



CCSBT-EC/0510/21

19. Research Mortality Allowance and SRP Mortality Allowance

Purpose

- (i) To advise members of the mortalities associated with scientific surveys and the Scientific Research Program (SRP) in 2004 and 2005.
- (ii) For the Extended Commission to consider proposals for Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) and SRP mortalities in 2005-2006.
- (iii) To advise the Extended Commission on the manner in which SRP research mortality is managed in each component of the SRP.

Mortalities in 2004-2005.

At CCSBT11 the Extended Commission agreed to a RMA of 1 tonne for an acoustic survey program by Japan.

The Extended Commission also agreed to a total of 46 tonnes for mortalities associated with the CCSBT surface fishery tagging program; the tagging program conducted in the western Indian Ocean by Japan; the archival tagging program being conducted in the Australian east coast fishery; a juvenile SBT global spatial dynamics tagging program; and a tagging exercise in the New Zealand SBT fishery.

With regard to the two Australian tagging programs, it was agreed to limit the mortality allowance to 23 tonnes and for Australia to provide advice on:

- the allocation of the 23 tonnes between the two programs
- details on the use of mortality allowance between the EEZ and the high seas and the vessels used

It was also agreed that utilisation of the Australian mortality allowance on non-Australian flagged vessels would require intersessional agreement by members.

The following mortalities have been reported (in tonnes) against these allowances in 2004-2005 since CCSBT11.

RMA

- Japanese acoustic survey
 - Total mortalities 0.82 tonnes

SRP

- CCSBT surface fishery 3.70 tonnes
- Japanese high seas – Indian Ocean 0.00 tonnes
- Australian archival – East Coast/Indian Ocean* n/a
- New Zealand fishery 0.00 tonnes
- Australian Global Spatial Dynamics 0.00 tonnes
- Total Research Mortalities 4.52 tonnes

*Not yet provided by Australia.

Proposals for Mortalities in 2005-2006

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

RMA

Japan has proposed a mortality allowance of 1 tonne.

SRP

The CCSBT tagging program in the surface fishery will continue in its fifth year at the same level of activity as in 2004-2005 and a mortality allowance of 8 tonnes is required.

Japan will conduct tagging on the high seas and has estimated mortalities at 10 tonnes.

Australia will continue with archival tagging in the east coast fishery and the eastern Indian Ocean to gather data in relation to the spawning ground and has sought a mortality allowance of 15 tonnes.

Australia will continue with its global spatial dynamics archival tagging program deploying 400-500 archival tags over three-year period. A mortality allowance of 12 tonnes is sought for this project in 2006.

New Zealand proposes to participate in the Global Spatial Dynamics Tagging Program during the 2006 fishing season and has requested a mortality allowance of 5 tonnes.

In total 50 tonnes in SRP research mortality is being sought for 2006.

The Extended Commission needs to consider and agree to the Japanese proposal for RMA in 2005-2006.

For the SRP, if the proposed programs are to proceed, the Extended Commission needs to agree to the specific mortalities proposed by members and endorsed by the Extended Scientific Committee.

Collaboration on Archival Tagging

The Scientific Committee considered a proposal for collaboration among members for the deployment of archival tags across the SBT distribution range. It was agreed that further options on multilateral collaboration on electronic tagging would be discussed at the next SAG and ESC meetings.

The Extended Commission needs to consider and endorse the recommendations of the Scientific Committee.

Prepared by the Secretariat