



CCSBT-EC/0610/17

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 the 2005-06 fishing season.
- (ii) For the Extended Commission to consider proposals for Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) and SRP mortalities in the 2006-2007 fishing season.

Mortalities in 2005-2006.

At CCSBT12, the Extended Commission agreed to a RMA of 1 tonne for an acoustic survey program by Japan, which was subsequently increased to 2.34 tonnes intersessionally.

The Extended Commission also agreed to a total of 50 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 and west coast fisheries; a juvenile SBT global spatial dynamics tagging program; and a tagging exercise in the New Zealand SBT fishery.

The following mortalities have been reported (in tonnes) against these allowances in 2005-06.

RMA

- Japanese acoustic and trolling surveys
 - Total mortalities 2.34 tonnes

SRP

- CCSBT surface fishery 4.85 tonnes
- Japanese high seas – Indian Ocean* - tonnes
- Australian archival – East Coast/Indian Ocean 2.10 tonnes
- New Zealand fishery - tonnes
- Australian Global Spatial Dynamics* - tonnes
- Total Research Mortalities 9.29 tonnes

* These programs purchased fish from vessels for tagging so no mortality allowance was used.

Proposals for Mortalities in 2006-07

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 5 tonnes for a trolling survey with agreement to increase the amount intersessionally if necessary.

SRP

The Extended Scientific Committee has recommended that the CCSBT tagging program in the surface fishery be continued for a sixth year at the same level of activity as in 2005-2006 and a mortality allowance of 8 tonnes is required.

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 12 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 5 tonnes is sought for this project in 2007.

In total 25 tonnes in SRP research mortality is being sought for 2006-07.

The Extended Commission needs to consider and agree to the Japanese proposal for RMA in 2006-2007.

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.

Prepared by the Secretariat