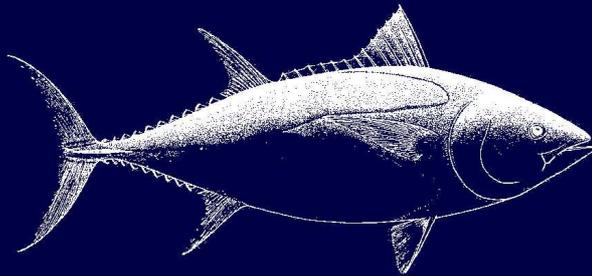


Commission for the Conservation
of Southern Bluefin Tuna



Report of ERSWG13 28-31 May 2019 Canberra, Australia



Cape Town, October 2019

Overview

- **Recommendations for the EC to consider**
 1. **Revisions to the Data Exchange template**
 2. **Revisions to the ERSWG Annual Report template**
 3. **The overall objective and five specific objectives for a CCSBT Multi-year Seabird Strategy**
 4. **Revisions to the “Resolution to Align CCSBT’s Ecologically Related Species measures with those of other tuna RFMOs” to reflect changes to ERS measures of IOTC, WCPFC and ICCAT**

Overview

- **Additional and updated advice on**
 - Seabirds
 - Sharks
- **Updates to the ERSWG Workplan**
- **Request for the ERSWG report be provided to other tRFMOs.**
- **In-principle support for the joint BirdLife/CCSBT Secretariat proposal “*to enhance the implementation of ERS measures through outreach/education and to verify compliance with measures*” that was requested by CC 13**

Recommendations

1. Revisions to the Data Exchange template

- **Finer resolution:**
 - CCSBT Statistical Area → 5degree
 - Year → quarter
- **Remove calculated fields**
- **Add “Human Observer/EM” column to specify the data source**
- **Adding 3 columns for the proportion of single measures used**

Recommendations

1. Revisions to the Data Exchange template

- o Table 1. Total fishing and observed effort per country, year, fishery and strata

| Country / Fishing Entity ⁹ | Calendar Year | Quarter | Fishery | | Human Observer / EM ¹⁰ | Area ¹¹ | | Total & Observed Effort | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | Gear Code ¹² | Fleet Code ¹³ | | Longitude | Latitude | Total Effort ⁵ | Total Observed Effort ⁵ |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

| Proportion of observed effort with specific mitigation measures | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---|
| | TP + NS ¹⁴ | TP + WB ¹⁴ | NS + WB ¹⁴ | TP + WB + NS ¹⁴ | TP ¹⁴ | NS ¹⁴ | WB ¹⁴ | NIL ¹⁴ | Others (add additional columns if required) |
| | | | | | | | | | |
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Recommendations

1. Revisions to the Data Exchange template

- o Table 2. Observed and estimated captures/mortalities for each species, by country, year, fishery and strata

| Country / Fishing Entity ⁹ | Calendar Year | Quarter | Fishery | | Human Observer / EM ¹⁰ | Area ¹¹ | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| | | | Gear Code ¹² | Fleet Code ¹³ | | Longitude | Latitude |
| | | | | | | | |
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Comments invited on proposed changes

Recommendations

3. Multi-year Seabird Strategy

Agreed at ERSWG 12:

- Seabird strategy considerations
 - Research needs,
 - Monitoring needs,
 - Actions for reducing uncertainty and associated risks, and
 - Recommendations from the Report of the Seabird Mitigation Measures Technical Group.
- The issues in the strategy are of specific importance to CCSBT but some actions will involve other t-RFMOs

Recommendations

3. Multi-year Seabird Strategy

Overall Objective

- To reduce or eliminate seabird bycatch, such that SBT fisheries do not impose a significant adverse impact on seabirds.

Recommendations

3. Multi-year Seabird Strategy – Specific Objectives

Outcome

1.To reduce the level of impact of seabird bycatch by SBT fishing operations on seabird populations

Monitoring

2.To ensure the collection of timely, reliable, representative data to support accurate regular estimations of total seabird mortality in SBT fisheries and its impact on seabird populations

Improved mitigation

3.To develop and refine, in collaboration with industry and ACAP, practical, cost-effective and safe seabird bycatch mitigation technologies and techniques.

Recommendations

3. Multi-year Seabird Strategy – Specific Objectives

Compliance

4.To develop and refine compliance approaches to ensure fleet-wide compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures required while conducting fishing for SBT.

Education / Outreach

5.To enhance education and outreach programs highlighting the importance of mitigating seabird interactions while fishing, and advocating effective implementation of mitigation measures

A revised list of strategic actions is to be considered at next ERSWG.

Comments invited on Overall and Specific Objectives

Recommendations

4. Revisions to the “*Resolution to Align CCSBT’s Ecologically Related Species measures with those of other tuna RFMOs*”

- These reflect changes made to ERS measures by
 - the IOTC
 - the WCPFC and
 - the ICCAT
- (Changes that do not refer to seabirds, sea turtles, sharks or cetaceans have not been included)

**Comments invited on proposed revisions
(for Agenda Item 10 – Secretariat’s Paper 13)**

Updated advice to the EC

Seabirds - Overview

- Updates on status & best practice mitigation
- Results of FAO ABNJ Global Seabird Assessment
- Definition of high risk areas

Updated advice to the EC

Seabirds

- Confirmation of ongoing concern with level of seabird bycatch in longline fisheries.
- ACAP recommended Best practice mitigation measures remains the simultaneous use of
 - weighted branch lines
 - night setting and
 - bird streamer lines.
 - Hook-shielding devices are considered as stand-alone alternative best practice mitigation measures.

Updated advice to the EC

Seabirds

- 2019 FAO ABNJ Southern Hemisphere assessment
 - to estimate global seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fishing in the Southern Hemisphere
 - to assess the population level impact of bycatch for key species
 - to develop a toolbox of methods to estimate bycatch
- Total longline effort from t-RFMOs used
- Seven different analytical methods used
- Analyses indicated that ~36,000 seabirds were killed south of 20° S in 2016

Updated advice to the EC

Seabirds - Definition of High Risk Areas

- ERSWG 9 (2012) – Best practice mitigation should be applied in high risk areas
- Under current mitigation, bycatch exceeds the population productivity for 9 of 25 albatross and petrel species
- Previous ERSWG advice has been that mitigation measures should be strengthened
- 90% of effort in High Risk Areas is by CCSBT members

Updated advice to the EC

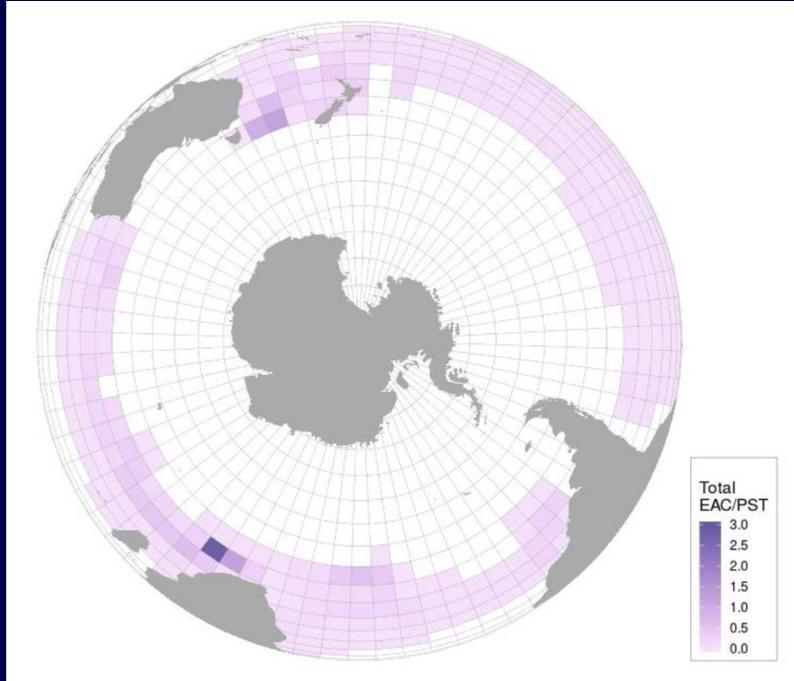
Seabirds - Definition of High Risk Areas

- Three options considered for definition of high risk areas:
 - High threshold; Medium threshold; All areas
- 7 Criteria for evaluation of threshold for high risk:
 - % of risk within areas (across all spp)
 - % of CCSBT effort within areas
 - Number of at-risk seabirds included
 - Robustness to distributional changes
 - Is this a precautionary approach?
 - Potential burden on fishers
 - Potential practicality of achieving changes

Updated advice to the EC

Definition of High Risk Areas

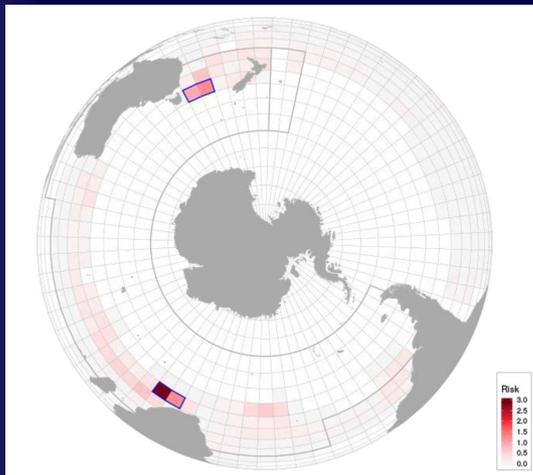
Distribution of total risk



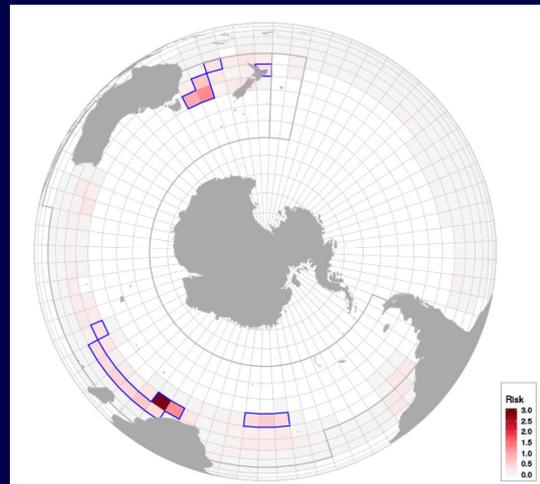
Updated advice to the EC

Definition of High Risk Areas

High risk threshold



Medium risk threshold



Updated advice to EC

| CRITERIA | HIGH THRESHOLD | MEDIUM THRESHOLD | ALL AREAS |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|
| RISK WITHIN | 26% | 50% | 100% |
| EFFORT WITHIN | 18% | 39% | 100% |
| NO. SPP | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| ROBUSTNESS | LOW | MEDIUM | HIGH |
| PRECAUTION | LOW | MEDIUM | HIGH |
| BURDEN | LOW | MEDIUM | HIGH |
| PRACTICALITY | LOW | MEDIUM | HIGH |

Updated advice to the EC

Seabirds - Definition of High Risk Areas

- Given the tradeoffs involved, ERSWG did not have a preferred option. All three options have been provided to the EC to consider
 - its preferred definition
 - any responses it considers to be appropriate
 - any further guidance to the future workplan of the ERSWG

Updated advice to EC

Sharks

- Review of CCSBT relevant species
 - The three most commonly caught species (blue shark, porbeagle, shortfin mako) are already reported by species
 - Many other species caught already reported to species in IOTC and WCPFC.
 - No agreement to expand the list of spp in EDE template

Updated advice to EC

Sharks

- Final report on status of porbeagle
 - Status based on Maximum Impact Sustainability Threshold (MIST)
 - Pelagic LL fleets greatest source of mortality
 - 70-90 % of this from fleets targeting SBT or mix of SBT and ALB.
 - At most 8% probability of $F > MIST$
 - ERSWG saw no need to revise advice on porbeagle
- Still no specific concerns about shark bycatch that warranted additional mitigation requirements

Updated advice to EC

ERSWG Workplan

- An updated workplan has been developed

| Activity | Approximate Period | Resource |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Refine the proposal “to enhance the implementation of ERS measures through outreach/education and to verify compliance with measures”. | CC 14 | BirdLife, Secretariat, Members |
| Provide the Report of ERSWG13 to the other tuna RFMOs when it is made public. | November 2019 | Secretariat |
| Share documents, formats and procedures for observer and electronic monitoring, seabird bycatch data collection through a centralised portal, e.g. the Bycatch Mitigation Information System hosted by WCPFC. | July 2020 | Members, Secretariat |
| Provide revised historical data for the EDE that includes all mortalities (i.e. both discard mortalities and retained commercial catch). | July 2020 | Australia, Korea |

Updated advice to EC

ERSWG Workplan

| | | |
|--|---------------|--|
| Provide 2019 EDE data in accordance with the new EDE template. Members are also encouraged to voluntarily provide revised historical data in the same format. | July 2020 | All Members |
| Translate the ACAP seabird species identification guide into key languages (e.g. Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, and Taiwanese) and by establishing a reference library of seabird bycatch photographs to assist observers in identifying bycaught seabirds to specific levels. | July 2020 | CCSBT and ACAP Secretariats, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan |
| Customise ACAP guidelines for photographing and sampling dead bycaught seabirds for DNA, as an additional aid to identifying seabirds to specific levels. The ACAP guides to photographing dead seabirds and collecting feather samples for DNA analysis provide a template for the improved procedures and methods. | December 2020 | CCSBT and ACAP Secretariats |
| Trial production of Table 1 of the revised ERSWG annual report template for each Member. | ERSWG 14 | Secretariat, Members |

Updated advice to EC

ERSWG Workplan

| | | |
|--|----------|--|
| Develop a template for summarising the key points of the ERSWG report that could be provided to other tuna RFMOs in the future. | ERSWG 14 | Chair, Secretariat |
| Investigate the use of the new 5*5 by quarter to be provided for the modified ERSWG Data Exchange, for analyses of issues relating to seabird bycatch. | ERSWG 14 | New Zealand |
| Update the seabird Ecological Risk Assessment, together with updated identification of high-risk areas. | ERSWG 14 | New Zealand lead with collaboration from Members |
| Develop a revised draft list of strategic actions under each of the specific objectives of the Multi-year seabird strategy. | ERSWG 14 | Australia with collaboration from all Members |

Advice to EC

Improved engagement with other t-RFMOs

- ERSWG proposed sharing the ERSWG report with other t-RFMOs
- Chair and Secretariat will develop a template for summarizing key points from the report

Advice to EC

New Birdlife proposal for additional work on seabirds

- In principle support given by ERSWG
- Some details to be revised
- Objective: to use technological advances and capacity-building to enhance the capacity of ABNJ pelagic longline fleets to monitor and report on the use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.

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Thank-you

