



CCSBT-EC/0710/23

18. Research Mortality Allowance

Purpose

For the Extended Commission to consider proposals for Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) and SRP mortalities in the 2007-2008 fishing season.

Proposals for Mortalities in 2007-08

At the Extended Scientific Committee meeting Australia sought 15t of RMA for assessing the stereo-video. Australia noted that the 15t was twice the mortalities that it expected and that this was to allow for unexpected circumstances or fish of a larger than normal size being caught.

The request is not consistent with CCSBT resolution on "Research Mortality Allowance within the Framework of CCSBT" adopted in November 2000. The total level of RMA shall not exceed 10 tonnes each year" and that the resolution also excluded "Fish taken for experiments such as TS measurement in a cage or pinger tracking". While stereo-video was not specifically excluded from the resolution, this general type of research seems to be excluded.

Given the issues involved, the ESC noted that the allocation of RMA to Australia for assessing the stereo-video technique was a matter for the Extended Commission to consider.

Australia is likely to review its request for 15t of RMA before it asks the Extended Commission to consider this matter.

Endorsed Proposals

The following mortality allowances have been endorsed by the Extended Scientific Commission for consideration by the Extended Commission.

Australia proposed a mortality allowance of 5 tonnes to tag 20 adult SBT with pop-up satellite archival tags in the Tasman Sea and possibly the Indian Ocean. Australia advised that it used 2.1t of RMA for this project in the current year.

Japan has proposed a mortality allowance of 1 tonnes for trolling survey and acoustic tagging survey in 2006/07. Japan used 0.14t (43 fish) of the 5t RMA that it was granted in the current year.

SRP

The ESC recommended that tag deployments not occur during the 2007/08 season and therefore no mortality allowance is required for this program this year.

For consideration

Prepared by the Secretariat