



CCSBT-EC/1010/09

REPORT FROM THE STRATEGY AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING

Purpose

To consider the report of the Second Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group Meeting (SFMWG).

Discussion

The Report of the Second Meeting of the SFMWG is provided to this meeting as CCSBT-EC/1010/Rep03. The Chair of the SFMWG will present the report.

The Extended Commission will consider the report from the SFMWG meeting, which included advice that:

- It recommended that the Strategic Plan at Attachment 4 of the SFMWG report be adopted by the Extended Commission.
- Discussion was narrowing to 25 or 30 years for reaching the interim rebuilding target of 20% of SSB_0 ¹ and around 12 or 15 years for reaching a short term checkpoint of 10% of SSB_0 or doubling of current SSB.
- Sixty percent should be the minimum acceptable rebuilding probability for the SBT stock with probabilities of 70% and 90% to also be considered. It was also agreed that it was important to have a high probability of rebuilding the SBT stock in the short term.
- The “Metarule Process” included in the Draft SBT Management Procedure Specifications from SC10 was an appropriate process for detecting and responding to exceptional circumstances and recommended that this process be adopted by the Extended Commission.

The SFMWG provided guidance to the MP technical working group and the Extended Scientific Committee in relation to development of the management procedure. This included the above advice and the following points:

- The frequency of TAC changes should be limited to once every three years;
- MP testing of early TAC changes were preferred over late TAC changes;
- MP testing should be conducted for both immediate implementation of the TAC recommended by the MP and implementation one year after the MP recommendation²;
- The minimum TAC change recommended by the MP should be 100t. Maximum TAC changes by the MP of 3000t and 5000t should be explored;
- Projections with a zero TAC should continue to be conducted to provide a baseline that can be used for comparative purposes.

¹ Spawning Stock Biomass of the unfished stock.

² The SFMWG noted that if a one year time lag was agreed, a separate decision would need to be made for the TAC in 2012 because the Resolution on the Total Allowable Catch and Future Management of Southern Bluefin Tuna adopted at CCSBT16 envisaged that the MP would be the basis for setting the TAC for 2012.