



CCSBT-EC/0710/19

9. Australian Farm Study progress in relation to CCSBT13

Purpose

To brief the Extended Commission on the record of progress on the Australian Farm Study.

Discussion

At CCSBT13 Australia made a commitment to endeavour to complete work on the experimental design and experimental work as soon as practicable and established a schedule for the work.

The following is a record of the progress made

- 5 December 2006 Australia submitted Draft Experimental AFS design
- 5 December 2006 Draft Experimental AFS design was circulated by Secretariat to all members with request for comment by 27 December
- 31 December 2006 Comments were received from three Members
- 12 January 2007 Draft Experimental AFS design comments were circulated by Secretariat to all Members
- 26 January 2007 Australia submitted Experimental AFS design
- 26 January 2007 Experimental AFS design was circulated by Secretariat to all Members with request for comment by 5 March
- 5 March 2007 Comments were received from two Members
- 19-23 March 2007 Japanese Delegation visit to Pt Lincoln Farms to review progress with AFS
- 3 April 2007 Australia submitted a revised AFS
- September 2007 The ESC examined results in 2006/07 and revised experimental design for 2007/08

Australia presented paper CCSBT-ESC/0709/24 comparing the range of procedures used to monitor catches of bluefin tuna farm operations in the Mediterranean, Mexico and Australia.

Australia presented paper CCSBT-ESC/0709/28 detailing Australia's experimental design for stereo video trials in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 seasons

Some members of the ESC viewed that progress to date was slower than that agreed to at CCBST 13 (paragraph 44). Australia indicated that it considered progress to date to be in line with its statement at CCSBT 13. Delays in implementing experiments were a result of delay in receiving comments from some members, the nature of the comments received, and delays in obtaining some equipment. In particular the entire experimental approach had to be modified due to conflicting proposals from members, and an unwillingness to contribute funding or approve the requests for RMA.

After further discussion and recommendations from the ESC Australian proposed the following timetable for work:

- September 2007: submit the results of this year's trials to all Members.
- October-November 2007: analysis of data from trials performed in September 2007.
- February 2008: repetitive measures of SBT transfers of 500 fish under varying environmental conditions.

For consideration

Prepared by the Secretariat