



Report on the ISSF stock assessment workshop 2018

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Report to the CCSBT
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Abstract

The International Sustainable Seafood Foundation's (ISSF) stock assessment workshop was held in Lisbon, Portugal, 21-23rd of March. A representative from each of the five tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (tRFMOs) was asked to present on the process for providing stock assessment and management advice to their Commission. Ann Preece was selected to represent the CCSBT SC and presented an outline and distinction between the Extended Scientific Committee's (ESC's) stock status advice from stock assessments and management advice from the SBT management Procedure. The ISSF was seeking recommendations for harmonising the details reported from each tRFMO.

Report of the meeting

The ISSF stock assessment workshop was held in Lisbon, Portugal, 21-23rd of March. The ISSF held their Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting prior to the stock assessment workshop and most SAC members also attended the workshop.

The workshop attendees were: Susan Jackson (President ISSF), Victor Restrepo (ISSF SAC Chair), Meryl Williams, John Hampton, Josu Santiago, Jerry Scott, Bill Fox, Jim Ianelli, Dale Squires, Dale Kolody, Ray Hilborn, Keith Sainsbury, Hilario Murua, Ana Justel, Maite Pons, Dan Fu, Graham Pilling, Paul de Bruyn, Mark Maunder, Shuya Nakatsuka and Ann Preece.

A representative from each of the five tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (tRFMOs) was asked to present on the process for providing stock assessment and management advice to their Commission. The request was for information on the structure of Committees, flow of information between Committees, review processes, who ran models, types of management advice provided and who drafted scientific advice. Ann Preece represented the CCSBT, with travel supported by ISSF.

The CCSBT processes were described in three parts: First, an outline of the distinction at the CCSBT ESC between stock status advice from stock assessments and management advice from the SBT Management Procedure (MP). Second, the process at CCSBT for providing advice through the OMMP and ESC to the Commission, and third the plan for development of a new MP for SBT. It was acknowledged in discussion of the presentation, that the continuity of expertise in both the Scientific Committee and Advisory Panel was advantageous for making substantial progress at each meeting and inter-sessionally. The workshop discussions ranged over processes and current progress in stock assessment and MP development and provision of advice to each Commission.

Three draft papers that contrasted and summarised the methods and processes used at the tRFMOs were presented at the workshop, to facilitate further discussion of details and presentation of results. It is intended that these papers will be combined and will form the basis for a peer reviewed paper. Some of the SBT details will need to be updated. Improving documentation within tRFMOs was discussed, noting the difficulty of the time constraints at meetings. The CCSBT OMMP working group may wish to consider updating the documentation of the SBT OM and including this as a paper to the ESC so that it can be referenced.

Many questions were asked about the SBT meta-rules process. The safety-net of formally specified meta-rules and an annual review of occurrence of exceptional circumstances may not be well established in the other tRFMOs.

The ISSF was seeking recommendations for harmonising the details reported from each tRFMO, particularly in relation to over-fished and over-fishing and the relationship to target and limit reference points. Consensus was not reached on overfished, however some recommendations for reporting current stock status were made. The impact of organisational structure of tRFMOs and sub-committees on provision of advice was explored to find elements of best practice. All the tRFMOs have a slightly different structure, so attempts to group these is difficult. Best practice included having some form of independent review (e.g. the Advisory Panel) and continuity of expertise.

The other tRFMOs have made substantial progress in their development of harvest strategies for management advice. There is still some way to go to refine definitions and terms for the techniques used. Some of these issues were discussed further at the Kobe MSE meeting in June in Seattle (just prior to the CCSBT OMMP workshop). Many informal discussions of MSE and MPs for other species occurred in the margins of the meeting. Collection of monitoring data for use in MPs and stock assessments was not formally discussed but may make a useful topic for a future workshop.

The meeting was a useful forum for bringing tRFMO scientists and fisheries experts together. A report of the ISSF workshop (Anon., 2018) can be found at: www.iss-foundation.org

Reference:

Anonymous. (2018). Report of the 2018 ISSF Stock Assessment Workshop: Review of Current t-RFMO Practice in Stock Status Determinations. ISSF Technical Report 2018-15. International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, Washington, D.C., USA

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