

Provisional Annotated Agenda
Extended Scientific Committee for the Nineteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee
Auckland, New Zealand
1 – 6 September, 2014

1. Opening

- 1.1. Introduction of Participants
- 1.2. Administrative Arrangements

2. Appointment of Rapporteurs

3. Adoption of Agenda and Document List

The agenda appears to be ambitious. Priorities and timing of agenda items will be discussed at this point to ensure that the most important items are satisfactorily dealt with.

4. Review of SBT Fisheries

4.1. Presentation of National Reports

Members are reminded that they agreed at ESC 18 to provide information to ESC 19 in accordance with the [High-level Code of practice for Scientific Data Verification](#) agreed at ESC 17. This information will be presented along with National Reports at this agenda item.

4.2. Secretariat Review of Catches

5. Report from the OMMP meeting

This agenda item is to receive the report from the OMMP and to identify any further analyses that need to be conducted in preparation for agenda items 7 and 9.

6. Report from the CPUE modelling group

7. Estimation of all sources of unaccounted catch mortality:

CCSBT 20 requested that the ESC conduct sensitivity analysis around all sources of unaccounted catch mortality as part of the ESC's 2014 stock assessment and to incorporate this information in its advice on the existence of exceptional circumstances and approach to follow as defined in the Management Procedure in accordance with the metarule process. The EC also asked the ESC to provide preliminary advice to CCSBT 21 on the impact of any unaccounted catch mortalities on the stock assessment projections and the possible Management Procedure recommendation beyond the 2015-17 quota block. The sources of mortality that CCSBT 20 specified should be included were:

- *Unreported or uncertainty in retained catch by Members, for example surface fisheries, artisanal catch, non-compliance with existing measures (e.g. catch over-run)*
- *Mortality from releases and/or discards*
- *Recreational fisheries*
- *Catches by Non-Members*
- *Research Mortality Allowance*
- *Any other sources of mortality that the ESC is able to provide advice on (including depredation).*

This agenda item is intended to provide estimates of unaccounted SBT mortality from these sources. Discussion and analyses at later agenda items should take into account the impacts of these unaccounted mortalities.

8. Evaluation of Fisheries Indicators

9. Updated stock assessment and projection results

The ESC is conducting a full, model-based SBT stock assessment for this meeting. In addition, the ESC has been asked to provide preliminary advice to CCSBT 21 on the impact of any unaccounted catch mortalities on the stock assessment projections and Management Procedure recommendation beyond the 2015-17 quota block.

10. SBT stock status

10.1. Assessment of exceptional circumstances

This is a standing agenda item for examination of whether the updated stock assessment and MP input data series would trigger exceptional circumstances under the meta-rule process. A standard set of analyses similar to those provided in CCSBT-ESC/1309/BGD2 should be provided for consideration at this agenda item. In addition, ESC 19 needs to explicitly incorporate advice on the impacts of unaccounted catch mortality on the existence of exceptional circumstances and approach to follow in accordance with the meta-rule process as requested by CCSBT 20. A summary of these results will be reported under Management Advice.

10.2. Summary of the SBT stock status

11. Report on intersessional scientific activities

This is a placeholder agenda item to allow presentation on other work not covered in the agenda items.

12. SBT Management Advice

13. Develop an updated, comprehensive Scientific Research Program

ESC 18 considered priorities for a five year Scientific Research Program (SRP) from 2014 to 2018 and identified key research areas. It was agreed that finalisation of the SRP (2014-18) would be a substantive agenda item for ESC 19, involving the review of proposals and detailed costings for the SRP components.

In the interim, ESC 18 recommended that the highest priorities for commencing in 2014 under the SRP were: (1) continued collection and archiving of samples for close-kin genetics; (2) a design study for a potential close-kin program; (3) a design study for a potential gene-tagging program; (4) initiating collection and preservation of ovary samples (across fisheries and size classes); and (5) further collation and analysis of existing data on selectivity in the Indonesian spawning ground fishery. The first three of these items were recommended for funding by the CCSBT. The CCSBT funded the first two items and a report on the second item will be presented for discussion at this meeting. Funding of the third items has been deferred for consideration in 2015.

14. Evaluation of whether or not the carry-forward of unfished allocations between three year quota blocks will have a negative impact on the operation of the Management Procedure

The third Meeting of the Compliance Committee Working Group (CCWG3) agreed to a revision of the CCSBT's "Resolution on Limited Carry-forward of Unfished Annual Total Allowable Catch of Southern Bluefin Tuna within Three Year Quota Blocks" to allow for carry-forward of unfished allocations between three year quota blocks, subject to confirmation from the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) that the carry-forward of unfished allocations between three year quota blocks will not have a negative impact on the operation of the Management Procedure. In relation to this, CCWG3 requested to ESC to evaluate whether or not the carry-forward of unfished allocations between three year quota blocks will have a negative impact on the operation of the Management Procedure.

Prior to the revision, carry-forward of unfished allocations was only allowed within three year quota blocks (i.e. unfished allocations could not be carried from one three year block to another) and provided that the TAC was not reduced within the block. Furthermore, a maximum of 20% of the allocation could be carried forward regardless of the amount of unfished allocation and carry-forward could not in turn generate further under-fishing to be carried forward to the following year.

The draft revision to the Resolution retains the above carry-forward restrictions except that unfished allocations may also be carried forward between three year quota blocks providing that the TAC is not reduced between the blocks.

15. Modifications to the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider draft changes (mainly in relation to data collection) for the Scientific Observer Program Standards (SOPS) prepared by the Ecologically Related Species Working Group and to consider two requests from CCWG3.

CCWG3 noted that the coverage level in the current SOPS is defined as the percentage of the SBT catch observed from all vessels that either target SBT or have a significant bycatch of SBT. However, CCWG3 further noted that it is easier for some Members to predict the effort of its individual vessels than the vessel's SBT catch and that from an administrative perspective, it may be better in those countries to have a coverage level based on effort. In some other countries catch may be administratively better.

Consequently, CCWG3 requested that the ESC:

- Consider whether a target observer coverage level based on effort instead of catch would be suitable; and*
- Conduct analysis to determine the level of SBT bycatch that should be considered as being significant and therefore subject to the provisions of the SOPS.*

16. Requirements for Data Exchange in 2015

17. Research Mortality Allowance

18. Workplan, Timetable and Research Budget for 2015

18.1. Overview, time schedule and budgetary implications of proposed 2015 research activities and implications of Scientific Research Program for the work plan and budget

18.2. Timing, length and structure of next meeting

19. Other Matters

20. Adoption of Meeting Report

21. Close of Meeting