



CCSBT-EC/0910/14

REPORT FROM THE STRATEGY AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING

Purpose

To consider the report of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group Meeting (SFMWG) and to consider the draft strategic plan developed by New Zealand for the CCSBT, which was work arising from the meeting.

Discussion

The Report of the First Meeting of the SFMWG is provided to this meeting as CCSBT-EC/0910/Rep04. The Chair of the SFMWG will present the report.

The Extended Commission will consider the report from the SFMWG meeting, which included advice that:

- Rebuilding of the stock to the Spawning Biomass at Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is the objective of the Commission, but it would not be feasible to achieve this objective in the near future and interim target reference points would be required.
- Twenty percent of the original spawning biomass is an appropriate interim rebuilding target reference point to move the SBT stock away from its current low level of around 10 percent. The timeframe for achieving this target should be considered by the Extended Commission in 2009 after receiving further advice from the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC). It was also suggested that milestones be identified to help gauge progress towards achieving the interim rebuilding target reference point.
- The Management Procedure would be finalised in 2010 for implementation in 2011.
- No targeting of SBT was conducted in the spawning ground off Indonesia and no fishing for SBT had been recently conducted in the Christmas and Cocos Island areas of the Australian EEZ. Consequently, it was not considered necessary at this stage to implement special management arrangements for the spawning grounds.
- Members shared a common desire to move towards centralised MCS measures and to harmonise measures amongst the tuna RFMOs where possible. This included: (1) Centralised purchase and issue of tags for the CDS by the Secretariat; (2) Improvement to VMS, but coordinated amongst the tuna RFMOs to prevent duplication; and (3) Improvement and harmonisation of scientific observer programs.
- It is important to: (1) obtain accurate verified data and that that some Members were not obtaining sufficient verification of their data. Those Members were encouraged to develop more systematic ways to verify their data; (2) provide data at a suitable level of resolution, which for catch and effort data, was considered to be operational level. It was agreed that if the confidentiality issues could be overcome then it should be possible for Members to provide operational level data; (3) monitor the development of SBT markets in both Member and non-member States and encourage non-member States to require CDS documentation. The Secretariat was asked to request the USA and China to cooperate with the CCSBT CDS when it commences.
- New Zealand would prepare a draft strategic plan for the CCSBT based on guidance given by the SFMWG. The plan would be circulated intersessionally for comments so that a

revised plan could be submitted to CCSBT 16. Meeting document CCSBT-CC/0910/10 contains the draft strategic plan.

Prepared by the Secretariat