



CCSBT-EC/1010/12

REPORT FROM THE EXTENDED SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Purpose

To consider the report of the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) meeting.

Discussion

The Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee is provided to this meeting as CCSBT-EC/1010/Rep01.

The independent Chair of the ESC will present the report of the ESC's meeting held in September 2010. The Chair's presentation is provided as CCSBT-EC/1010/20 and includes information on the state of the stock, outcomes and recommendations from Management Procedure (MP) development and the ESC's workplan for 2011.

The ESC's advice on the estimated status of the stock based on indicators in 2009-10, remains unchanged from the advice provided by the ESC in 2009. The current spawning stock biomass remains very low. However, the outlook for the stock may be more positive as there have been several positive signals about the outlook for the stock, including:

- Reduction in the total reported global catch;
- Confirmation of increases in longline CPUE since 2007; and
- Increased scientific aerial survey and SAPUE indices (reflective of potentially improved recruitment of recent year classes).

The ESC has selected two MPs for consideration by the Extended Commission as well as a combined (average) MP to show intermediate behaviour between the two MPs. In addition, the ESC has recommended that:

- If the MP is implemented in 2011 with a 1-year lag, the ESC recommends that the current TAC of 9449t remain for 2012. If the MP is implemented in 2011 with no lag, the ESC recommends that the MP guide the TAC setting for 2012.
- Noting the Extended Commission's intent to adopt an MP at its 2010 annual meeting, the ESC recommends that the Extended Commission take steps to ensure accurate future catch and effort reporting.

The main items in the ESC's workplan for 2011 include a five day intersessional technical meeting in Seattle during mid July 2011 and a seven day ESC meeting in Bali from 4-10 September 2011. The technical meeting will update the stock assessment, evaluate new alternative models, consider new abundance estimates, run the MP and evaluate projections and discuss evaluation of CPUE series. The ESC meeting could be less than seven days depending on the outcomes of the Seattle meeting, but this will not be known until that time.

Prepared by the Secretariat