



CCSBT-EC/0910/16

## Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation

### Purpose

To provide relevant background information to support the Extended Commission's deliberations on total allowable catch (TAC) and its distribution among Members and Cooperating Non-Members.

### Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and National Allocations

At CCSBT 13, the Extended Commission reached agreement on Member's catches for the next 3 years (5 years in the case of Japan) as well as interim catch allocations for Cooperating Non-Members. The agreement was recorded in paragraphs 60 to 69 of the CCSBT 13 report and is included at **Attachment A** (which contains the entire report on this topic from CCSBT 13). The Extended Commission reconfirmed its decision recorded in these paragraphs at both CCSBT 14 and CCSBT 15. The decisions of CCSBT 13 and associated subsequent decisions are summarised below.

### Members

The Extended Commission agreed to a TAC based on the following national allocations for 2007 to at least 2009:

	Nominal catch (tonnes)	National allocation (tonnes)
Japan	6065	3000 (2007 - 2011)
Australia	5265	5265 (2007 - 2009)
New Zealand	420	420 (2007 - 2009)
Korea	1140	1140 <sup>1</sup> (2007 - 2009)
Taiwan	1140	1140 <sup>1</sup> (2007 - 2009)

Indonesia was not a Member at CCSBT 13 and was thus given an allocation of 750t for 2007 only. Indonesia became a Member in 2008, and at each subsequent meeting of the Extended Commission, its allocation has been extended:

	Nominal catch (tonnes)	National allocation (tonnes)
Indonesia	750	750

Members at CCSBT 13 also agreed to simultaneously implement all the steps of the MOU reached at CCSBT 1 (see **Attachment B**) relating to the national allocations of Australia, New Zealand, and Japan from the 2010 fishing year. This would raise the national allocation of New Zealand to either 1000t or 6% of the global quota, whichever is greater. It would also restore parity between the allocations of Australia and Japan at 5665t.

<sup>1</sup> In order to contribute to the recovery of the SBT stock, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea undertook to maintain their actual catch below 1,000t for the three year period.

### Cooperating Non-members

The Extended Commission's policy for Cooperating Non-members is to set catch allocations on an annual basis. At CCSBT 13, 14 and 15, the Extended Commission agreed on interim catch allocations for Cooperating Non Members as follows:

	Allocated catch (tonnes)
Philippines	45
South Africa	40
European Community	10

### **Discussion**

The Extended Commission will consider a global TAC for 1 or more years from 2010 and decide on the national allocations of the TAC. When considering these matters, the Commission will take into account:

- Stock status advice provided by the Extended Scientific Committee;
- Advice on an interim rebuilding target reference point provided by the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group;
- The agreements reached at CCSBT 13 and the allocation considerations described in Article 8(4) of the Convention; and
- Requests for Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) for research to be conducted in 2010 and possibly beyond. These following RMA requests were supported by the Extended Scientific Committee at its September 2009 meeting:
  - 1.0t for trolling surveys for juvenile SBT in Western Australia (by Japan), and
  - 10.0t to facilitate electronic and genetic tagging of SBT by Australia as part of its research for 2009/10.

**Extract of Agenda Item 9.1 (Total Allowable Catch and its allocation)  
from the Report of CCSBT 13**

***9.1 Total Allowable Catch and its allocation***

57. The Chair requested each delegation to express its initial views on total allowable catch and allocation:
- Australia responded that it would suggest a global TAC of about 11,500t. However, this position was entirely dependent on:
    - The TAC being fixed at this level for 3 years.
    - In these 3 years a scientific and management process must be developed that delivers a “bankable” assessment of the stock so that we can make sensible long term decisions.
    - A suitable package of monitoring, control and surveillance measures, including catch documentation, and vessel monitoring systems, must be implemented for the CCSBT.
  - Without the above measures, Australia advised it would not agree to a TAC at this meeting and will be seeking other avenues to address the issues outlined in its opening statement. Australia will not accept a reduction in its TAC from 5,265t. Australia also noted New Zealand’s outstanding allocation issue. As an outcome, Australia requested that New Zealand’s grievance be dealt with fairly, and recognised that agreements were made at CCSBT 1 which need to be honoured
  - New Zealand supported Australia’s position in general, but particularly in relation to the linkage between the agreement on a package on compliance measures before any agreement on a TAC. New Zealand further thanked Australia for its support of the need to resolve issues relating to the CCSBT 1 MOU and New Zealand’s outstanding allocation issue.
  - New Zealand is supportive of a meaningful catch reduction based on the advice from the Scientific Committee. The specific details will depend on the outcome of the work of the Compliance Committee, and the recommendations for future work of the Scientific Committee to ensure we have sound systems in place to assess this stock.
  - Japan responded that for the median biomass in 2014 to be equal or greater than the median biomass in 2004 a TAC reduction of at least 3,950t should be appropriate.
  - Korea expressed disappointment with the outcomes of the Stock Assessment Group and Scientific Committee meetings. Korea noted that there were many uncertainties, but considered that a TAC recommendation should have been made taking into account the precautionary approach. Korea felt that the scientists involved did not appear to express their individual views and that the outcomes of these meetings were more political than they should have been when considering their terms of reference. Korea proposed a 5,000t TAC reduction and advised that discussion should consider how to share those reductions amongst Members taking into account the illegal fishing that has been conducted.
  - Taiwan noted the high level of uncertainties in the status of the stocks and future trajectory and requested Members to take into account economic and social issues that would result from catch reductions. Taiwan reserved its opinion on a TAC until the entire picture was clear.

- The Philippines noted that it only had a 50t allocation and would be sorry if that was reduced.
- The European Community noted that it was not targeting SBT. It only had a very small bycatch associated with exploratory swordfish fishing surveys and that it had no intention of targeting SBT. The European Community further noted that its practice was to follow scientific advice on TAC matters but that there were many uncertainties with respect to SBT resource status at present.
- Indonesia noted that it was seeking a reduction in the trade restrictive arrangements in relation to Indonesia exports of SBT.

58. The European Community advised that it was confident its bycatch would not exceed the modest quota allocated to it.

59. The Chair remarked that the European Community accepts a 10t TAC.

60. The Extended Commission agreed, as part of interim management measures, to adopt a TAC based on binding allocated catch limits for 2007 – 2009 as follows:

	Nominal catch (tonnes)	Allocated catch (tonnes)
Japan	6065	3000 (2007 – 2011)
Australia	5265	5265 (2007 – 2009)
New Zealand	420	420 (2007 – 2009)
Korea	1140	1140 (2007 – 2009)
Taiwan	1140	1140 (2007 – 2009)

61. The Extended Commission agreed that each Member shall be bound to the allocated catch in column three above.

62. The Extended Commission also agreed, for the purposes of paragraph 2(b) of Article 11 of the CCSBT Convention, that the budget shall be divided in proportion to the nominal catch in column two above.

63. The TAC will only be reviewed if exceptional circumstances emerge in relation to the stock.

64. The Extended Commission agreed on interim catch allocations for Cooperating Non Members and observers for 2007, as follows:

	Allocated catch (tonnes)
Indonesia	750
The Philippines	45
South Africa	40
European Community	10

65. The Extended Commission noted that the new TAC will be 11,810t.

66. The members also agreed that, taking into account the findings of the review panel on the Japanese Market anomalies, the allocated catch of Japan should remain fixed at 3,000t for the minimum period of 5 years beginning from 2007. The Extended Commission will review the level of this allocation in 2011, and if the stock situation prevailing at the time will permit and the compliance measures put in place by the Extended Commission and the relevant authorities of Japan are deemed sufficient to ensure that all unreported catches are eliminated, this level will be reviewed.

67. Members agreed to simultaneously implement all the steps of the MOU reached at CCSBT 1 relating to the national allocations of Australia, New Zealand, and Japan from the 2010 fishing year. Members noted that the global quota (TAC) had already been increased in 2001 (CCSBT 8) and that catch anomalies had prevented further TAC increases. Members noted that in respect of implementing the MOU from CCSBT 1, the

national allocation of New Zealand will be raised to either 1,000t or 6% of the global quota, whichever is greater.

68. In order to contribute to the recovery of SBT stock, Taiwan and Republic of Korea undertook to maintain their actual catch at the level below 1,000t respectively for the minimum of 3 years.
69. The Extended Commission noted that the actual catch level will be below 11,530t for the coming 3 year period.
70. Australia undertook to review its allocation level in future, if further deterioration of the SBT stock calls for such review, or if it finds such review is necessary as a result of its own review of SBT farming operations.
71. In response to the request from the Extended Commission, Australia undertook to commence a robust and credible experiment in 2007 to ensure that the actual catch level of its farming operations can be properly monitored and reported to the Commission. Australia agreed to submit a proposal in this regard as soon as practicable, with a view to inviting Members comments, if there are any.
72. The Members agreed to continue the program to monitor the catch landings of SBT in Indonesia with a view to determining both a temporary allocation and a permanent allocation to Indonesia. A condition of this permanent allocation will be full Membership and cooperation with the goals and principles of the CCSBT.
73. The Members agreed to implement fully the resolutions and other undertakings on MCS measures recorded in agenda item 5.2.
74. The Members agreed to establish new management and scientific processes that will allow the CCSBT to recover the SBT stock to 1980 levels within an appropriate timeframe. The new timeframe will be estimated by the Scientific Committee.
75. The Members agreed to conduct a full stock assessment with the assistance of the CCSBT scientific advisory panel for discussion at the CCSBT meeting in 2009.

**MOU Reached at CCSBT 1 relating to the National Allocations  
of Australia, New Zealand and Japan**

**Annex 2**

**FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS TO QUOTA ALLOCATION**

1. As soon as the global quota is increased, New Zealand will raise its present voluntary catch limit of 420 tonnes to 450 tonnes.
2. As the global quota is increased, Australia will move to equality of national allocations with Japan. At the same time, New Zealand will raise its catch limit to either 1,000 tonnes or 6% of the global quota, whichever is greater.

These adjustments will take place in four steps, upon the condition that at least 90% of the quota allocated to Australia and New Zealand in the year prior to each adjustment being made (excluding any frozen portion) is caught. Should any of the trilateral partners fail to qualify for movement to a subsequent step in any one year, this will not prejudice that country's aspirations to complete the four steps. Catches of Australian or New Zealand quota by vessels operated by nations outside the trilateral group will not count as part of the 90%. If catches by such nations exceed 10% in any one year the implications of these developments will be reviewed.

3. The four steps will be taken as follows:

Step 1: New Zealand will raise its catch limit to the equivalent of 4.161 percent of the global quota. After calculating the Japanese and Australian allocations according to the ratio between the two allocations for the previous year, the difference between the Australian and Japanese allocation will be reduced by a quarter; namely an amount of one eighth of the difference will be moved from the Japanese allocation to the Australian allocation.

Step 2: New Zealand will raise its catch limit to the equivalent of 4.861 percent of the global quota. After calculating the Japanese and Australian allocation according to the ratio between the two allocations for the previous year, the difference between the Australian and Japanese allocations will be reduced by one third; namely an amount of one sixth of the difference will be moved from the Japanese allocation to the Australian allocation.

Step 3: New Zealand will raise its catch limit to the equivalent of 5.469 percent of the global quota. After calculating the Japanese and Australian allocations according to the ratio between the two allocations for the previous year, the difference between the Australian and Japanese allocations will be reduced by one half; namely an amount of one quarter of the difference will be moved from the Japanese allocation to the Australian allocation.

Step 4: New Zealand will raise its catch limit to the equivalent of six percent of the global quota, or 1,000 tonnes, whichever is greater. When the New Zealand catch exceeds 1,000 tonnes, then New Zealand will subject itself to a quota in the same way as Australia and Japan. This will in no way diminish New Zealand's determination to adhere to the voluntary catch limits. After

calculating the Japanese and Australian allocations according to the ratio between the two allocations for the previous year, the difference between the two will be eliminated; namely an amount of one half of the difference will be moved to the Australian allocation.

4. The first adjustment will occur when the global quota reaches or exceeds 12,750 tonnes and subsequent adjustment steps will only occur when the increase in global quota since the last adjustment is at least 1,000 tonnes. If the increase since the last adjustment is greater than 5,000 tonnes, then a two step adjustment will be made at one time.