

Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

## **Report of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group Meeting**

**15 - 16 April 2009  
Tokyo, Japan**

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### **Agenda Item 1. Opening of meeting**

#### *1.1 Welcome*

1. Mr Masanori Miyahara (Japan) welcomed participants and opened the meeting.

#### *1.2 Confirmation of Chair*

2. Mr Miyahara was confirmed as the Chair of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG) meeting.

#### *1.3 Introduction of participants*

3. Participant introduced themselves. The list of meeting participants is included at **Attachment 1**.

#### *1.4 Terms of Reference and Adoption of agenda*

4. The agenda was adopted and is included at **Attachment 2**.
5. The list of documents submitted to the meeting is at **Attachment 3**.

### **Agenda Item 2. Development of a Draft Strategic Plan**

6. The SFMWG noted that according to the Terms of Reference, the main focus of this meeting was the development of a rebuilding strategy and technical measures for managing the SBT stock. Consequently, there was only limited discussion on other elements of the strategic plan.
7. One potential framework for development of the strategic plan was presented to the meeting by New Zealand. This is provided at **Attachment 4**. However, discussion was limited to the sustainability objective.
8. The Chair described outcomes from the informal meeting held the previous day and the SFMWG meeting further progressed those discussions.

### **Agenda Item 3. Development of a rebuilding strategy and technical measures for managing the SBT stock**

#### *Rebuilding strategy*

9. The SFMWG reaffirmed that rebuilding of the stock to the Spawning Biomass at Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is the objective of the Commission. It was, however, agreed that as it would not be feasible to achieve this objective in the near future, that interim target reference points would be required.

10. The meeting agreed that 20 percent of the original spawning biomass was an appropriate interim rebuilding target reference point to move the SBT stock away from its current low level of around 10 percent. The timeframe for achieving this target should be considered by the Extended Commission in 2009 after receiving further advice from the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC). It was also suggested that milestones be identified to help gauge progress towards achieving the interim rebuilding target reference point.
11. It was noted that the ESC would be conducting a stock assessment in 2009. As part of the ESC's assessment, the SFMWG requested that the ESC provide advice on the consequence of future catch levels in the form of that provided in Table 2 of the report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Scientific Committee, but with the addition of a 30th percentile and inclusion of performance statistics for  $B_{2020}/B_{2010}$  and  $B_{2025}/B_{2010}$ . The ESC was also asked to determine the value of MSY in 2009 if possible (otherwise by 2010). It was requested that the Secretariat prepare a figure that shows the relationship between the current stock status and target reference points identified by the Commission.
12. It was confirmed that the MP would be finalised in 2010 for implementation in 2011. The concept of a supplemental management procedure based on stock status indicators and its application in the short term and during periods between stock assessments was discussed.

#### *Technical measures for managing the SBT stock*

13. It was noted that no targeting of SBT was conducted in the spawning ground off Indonesia and that no fishing for SBT had been recently conducted in the Christmas and Cocos Island areas of the Australian EEZ which also encompass the spawning grounds in some years. Consequently, it was not considered necessary at this stage to implement special management arrangements for the spawning grounds.
14. To assist Members to better understand the nature of Indonesia's SBT fishery, Indonesia provided additional information concerning its SBT fishery at **Attachment 5**. The Indonesian request for additional national allocation as described in **Attachment 5** will be considered at CCSBT 16.
15. In order to improve both data quality and compliance, Members shared a common desire to move towards centralised MCS measures and to harmonise measures amongst the tuna RFMOs where possible. This included:
  - Centralised purchase and issue of tags for the CDS by the Secretariat. It was noted that substantial cost and compliance benefits could be achieved from centralised purchase and issue of tags for the CDS. Japan has identified a tag that appears suitable for this purpose and has provided samples for Members to trial and discuss with their industries. It was agreed that the Secretariat would further examine the use of these tags including investigating the use of unique tag numbers/bar codes and different colours for each Member and possibly ocean, and coordinate with other relevant RFMO Secretariats.
  - Improvement to VMS, but coordinated amongst the tuna RFMOs to prevent duplication, including encouraging adoption of best practise schemes amongst RFMOs.

- Improvement and harmonisation of scientific observer programs.
16. The SFMWG stressed the importance of obtaining accurate verified data and noted that some Members were not obtaining sufficient verification of their data. Those Members were encouraged to develop more systematic ways to verify their data. The SFMWG noted the value of round table discussions that seek to examine the compliance of each Member and recommended continuation of this exercise as a function of the Compliance Committee. The Secretariat was asked to present a summary of the round table data discussions from the informal meeting to the next meeting of the Compliance Committee.
  17. The SFMWG also noted the importance of providing data at a suitable level of resolution, which for catch and effort data, was considered to be operational level. It was agreed that if the confidentiality issues could be overcome then it should be possible for Members to provide operational level data. Confidentiality issues have been resolved by WCPFC and it was believed that by following WCPFC's example, the CCSBT should be able to reach early agreement on provision of operational level data.
  18. The importance of monitoring the development of SBT markets in both Member and non-member States and encouraging non-member States to require CDS documentation for SBT imports was raised. The Secretariat was asked to request the USA and China to cooperate with the CCSBT CDS when it commences. There was concern about Chinese markets and processing activities as China has not yet introduced its ICCAT import requirements for any species and identified problems with implementing the IOTC bigeye tuna Statistical Document Program.
  19. At CCSBT 15, Australia and Japan agreed to work together on improvement of monitoring of Japanese wholesale markets and Australian SBT farming operations and to report the results to CCSBT 16. Japan advised that it was conducting monthly monitoring of the Tsukiji market and that it would be reporting the outcome to the ESC and CCSBT 16. Australia advised that the stereo video camera has proved accurate for measuring SBT under controlled conditions. However, concerns remain about the conversion of length data to weight data and the application of the system in an operational environment. Australia is investigating ways of implementing the system to work under operational conditions, including converting the length measurements to weights and automation of the measurements. Given the high level of interest globally in the stereo video system, future development of the technology will require input from commercial IT system developers.

**Agenda Item 4. Advice to the Extended Scientific Committee concerning the five alternative constant catch projection options suggested by the ESC for producing management advice**

20. The SFMWG sought specific advice from the ESC under the previous agenda item. In addition to the table requested at paragraph 11, the SFMWG requested that the ESC also provide graphs of the projection outcomes.
21. The SFMWG was happy with the five alternative constant catch projection options suggested by the ESC. The ESC was also asked to produce a projection

based on zero catches as a baseline against which to assess other catch projections and the biological capacity of the stock.

22. The SFMWG noted that the projections to be undertaken by the Scientific Committee do not reflect the changes to the national allocations of New Zealand, Australia and Japan, agreed at CCSBT 13 in 2006, from 2010 reflecting the MOU reached at CCSBT 1, which includes an increase in New Zealand's allocation to 1000t. However, the implications of the additional allocations, if reflected in a TAC increase, can be determined from the projections requested. New Zealand noted that the purpose of discussion of an alternative "status quo" for scientific projections was to ensure a common understanding among Commission Members of the impending allocation changes which will need to be accommodated in the decisions of the Commission at CCSBT16 in October 2009. Future catch projections would take into account any changes in national allocations as appropriate.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Future work for the SFMWG**

23. The SFMWG agreed that further work and meeting(s) were required to develop the CCSBT Strategic Plan and further refine the rebuilding strategy following the advice of the ESC to the Extended Commission's 2009 annual meeting. The meeting welcomed New Zealand's offer to further develop a draft strategic plan for presentation to Members prior to CCSBT 16.
24. It was suggested to hold the next SFMWG meeting during CCSBT 17. However, it was decided that the decision on the timing and duration of the next SFMWG meeting should be made at CCSBT 16 after examining the outcome of the stock assessment and progress on implementing actions from the SFMWG and consideration of the strategic plan.
25. The SFMWG provided some guidance to New Zealand for development of the draft strategic plan, including that:
  - The strategic plan should include issues raised in both the CCSBT Performance Review and the Independent Review by Ambassador Balton. This will ensure that important issues such as allocation, assistance to developing countries, sanctions and harmonisation with other RFMOs etc. are included within the plan.
  - The strategic plan should include a review process every 5 years, and include milestones to achieve in the shorter term.
26. It was agreed that New Zealand would prepare an initial draft by the end of June and that Members would provide written feedback by 31 July to allow New Zealand time to prepare and distribute a final draft prior to CCSBT 16.

#### **Agenda Item 6. Other business**

27. The meeting decided that the duration of the 2009 ERSWG meeting should be reduced to three days.

28. The SFMWG requested that the Scientific Committee carefully review the length of the meeting and the process required for its deliberations, and if possible, to complete its work within 7 days for its 2010 meeting.

**Agenda Item 7. Close of meeting**

***7.1 Adoption of Report***

29. The report was adopted.

***7.2 Close of Meeting***

30. The meeting closed at 2:30pm, 16 April 2009.

## **List of Attachments**

### *Attachments*

- 1 List of Participants
- 2 Agenda
- 3 List of Documents
- 4 Development of a Draft Strategic Plan (New Zealand's suggestions)
- 5 Additional Details Concerning Indonesia's SBT Fishery

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**Tokyo, Japan**  
**15-16 April 2009**

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**Agenda**  
**Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group**  
**15-16 April, 2009**  
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1. Opening of the Meeting
  - 1.1. Welcome
  - 1.2. Confirmation of Chair
  - 1.3. Introduction of participants
  - 1.4. Terms of Reference and Adoption of Agenda
2. Development of a Draft Strategic Plan
3. Development of a rebuilding strategy and technical measures for managing the SBT stock
4. Advice to the Extended Scientific Committee concerning the five alternative constant catch projection options suggested by the ESC for producing management advice.
5. Future work for the SFMWG
6. Other Business
7. Close of Meeting
  - 7.1. Adoption of Report
  - 7.2. Close of meeting

**List of Documents**  
**Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group**

**(CCSBT-SFMWG/0904/ )**

1. Provisional Agenda
2. Draft List of Participants
3. Draft List of Documents
4. (New Zealand) Harvest Strategy Standard for New Zealand Fisheries. Ministry of Fisheries, October 2008.
5. (Australia) Australian Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines

**(CCSBT-SFMWG/0904/BGD )**

1. (Secretariat) Terms of Reference for the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (Originally Attachment 15 from the report of CCSBT 15)
2. (New Zealand) Recommended Best Practices for Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. Report of an independent panel to develop a model for improved governance by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. Michael W Lodge, David Anderson, Terje Løbach, Gordon Munro, Keith Sainsbury, Anna Willock, August 2007.(Originally CCSBT-EC/0710/Info02)
3. (Australia) Secretariat Review of Catches (ESC agenda item 4.2) (Originally CCSBT-ESC/0809/06)
4. (Australia) Fishery indicators for the SBT stock 2007/08. Hartog, J., and Preece, A. (Originally CCSBT-ESC/0809/16)
5. (Australia) Choice, use and reliability of historic CPUE. Davies, C., Lawrence, E., Basson, M., and Preece, A. (Originally CCSBT-ESC/0809/19)
6. (Australia) The potential use of indicators as a basis for management advice in the short term. Basson, M., and Davies, C. (Originally CCSBT-ESC/0809/30)
7. (Australia) Australia's 2006-07 Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishing Season. Hobsbawn, P.I., Phillips, K., and Begg, G. (Originally CCSBT-ESC/0809/SBT Fisheries – Australia)

**(CCSBT-SFMWG/0904/Info )**

1. (New Zealand) Operational guidelines for New Zealand's harvest strategy standard. Ministry of Fisheries, October 2008.

**(CCSBT-SFMWG/0904/Rep )**

1. Report of the Management Strategy Workshop (May 2000)
2. Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Management Procedure Workshop (May 2005)
3. Report of the Management Procedure Special Consultation (May 2005)

4. Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Stock Assessment Group (September 2005)
5. Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Stock Assessment Group (September 2006)
6. Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Stock Assessment Group (September 2007)
7. Report of the Performance Review Working Group (July 2008)
8. Report of the Independent Expert on the Performance Review (September 2008)
9. Report of the Ninth Meeting of the Stock Assessment Group and Fifth Meeting of the Management Procedure Workshop (September 2008)
10. Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (September 2008)
11. Report of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2008)

Note: CCSBT-SFMWG/0904/Rep2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are proposed by Australia.

### Development of a Draft Strategic Plan (New Zealand's Suggestions)

#### *Issue*

The performance review identified a range of improvements to the functioning of the CCSBT that can be actioned as part of a strategic plan.

#### *Background*

One of the roles of the strategy and fisheries management working group is to establish a draft strategic plan for CCSBT. A useful basis for discussions might be to group elements of a strategic plan based on the CCSBT Convention's objective, which is "to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation" of the global SBT fishery (article 3). This objective can be considered as three sub-components:

- Accountable governance (appropriate management)
- Sustainability (conservation)
- Allocation and use (optimum utilisation)

Specific objectives could be grouped into these categories, and action points would fall out for each of the specific objectives.

#### *Objectives*

Some suggested key objectives are outlined below, under the proposed groupings.

##### **Accountable Governance**

- Clearly define roles and responsibilities of flag states and Commission members (and sanctions if not met).
- Ensure efficient delivery of Secretariat services (including opportunities for services to be coordinated amongst regional fisheries management organisations)
- Ensure adequate funding of the Secretariat to deliver these services
- Implement a strategic monitoring, control and surveillance plan, and audit routinely
- Undertake periodic independent performance reviews

##### **Sustainability**

- Adopt an SBT biomass target of  $B_{MSY}$ , the biomass that can produce maximum sustainable yield within a set timeframe
- Adopt a rebuild timeframe (e.g. some point between the time it would take the stock to reach  $B_{MSY}$  in the absence of fishing and two times that timeframe)
- Set limits below which stock size should not be allowed to fall (including both "soft" limits, which if reached would require additional



management measures to be implemented; and “hard” limits at which further measures, including fishery closure, would be considered)

- Adopt a TAC in 2009 based on best scientific advice, with at least 70% probability of an increase in stock size over 10 years and 90% over a longer time frame
- Review management procedure parameters to ensure the management procedure will achieve rebuild targets and timeframes
- Adopt a management procedure in 2011, which will be used to guide setting of catch limits in the future

### **Utilisation**

- Establish principles for allocation to members
- Establish principles for allocation to new members (historical access or trade/purchase of shares)
- In the longer term, implement flexible management arrangements such as quota trading and under and overfishing rules

**Additional Details Concerning Indonesia's SBT Fishery**

Indonesia's SBT fishery is characterized by small scale fishing vessels and bycatch fisheries, and a few longline vessels with deep frozen facility. The catch is mostly marketed locally and the condition of the fish results in undervalue and underpricing of the expensive species.

The bycatch fishery is perceived as an Olympic system with no vessel specific allocations of SBT quota.

Following the Indonesian membership status to become contracting party in CCSBT and IOTC, and contracting non-party in WCPFC, the Indonesian government issued the Ministerial Decree No. 03/2009 which is intended to control the Indonesian fishing flag operating in the high seas, including to fulfill the CCSBT's data catch requirement.

The said regulation consists of 10 chapters and 23 articles coverings inter alia (i) the fishing and transporting vessel permit and administration requirement, (ii) fishing port and landing places, (iii) obligation to support the observer program and to equip the vessel monitoring vessel, (iv) obligation to fulfill fishing logbook, (v) sanction and (vi) six months transitional period to adopt the new regulation.

In order to improve the data, Indonesia has been monitoring tuna landings since the mid of 2002. Indonesia's catch estimates are based on sampling of landings, with a minimum of 30% of vessel landings being sampled. All fish from a sampled vessel are weighed and 10% of the fish are measured in length. It has been recognized in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission as a standard sampling. Indonesia has introduced both an observer program and log book program. The log book program is being developed to meet international standards as specified by tuna RFMOs.

VMS has been installed on all tuna longline vessel over 60 gross tonnes.

The Indonesian delegates also express concerns related to the national quota allocation which was lower compared to the historical catch. In this regard, Indonesia requests the Commission's consideration to increase the Indonesian SBT quota to become 1,500 tonnes in line with the government effort to improve SBT data collection.