CCSBT-EC/2610/11

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. Determination of TACs for 2027 – 2029
2. Confirmation of RMA for 2027 – 2029
3. Allocation of the TAC for 2027 - 2029

For 2027 - 2029

1. Determination of TACs for 2027 – 2029

The TACs for 2027 to 2029 inclusive were scheduled to be set in 2025, however, Members deferred the decision to this year.

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*".

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.

In 2025, 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.

Exceptional circumstances were detected in the 2026 review of evidence but the ESC noted risks to the stock were low. The ESC consequently recommended no changes to the recommended TAC for 2027-2029.

ESC 31 confirmed that the recommended TAC is 23,647 t/year for the 2027-2029 fishing years.

2. Confirmation of Research Mortality Allowance for 2027 - 2029

The Extended Commission previously decided to approve the continuation of the fixed RMA for the coming TAC block and there is no need to review this decision unless all Members agree to do so.

As a reminder, the agreement from Members at CCSBT 32 was that 6 t of RMA be deducted from the TAC each year from 2027 to 2029, as recommended by the ESC.

This year, the ESC has requested 3 tonnes of RMA. This request would support 1t for the gene tagging program, 1t for the research project of satellite tag deployments on juvenile SBT in the Great Australian Bight, and 1t for the age-1 SBT trolling survey in southwest Australia and the age-0 SBT distribution survey in Western Australia.

3. 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[1]	Allocation (tonnes)[2]
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

During CCSBT 32, Members discussed allocation at length, but no consensus was able to be reached during the meeting. Members expressed their sincere appreciation for the constructive engagement and agreed to continue to discuss the proposal intersessionally. The meeting also acknowledged the importance of progress being made quickly through these intersessional processes.

During the intersessional period, two virtual workshops were held on the topic of allocation. Although no agreement was reached, Members engaged constructively and freely shared their views while exploring various alternative scenarios that will be further considered at the Extended Commission.

4. Indicative 2030-2032 TAC

In 2021, the Commission requested estimates of the potential TAC for the next TAC block. These were documented in ESC 27 and are updated in ESC 28.

[1] Specified in the Annex of the Resolution on the Allocation of the Global Total Allowable Catch.
[2] Please note that, due to rounding, the total allocation in this table is 23,642 tonnes once Member percentages are applied.

Projections from the 2026 stock assessment shows that there is a high probability that the TAC will increase for the next quota block (2030-2032).

The ESC noted that these are simulated estimates and the CTP will be run formally in 2028 (by which time further data will be available for input – CPUE, close-kin and Gene Tagging) to provide the recommended TAC for the years 2030-2032.

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.