

Consideration on alternative Management Objectives for the CCSBT.

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Summary: This provides a brief summary of Japanese scientists toward alternative Management Objectives, which includes a) MSY as conceptual goal, b) commitment to MP development and implementation, and c) setting a feasible target referring to stock projection under no catch and current catch.

要約: 新たな管理目標へ向けての日本科学者の考えをまとめる。内容は、a)MSY を概念としての目標とする、b)MP の開発、実施にコミットする、c)ゼロ漁獲と現状漁獲での状況をみながら現実的な到達点を定めるの3点。

The 10th Annual Meeting of the Commission of the CCSBT ‘recognized that the existing objective of attaining the B_{1980} level by 2020 was not feasible’ and agreed to re-consider the management objectives of the CCSBT. It asked scientists to provide advices to the 11th Annual Meeting of the Commission. This document is a brief summarization of Japanese scientists’ view.

The CCSBT was established aiming conservation and maximum utilization of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT). Then, management at the MSY level is considered as reasonable from concept. However, it is not feasible to estimate MSY level of SBT stock as well as current stock level relative to MSY with a confidence. Data suggests a wide range of possibilities so that scientists cannot recommend one specific catch level as appropriate. This should be an exact reason why the CCSBT decided to move the Management Procedure framework. As a concept, the targeting MSY can be utilized as management objective in a long-term, though target time to reach MSY would be hard to determine due to uncertainties of current stock estimation, especially on MSY levels. It should be noted that some Management Procedure try to target toward the MSY.

With the Management Procedure (MP) framework, various rules of TAC regulation (or other type of stock and fishery regulations) are tested against a wide range of stock scenarios, before selecting the final rule. This range should reasonably cover a plausible range of our recognition of stock status. MP performances are examined against multiple objectives of minimizing risks of stock collapse, maximizing catch and maximizing stability of fisheries. This means that performance of finally selected rule, i.e. MP, should be evaluated as long as stock stays within the range examined. The CCSBT is currently developing the MP and plans to select one MP for implementation of 2006 (TAC adjustment decision in 2006 and implementation in 2008). To maintain this schedule is one way to commit a precautionary management, unless stock lays detected outside the expected range.

Final MP selection requires to determine a type of MP and level of tuning, i.e. a target level to be reached at a given time. When setting this tuning level, it is important to refer to both level

attainable under current catch and level attainable under moratorium. This comparison gives idea on practicality of selected target. Picking one figure from air might end as a level not feasible even with immediate global catch suspension.

In summary, our views are as follows:

- 1) Management at the MSY will be appropriate for conceptual management objectives of the CCSBT, though it will not be feasible to set a target time to attain this level.
- 2) Management Procedure is evaluated against plausible ranges of stock scenarios and multiple objectives. Following MP as long as stock stays within a examined range is one way of responsible and precautionary management.
- 3) It is important to develop and implement MP following to the agreed schedule.
- 4) Stock target in MP testing should determine in a comparison of stock trajectories under no catch and current catches.