



CCSBT-EC/1210/10

## Report from the Extended Scientific Committee

### Purpose

To consider the report of the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) meeting and related matters.

### Discussion

The Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC17) is provided to this meeting as CCSBT-EC/1110/Rep02. The ESC Chair's presentation is provided to this meeting as CCSBT-EC/1210/20.

The ESC did not conduct a model based assessment at its 2012 meeting, so the stock status information presented in its report is from the 2011 stock assessment and from fishery indicators presented to the 2012 ESC meeting. The 2011 assessment suggested that the SBT spawning biomass is at a very low fraction of its original biomass as well as below the level that could produce maximum sustainable yield. Rebuilding the spawning stock biomass would almost certainly increase sustainable yield and provide security against unforeseen environmental events. The current TAC has been set using the management procedure adopted in 2011, which has a 70% probability of rebuilding to the interim target biomass level by 2035.

### *Stock prognosis*

The ESC reported that there is a positive outlook for the SBT stock based on the 2011 assessment, including:

- Continued reduction in the total reported global catch;
- Current fishing mortality reduced below  $F_{msy}$ ; and
- Stock is expected to increase at current catch levels, and future catch levels determined by the MP.

### *Summary of indicators*

The ESC reported that there have been mixed signals from the indicators in 2012, including:

- Longline CPUE has an increasing trend since 2007; and
- A decrease in the scientific aerial survey index in 2012 to a low level (also seen in the commercial aerial spotting and troll survey results). The ESC has identified the need to further examine the factors that may have impacted on the Aerial survey at its 2013 meeting.

The ESC considered whether or not the low 2012 scientific aerial survey index triggered exceptional circumstances according to the meta-rules process. The ESC agreed that exceptional circumstances had not been triggered this year.

Consistent with the MP, the ESC recommended, based on the review of indicators, the 2011 stock assessment, MP inputs and the preliminary outcomes of the close kin analysis, that there is no need to revise the Commission's 2011 TAC decision.

The main items in the ESC's workplan for 2013 are a four day intersessional technical meeting in Seattle or Portland, Maine during mid July 2013 and a six day ESC meeting in Canberra in the first half of September 2013.