



# Research mortality allowance: Proposed allowance for 2023 and 2022 usage report.



July 2022

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

**Creative Commons licence**

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](#) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

Inquiries about the licence and any use of this document should be emailed to [copyright@aff.gov.au](mailto:copyright@aff.gov.au).



**Cataloguing data**

## Contents

Summary .....	4
Background .....	5
Report of RMA use in 2022 .....	5
RMA request .....	5
Trial of Stereo Video technology .....	5
Need for research mortality allowance .....	5

# Summary

Australia requests a research mortality allowance of up to 3 tonnes (t) in 2023 for a project to trial the use stereo video technology to determine the weight of catch taken in the tuna farm sector of Australia's Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery. The trial is expected to commence in January 2023.

The 3t research mortality allowance agreed at CCSBT28 was not used, due to unforeseen ongoing logistical issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Background

At the annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) in October 2020 (CCSBT27) Australia advised members it would undertake a trial of emerging stereo video (SV) technology to test whether any of the new generation of systems are fully automated and cost effective.

Meeting these requirements has been a precondition for Australia adopting SV technology in our tuna farming operations.

In 2021 Australia sought and received up to 3 tonnes (t) research mortality allowance (RMA) for likely southern bluefin tuna (SBT) mortality associated with the trial (see CCSBT-ESC 2108/18). This mortality was expected in 2022.

## Report of RMA use in 2022

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions and quarantine requirements, no SV trial or research was able to be undertaken in 2022 and therefore no RMA was required. The trial was postponed and is now expected to commence in early 2023.

## RMA request

Australia requests RMA of up to 3 t for the 2023 calendar year related to a project to trial the use of SV technology to determine the weight of catch taken in Australia's SBT Fishery.

## Trial of Stereo Video technology

The aim of the project is for a service provider to demonstrate to the Australian Government and tuna farming industry fully automated, cost-effective SV technology in situ in Australia's SBT farms.

The COVID-19 pandemic has restricted travel by the service provider, and the design and timing of the trial is yet to be finalised, in consultation with industry, who will assist with the trial.

Australia's SBT fishing season commences on 1 December each year, with purse seining for SBT farms being concentrated over the first few months of the season. This provides only a limited window each year to conduct the trial. At this time, it is anticipated that the trial will commence in January 2023, however continuing waves of COVID variants may pose ongoing logistical issues for the trial.

## Need for research mortality allowance

One objective of the trial is to determine how well SV measures the weight of fish compared to physical measurements of fish. To meet this objective, the service provider may be required to undertake a number of measurements, which could be expected to include removing fish from the water to physically measure them.

Any fish that are removed from water for measuring will be subjected to associated stress and will not be returned to the pens for further grow out and marketing as a premium product. The requested 3t RMA will provide for sufficient fish to be measured to meet this objective.