t or 5,000t).
- Rules relating to a TAC increase in the first TAC setting period (no increase, maximum of 1,000t increase, or a maximum increase of the same value as the maximum TAC change option being run).

¹ Which was adopted at the August 2011 Special Meeting of the CCSBT.

Paper CCSBT-EC/1110/18 provides results from runs using each combination of the above options.

Other matters for consideration by CCSBT 18 in the context of a management procedure include:

- Whether the Extended Commission wishes to impose an emergency rule for specific circumstances and if so, the details of this rule.
- Finalising the recommendations from the small working group at the Special Meeting for managing catch allocations over the three year period for which the MP generates a TAC.
- Predefined rules for allocation of the TAC (this will be dealt with as part of the agenda item on “Allocation of TAC”).