

Updates on Japanese Market Proposal

I. Background

● 2019

- (1) In ESC meeting, some recommendations arising from the Market Expert's report were accepted by ESC (see para 60 of ESC24 report).
- (2) In EC meeting, Japan committed to submitting a paper to the ESC and CCSBT 27, which will include a proposal to compare Japanese market data with catch data from all Members to identify any anomalies or discrepancies.

● 2020

- (1) In 2020, Japan submitted a comprehensive proposal (Proposal on monitoring of SBT distribution in Japan to verify catch of all Members: CCSBT-ESC/2008/23) to the ESC meeting. ESC generally agreed that the proposal captured the intent underlying the previous discussions including ESC 24 recommendations.
- (2) Taking into account the discussion at ESC, Japan proposed actions to be taken to the EC meeting in 2020, as indicated in Appendix A of CCSBT-EC/2010/19. The suggested actions in Appendix A were accepted by EC.

● 2021

- (1) In relation to verification of all Members' catch in Japan, terms of reference for hiring the external expert were adopted. EC agreed to appoint Dr. Shelley Clarke as the expert.
- (2) TCWG agreed to recommend CC that Members conduct trial implementation of improvement relating to tagging. CC and EC endorsed this recommendation.

● 2022

- (1) The external expert commenced the work to update and develop Japanese market formula for verification of all Members' catch in Japanese market. The final report was submitted for CC.
- (2) It was intersessionally agreed that the expense for tag management survey and market survey borne in CCSBT's budget.

II. Updates on each approved action of Japanese comprehensive proposal

(1) Verification of all Members' catch in Japan

- The external expert had worked for update/development of the Japanese market formula in accordance with the adopted TOR and work plan since April 2022, including interviews with people involved in SBT distribution in Japanese market and collecting relevant information.
- Based on the thorough analysis, the final report concludes that Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) and the current landings controls provide a much more robust basis for catch verification in comparison to the market formula. It also proposes alternative approaches for catch verification and suggests some possible but uncertain actions to address issues regarding parameters used for the Japanese market formula, pointing out that some parameters still

contain uncertainty.

- The proposed approach “correspondence approaches” is to track the relationship between similar quantities from different datasets to identify whether they change over time. 6 ways to take this approach are suggested with utilization of existing data sets including CDS data, collected tag information and trade statistics.
- Although the report concludes that use of the market formula to verify SBT catch by Members is not recommended, it indicates possible ways to improve parameters with uncertainty, including assessing variability in conversion factors and re-designing self-reporting forms. However, it also notes that those ways may not be enough to improve the uncertainty.

(2) Verification of SBT international trade and domestic distribution utilizing CDS data

- The secretariat continues to conduct analysis on SBT international trade to identify SBT market with attention except for Japan. The result of the analysis is reported at CC.

(3) Verification of reported catch with tag data

- The secretariat continues to conduct analysis to verify accuracy of reported catches with utilization of tag data from management tag survey. The result of the analysis is reported at CC.

(4) Development of Resolution to seek cooperation of non-Members

- This issue was agreed to be revisited at 2022 or later, noting that it might be useful to consider outcome from the performance review. The outcomes from the performance review will be discussed at this year’s meeting.
- The secretariat has contacted countries identified to be requested to participate in CC as agreed at last year’s meeting. No application for cooperating status from non-Members has been received so far.

(5) Improvement of tagging based on current CDS Resolutions

- As agreed at last year’s meeting, all Members have been encouraged to tag SBTs following the revised instruction of tagging.

(6) Creation of intersessional working group for future improvement of tag specifications

- This issue was agreed to be revisited at 2022 or later when the result of improvement in above (5) becomes available.

(7) CCSBT’s expense for tag management survey

As explained above, It was intersessionally agreed that the expense for tag management survey and market survey borne in CCSBT’s budget..

III. Moving Forward

In order to update information and date which are significant for management of SBTs, the followings need to be considered and continued.

(1) Addressing advice from the final report by the external expert

- Japan will consider a proposal on improvement in monitoring and verification of all

Members' catch in Japanese market, taking into account advices and suggestion specified in the final report by the external expert and the secretariat's works on international trade((2) below) and verification with tag data((3)below). Japan wishes to submit it for consideration at next year's meeting.

- At the same time, Japan will also consider and report at next year's meeting what could be done to address the parameters issues indicated in the final report.

(2) Verification of SBT international trade

- The markets which have imported SBTs may be markets which need to be monitored with available information and/or requesting cooperation to countries of those markets in regard to trade-related information.
- The secretariat has contacted countries with potential markets of SBT to ask for participation in the meetings and to provide information on SBT trade.
- The continued analysis could contribute to identification of more accurate information of potential UAM as well as revealing the global SBT distribution further.

(3) Verification of reported catch with tag data from management tag survey

- The analysis may be useful to verify accuracy of the reported catches. This could be one of effective tools to monitor flows of SBT and detect potential illegal SBTs so that it could contribute to increase the reliability of CDS and other MCS.
- On the other hand, CC16 indicated improvement in increase of coverage of the sample size was necessary, including increasing the frequency of the tag management survey. In order to address this issue, it is necessary to consider whether it will be possible to increase the frequency of the tag management survey. The tag management survey will be conducted twice a month with CCSBT's expense. In addition, Fisheries Agency of Japan will conduct the survey once a month, if possible.

(4) Collection of more accurate information on catch and trade of SBT by non-Members

- This will provide useful information on other SBT markets than Japan and potential SBT catch outside of the current management by CCSBT in place so that management and monitoring of SBT could be improved.
- This will be considered in concurrence with (1) above, including what is more appropriate and effective to request for cooperation from no-Members.

(5) Improvement of tag specification

- SBTs have been tagged based on the revised tagging instruction since agreement at last year's meeting.
- While fresh SBTs tagged after the agreement have entered Japanese market and, in some cases, been checked through tag management survey, some frozen SBTs landed into Japan so far have been tagged before the agreement. It may require more sufficient amounts of samples through tag management survey to determine whether the improvement has been achieved.
- Considering the above result and experiences of tag management survey and landing controls, Japan will continue to consider whether or not tag specification should be improved.

- This may be considered in concurrence with (1) above.

(6) Tag management survey

- Subject to the endorsement at this year's EC, the survey will be conducted from the expense of CCSBT's budget.

IV. Draft Work Plan for 2023

- (1) Japan will consider a proposal on improvement in monitoring and verification of all Members' catch in Japanese market for the consideration at the next year (2023)'s CC/EC.
- (2) Japan will also consider what could be done to address the parameters issues indicated in the final report for the consideration at the next year (2023)'s CC/EC.
- (3) Japan wishes to suggest an idea or a proposal on how to promote collection of more accurate information on catch and trade of SBT by non-Members for the consideration at the next year (2023)'s CC/EC. This may be incorporated into the proposal in (1) above.
- (4) Japan will continue to consider whether or not tag specification should be improved in 2023. If necessary, Japan wishes to suggest it to be considered at the next year (2023)'s CC/EC.
- (5) The secretariat will continue to conduct analysis on international trade and verification of reported catch and tag data for consideration at the next year (2023)'s CC/EC.