



CCSBT-EC/2510/11

Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation (EC agenda item 7)

PURPOSE

To provide relevant background information to support the Extended Commission's (EC) deliberations on:

1. Confirmation of Total Allowable Catch (TAC), Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) and Allocation for 2026
2. Determination of TACs for 2027 – 2029
3. Determination of RMA for 2027 – 2029
4. Allocation of the TAC for 2027 - 2029

For 2026

1. Confirmation of TAC, RMA and Allocation for 2026

1) Confirmation of TAC for 2026

At CCSBT 30, the EC agreed that the global Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2024-2026 would be 20,647 t as calculated by the Management Procedure and recommended by the ESC.

The EC needs to confirm whether there are any exceptional circumstances that should cause the TAC for 2026 to be revised.

The evaluation of meta-rules by the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) can be found in the Report of the Thirtieth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC 30). The relevant paragraphs are provided at **Attachment A** for convenience.

The overall conclusion of the ESC was that, while exceptional circumstances were identified, specifically due to the change to the gene tagging program, it was agreed that there was no need to modify the TAC recommended for the 2024-2026 fishing years, and the ESC therefore recommends that the 2026 global TAC should remain at 20,647 t.¹

2) Research Mortality Allowance for 2026

CCSBT 29 agreed that an allocation of 6 t per year would continue to be made for Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) within the TAC for 2024 to 2026.

The ESC has endorsed the provision of the following amounts of RMA to cover research projects in 2025/2026:

- 1 t by Japan for trolling surveys of age-0 SBT in North West Australia and age-1 SBT in South West Australia; and

¹ Paragraph 121 and 122 of SC30 Report

- 1 t by Australia in the event that a small number of popup satellite tags are released in 2025-26.

The EC should confirm whether it approves these requests for Research Mortality Allowance, totalling 2 t for 2025/26.

3) Confirmation of Allocation of the TAC for 2026

The allocations and effective catch limits to Members for 2024 - 2026 were agreed at CCSBT 30, as specified below²:

Member	Allocation (tonnes) (1)	Effective Catch Limit (2) ³
Japan	7,341	7,247
Australia	7,341	7,295
New Zealand	1,296	1,288
Korea	1,477	1,468
Taiwan	1,477	1,468
Indonesia	1,193	1,336 ⁴
European Union	13	13
South Africa	503	527

The special temporary allowance made to Indonesia and reflected in its Effective Catch Limit is subject to the following:

- an annual review of Indonesia's compliance undertaken at the Compliance Committee and an ability to revoke or reduce the temporary allowance;
- this arrangement will expire at the end of 2026 and not extended beyond; and
- not setting a precedent for, and being without prejudice to, future discussions on allocation and interpretation of CCSBT's decisions.

The annual review of compliance mentioned above will include an evaluation of performance against obligations, including in areas such as: catch against allocation, transshipment, CDS, management of small-scale fisheries, data exchange requirements, and observer requirements.

The EC should determine if the special temporary allowance to Indonesia will be continued to 2026 and reflected in the table showing allocations and effective catch limits to Members for 2026.

For 2027 - 2029

2. Determination of TACs for 2027 – 2029

The TACs for 2027 to 2029 inclusive are scheduled to be set in 2025.

Paragraph 2 of the Resolution on the Adoption of a Management Procedure states that “*The MP shall be used to guide the setting of the global total allowable catch (TAC) for 2021 and beyond*”.

² This assumes that there are no exceptional circumstances that cause the TAC to be revised.

³ Includes voluntary transfers to Indonesia of 21 t from Japan and a special temporary allowance of 130 t. It also includes a voluntary transfer of 27 t to South Africa from Japan.

⁴ Figures for Indonesia in Table 1 do not include 91.3 t to be repaid by Indonesia every year until 2026 as part of an agreed Payback Plan.

This is the second 3-year quota block where the Cape Town Procedure (CTP) has been used to recommend the global SBT TAC.

The ESC reviewed evidence of exceptional circumstances. While exceptional circumstances were identified, specifically due to the changes to the gene tagging program and the uncertainty around its future operation, it was agreed that the CTP could be utilised to recommend the TAC for the 2027-2029 fishing years.

The ESC ran the CTP with the agreed three data inputs (gene-tagging, Japanese Longline Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE), Close Kin Mark Recapture (CKMR) Parent-Offspring Pairs (POPs) and Half Sibling Pairs (HSPs), and this led to a recommended global TAC for 2027-2029 of 23,647 t/year, which is a 3,000 t (maximum) increase from the current TAC. Relevant paragraphs of the Report of SC 30 are provided at **Attachment A** for convenience.

3. Research Mortality Allowance for 2027 - 2029

The ESC recommended that the EC continue the current arrangement on RMA, specifically to allocate 6 t from the global TAC each year⁵.

The EC needs to decide whether 6 t of RMA to be deducted from the TAC each year from 2027 to 2029, as recommended by the ESC.

4. Allocation of TACs for 2027 - 2029

The allocation of the TACs to Members and Cooperating Non-Members are set in accordance with the CCSBT's [Resolution on Allocation of the Global Total Allowable Catch](#) (Allocation Resolution).

If the CTP recommended TAC of 23,647 t is agreed and if the EC decides to continue the deduction of 6 t of RMA, then the TAC available for allocation to Members will be 23,641 t. Members' allocations of this available TAC in accordance with the current Allocation Resolution are provided in the table below.

Member	Allocation Percentage ⁶	Allocation (tonnes) ⁷
Japan	35.5643 %	8,408
Australia	35.5643 %	8,408
New Zealand	6.2779 %	1,484
Korea	7.1568 %	1,692
Taiwan	7.1568 %	1,692
Indonesia	5.7785 %	1,366
European Union	0.0628 %	15
South Africa	2.4387 %	577

At CCSBT 31, Members agreed to further intersessional engagement and to submit any proposals and documents on allocation to the Secretariat by 1 August 2025 to ensure that Members had more time to consider this before CCSBT 32.

Indonesia was the lone Member to submit a proposal to the Secretariat by the agreed due date. If the EC decides to modify the allocation percentage and hence to revise the Allocation

⁵ Paragraph 199 of the SC30 Report.

⁶ Specified in the Annex of the Resolution on the Allocation of the Global Total Allowable Catch.

⁷ Please note that, due to rounding, the total allocation in this table is 23,642 tonnes once Member percentages are applied.

Resolution, the allocations to Members will be changed according to the revised Allocation Resolution.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Extract of Agenda Item 9.2 from the Report of SC 30

9.2. Management Procedure recommended TAC for 2027 - 2029

127. Australia presented paper CCSBT-ESC/2508/18 on running the decision-rule of the Cape Town Procedure for 2025 to recommend the TAC for 2027-2029. The standalone ADMB code for the decision-rule calculation was run with the agreed three data inputs (gene-tagging, Japanese LL CPUE, CKMR POPs and HSPs). The influence of each of the three components in the Harvest Control Rule is documented in the appendix of this paper. The result provided for the recommended TAC for the 2027-2029 period is a 3,000 t (maximum) increase from the current TAC.
128. The review of exceptional circumstances concluded that the decision-rule for the CTP could be run with the specified input data series. The gene-tagging data are used as a 5-year moving average of recruitment (age 2 absolute abundance). It is currently ~1.83 million and in the range of 1 to 2.6 million, which is neutral in terms of TAC change for this component. The CPUE is used as a 4-year moving average and is currently at 1.99. Values above ~1.42 result in a TAC increase from the CPUE component. In this case the value is 0.36132. The CKMR model contribution to the TAC is additive and the result is very slightly positive (0.00841). **Table 2** provides a summary of the results of the TAC calculation for each component of the decision-rule and the resulting recommended TAC change from the current TAC.
129. In summary, the gene-tagging and CKMR components of the decision rule do not result in a change to the TAC. The strong increase in the CPUE component makes the largest contribution (0.36132) to the resulting multiplicative increase of 1.36973, which amounts to 7,633 t. This is moderated by the 3,000 t maximum TAC cap. Hence, the recommended TAC from the CTP for 2027-2029 is current TAC + 3,000 t = 23,647 t (**Table 2**).

Table 2. The breakdown by decision-rule component of the CTP, and the current and recommended TACs.

Variable	Value
Δ_{gt}	1
Δ_{cpue}	0.36132
Δ_{ck}	0.00841
$(1 + \Delta_{cpue} + \Delta_{ck}) \times \Delta_{gt}$	1.36973
Current TAC	20,647 t
Suggested TAC	23,647 t

130. Of the three MP inputs (Japanese LL CPUE, GT and CKMR), the LL CPUE has the most influence on the decision-rule calculations. The ESC draws attention to concerns expressed about the evaluation of this CPUE in Section 7.2, but nevertheless agrees that the CTP could be used to recommend the TAC.
131. In response to a question on why the number of POPs and HSPs in CCSBT-ESC/2508/18 differs from that in paper CCSBT-ESC/2508/08, Australia clarified that for the POPs, adults recaptured in the same year that the juveniles were born are not used in the CTP, while for the HSPs, within-cohort comparisons are not used, so that juveniles born in the same year are excluded. This accounts for the difference between

the total numbers available (CCSBT-ESC/2508/08), and the numbers used in the CTP (CCSBT-ESC/2508/18).

132. In response to a question from the Advisory Panel on the effect of having only four years of gene tagging data available when the CTP uses a 5-year average, it was clarified that the 2020 data were missing due to COVID-19 restrictions in Australia, so that the year received a zero weighting. The effect of that, and other missing data, on the CTP has not been evaluated to date, but going forward, it will be important to investigate the impact of missing data on the CTP.
133. The ESC agreed to recommend a TAC for 2027-2029 of 23,647t/year.