



CCSBT-EC/1310/11

Report from the Extended Scientific Committee

Purpose

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

Background and Summary

The Report of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC18) is provided to this meeting as CCSBT-EC/1310/Rep02. The ESC Chair's presentation of this report is provided to this meeting as CCSBT-EC/1310/20.

The ESC did not conduct a model based assessment at its 2013 meeting, so the stock status information presented in its report is from the 2011 stock assessment and from fishery indicators presented to the 2013 ESC meeting. The 2011 assessment suggested that the SBT spawning biomass is at a very low fraction of its original biomass as well as below the level that could produce maximum sustainable yield. Rebuilding the spawning stock biomass would almost certainly increase sustainable yield and provide security against unforeseen environmental events. The current TAC has been set using the management procedure (MP) adopted in 2011, which has a 70% probability of rebuilding to the interim target biomass level by 2035.

Stock prognosis

The ESC reported that there is a positive outlook for the SBT stock based on the 2011 assessment, including:

- Current fishing mortality reduced below F_{msy} ; and
- Stock is expected to increase at current catch levels, and future catch levels determined by the MP.

Summary of indicators

There were both positive and neutral signals from the indicators in 2013:

- Longline CPUE for the Japanese fleet for ages 6 and 7 has continued to increase since 2007. The 12+ year old CPUE shows a slight recent decrease, but this is expected given the weak recruitment from 1999 to 2002. There are no obvious recent trends in the CPUEs for the other age groups.
- Although there was a decline in the scientific aerial survey index in 2012, the index for 2013 has increased and is the second highest over the last nine years. A similar pattern of a decline followed by an increase is evident in the commercial SAPUE and troll survey results from 2011 to 2013.
- There has been a decline in the mean length of SBT on the spawning ground. There are indications that this may be the result of some Indonesian vessels fishing further south, outside the spawning grounds. This may also reflect the strong 2005 year class arriving on the spawning ground. This is being investigated further and any additional information will be provided to the 2014 ESC meeting.

Review of MP implementation in 2013

The ESC concluded that there were no indications of exceptional circumstances and that therefore, there were no impediments to running the MP to set the next TAC.

MP TAC Recommendations

The ESC recommended that there is no need to revise the Extended Commission's 2011 TAC decision regarding the TAC for 2014. Therefore the recommended TAC for 2014 is **12,449 t**. The Advisory Panel formally ran the MP on behalf of the CCSBT Secretariat for the TAC recommendation. The recommended annual TAC for the years 2015-2017 is **14,647.4 t**. This is a 2,198.4t increase from 12,449 t TAC (18%) in 2014, which is less than the maximum step of 3000t allowed under the MP.

Other Advice

The ESC recommended to the Extended Commission that an allocation of **10 t** per year be made to cover mortality associated with approved research projects.

Priorities for the Scientific Research Plan for 2014 to 2018 (SRP)

The ESC discussed research priorities under the SRP. These are in addition to the on-going scientific monitoring (e.g. the scientific aerial survey) and annual work program activities which are undertaken by the CCSBT, Members and the ESC.

The ESC recommended that the highest priorities for commencing in 2014 under the SRP are the continued collection and archiving of samples for close-kin genetics (in Australia and Indonesia), the design study for potential close-kin and gene-tagging programs, initiating collection and preservation of ovary samples (across fisheries and size classes) and further collation and analysis of existing data on selectivity in the Indonesian spawning ground fishery. The ESC has included these in the proposed 2014 workplan. The ESC recommended that the Commission note Attachment 12 of the ESC's report and the progress made on the SRP. The ESC agreed that at the next meeting the finalisation of the SRP (2014-18) would be a substantive agenda item, involving the review of proposals and detailed costings for the SRP components.

The ESC's workplan for 2014 is provided at Attachment A.

Proposed Workplan of the Extended Scientific Committee for 2014

Activity	Approximate Period	Resources or approximate budgetary implications ¹
Continuation of tag recovery efforts.	Tag recovery is continuous.	\$1,500 for tag rewards on the basis that few recaptures are expected to occur.
Provide SBT Stock Status report to the other tuna RFMOs.	Aug - Nov 13	No additional cost
Collation of information on unreported mortalities and categorising this information in accordance with OM "fleets"	Jan - Jun 14	New Zealand
Proposed SRP activities for 2014: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued collection of close-kin (CK) samples Design study for future gene-tagging and CK studies Collation of information on selectivity for Indonesian spawning ground fishery (ideally completed prior to the 2014 technical meeting) Sampling for maturity studies (gonads etc.) 	Jan - Dec 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close –kin: CCSBT (\$30,000) Design study: CCSBT (\$150,000) Selectivity: Indonesia Maturity samples: Members
Continuation of the development of the OMMP Code. Update input files including all sensitivity tests (e.g., alternative catch histories) for OM in advance of 2014 technical meeting and ESC.	Jan-Jul 14 (Data inputs after data exchange)	Australia / Consultant 5 days.
CPUE Webinar to review progress of the intersessional CPUE work (see Attachment 7)	Apr 14	Intersessional work by Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Korea and possibly Indonesia. Three panel days.
Standard Scientific Data Exchange.	Apr - Jul	No additional costs
Small technical meeting in relation to the full SBT stock assessment and updated of Operating Model in advance of ESC meeting. See Attachment 14 for details.	4 days, July (Seattle, USA)	Three panel members, OM/MP consultant, 1 interpreter.
Extended Scientific Committee for the 21 st meeting of the Scientific Committee. The meeting will conduct its regular review of indicators and evaluation of whether exceptional circumstances exist. The meeting will focus on conducting a full SBT stock assessment and developing an updated comprehensive SRP.	1-6 Sep 14 (Auckland, New Zealand)	ESC Chair, all 4 panel members, full interpretation and 3 Secretariat staff.

¹ Where a Member is listed, it is assumed that the Member will cover any associated costs.