

Resolution on Limited Carry-forward of Unfished Annual Total Available Catch of Southern Bluefin Tuna

(Revised at the Twenty Sixth Annual Meeting: 17 October 2019)

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

Noting the “Resolution on the Adoption of a Management Procedure” was adopted at the eighteenth annual meeting in 2011;

Further noting that the above resolution adopted a management procedure that sets the global total allowable catch (TAC) for southern bluefin tuna in three year blocks;

Considering the need for Members to effectively manage their total available catch within each quota year and to allow limited carry-forward of Member’s annual total available catch;

Recognising that a provision to carry-forward undercatch can benefit the fishery by providing catch flexibility between quota years;

Informed that such a provision will not have a negative effect on the operation of the current Management Procedure and the setting of global TACs;

Mindful that this carry-forward provision may present administrative complexities for some Members, and that it should therefore be up to each Member whether it wishes to implement the provision for its vessels;

Agrees in accordance with paragraph 3(b) of Article 8, that:

Section 1: Establishment of a Carry-forward Procedure

1. The Extended Commission hereby establishes a procedure for limited carry forward of Members’ un-fished annual total available catch¹.
2. Members shall decide whether or not to carry-forward un-fished total available catch. However, if a Member decides to carry-forward unfished quota, such carry-forward shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures defined in sections 2 – 4 below.

Section 2: Carry-Forward Procedure

¹ Total available catch means a Member’s Effective Catch Limit allocation for that quota year plus any amount of unfished allocation carried forward to that quota year.

3. If a Member's annual total available catch is under-caught, that Member may carry forward the unfished quota to the following quota year. However, the total quota carried forward from one year to the next shall not exceed 20% of that Member's Effective Catch Limit² for the year from which the quota is being carried forward.
4. A Member's unfished annual total available catch is equal to the Member's annual total available catch minus the total of all mortalities attributed to that Member for that quota year. The total of all mortalities attributed to that Member shall include the:
 - a) Mortality resulting from commercial fishing operations, whether primarily targeting SBT or not; and
 - b) The Member's full allowances set aside within their national allocations for:
 - Releases and/or discards;
 - Recreational fishing;
 - Customary and/or traditional fishing; and
 - Artisanal fishing.
5. Members shall make efforts to obtain best estimates of the actual catch amount for the quota year for each element outlined at paragraph 4(b) above. If available, this shall be included in the total of the mortalities attributed to that Member instead of the Member's full allowance.
6. A Member's total available catch for a quota year shall not exceed the sum of its national allocation for that year plus an amount equal to 20% of its national allocation for the previous quota year.

Section 3: Notification and Reporting of Carry-Forward Procedure

7. The Secretariat shall seek confirmation from Members at the end of the quota year as to whether they intend to carry forward unfished quota to the next quota year. Members that have elected to carry forward unfished quota shall provide confirmation to the Secretariat within 90 days of receipt of the request and shall include a revised total available catch limit for the new quota year.

² This is the Member's allocation plus any adjustments for agreed short term changes to the National Allocation.

8. Members shall report on their use of the procedure in their annual reports to the Extended Commission, regardless of whether the procedure was in fact used by the Member during that quota year.

Section 4: Circumstances When Carry-Forward Is Not Applicable

9. If, on the basis of advice from the Extended Scientific Committee that exceptional circumstances exist that necessitate additional management action, the Extended Commission agrees to reduce the global total allowable catch within a three year quota block, the carry-forward procedures provided in this resolution shall not be applied by any Member.
10. If the Extended Commission agrees within a three year quota block to reduce the national allocation of one or more Members, that Member or those members shall not apply the carry-forward procedures provided in this resolution unless decided otherwise by the Extended Commission taking into account the circumstances of the reduction.
11. If either the Management Procedure recommends, or the Extended Commission decides on a lower Global TAC, then the carry-forward procedures provided for in this Resolution shall not be applied by any Member unless decided otherwise by the Extended Commission.
12. If a Member exceeds its national allocation for the 2017 fishing season or later without paying back its excess catch for those seasons, the carry-forward procedures provided in this resolution shall not be applied by that Member until those catches have been paid back, unless otherwise agreed by the Extended Commission.

Section 5: General Provisions

13. The procedures in this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.
14. Following the adoption of a new Management Procedure the Extended Commission shall review and amend, if necessary, this Resolution taking into account the advice of the Extended Scientific Committee.
15. This Resolution replaces and supersedes the “Resolution on Limited Carry-forward of Unfished Annual Total Allowable Catch of Southern Bluefin Tuna” that was adopted at the Twenty-First Annual Meeting.