



## OUTCOMES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 17 MARCH 2022

### PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 5<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP05) of the outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP04), held on 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021, relating to the work of the TCMP.

### BACKGROUND

The TCMP04 meeting reviewed progress and results of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) work on major IOTC tuna species, discussed elements of the Management Procedures that require a decision by the Commission, and included the presentation of MSE results. The Technical Committee on Management Procedure was intended as a formal communication channel to facilitate the exchange of information and views between fishery scientists and managers. The Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> TCMP provided the following recommendations:

- (Para. 24) The TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the WPM and Ad-hoc Reference Points Working Group continue to have discussions in order to provide advice on the most suitable and robust types of reference points to be used for stock status determination.
- (Para. 65) The TCMP **NOTED** the implementation of a lag inherent in the MSE processes. There is often a lag of two to three years between the latest data available and the year for which a TAC is being estimated. In addition, there is a lag between the time the scientific advice is formulated and a possible CMM is formulated and implemented. The TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission take note of this issue and provide feedback as to whether this is acceptable or to review different options to reduce this lag in data reporting for management advice.
- (Para. 85) The TCMP **NOTED** that there have been delays in the MSE development and that this will require a revision to the timetable for the development of management procedures. The TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission endorse a request that a revised timetable to be developed by CPCs with assistance from the SC and WPM chairs along with the Secretariat and this could be presented to the SC in 2021.
- (Para. 87) The TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission continue to support capacity building initiatives through the TCMP to improve understanding and participation in the MSE process.

### DISCUSSION

The TCMP also discussed the workplan and future direction of TCMP, the actions for next iteration of management procedure development, and agreed on the preliminary MSE tuning objective for ALB, BET, and YFT. The following extracts from the TCMP04 Report are provided here for the consideration:

- (Para. 31) The TCMP **NOTED** that there are likely to be major revisions to the CPUE indices in the albacore tuna assessment in 2022 and discussed whether the OM needs to be reconditioned to the new assessment model by then. The TCMP **NOTED** that this is the third iteration of the OM development for albacore tuna and the OM is currently based on an assessment endorsed by the SC. However, the TCMP **AGREED** that although changes of past data and time series do not necessarily invalidate the OM, concrete guidelines and criteria need to be established to decide when reconditioning of the OM is required.
- (Para. 38) The TCMP **NOTED** that the constraint on the maximum TAC change does not need to be symmetric (for example, the constraint can be 15% on the increase and 10% on the decrease). The TCMP **REQUESTED** the issue be discussed in more detail at the WPM prior to the SC.
- (Para. 64) The TCMP **NOTED** that across all species, a TAC change constraint of 15% is implemented. The TCMP **REQUESTED** that the developers investigate the possibility of including variable constraints based on current stock status **ACKNOWLEDGING** that current stock status in the MP process is not the same as the status estimated from traditional stock assessment models. An additional constraint option of 20% could be



investigated for stocks above MSY. The TCMP **NOTED** that this would need to be implemented differently for model-based MPs as opposed to empirical MPs.

- (Para. 66) The TCMP **NOTED** that delays in the MSE developments have resulted in projection time windows being too close to the current terminal year of the MP. The TCMP **REQUESTED** that the developers remove the reference years of 2030-2034 and replace them with relative placeholders (such as 11-15 years from model terminal year).
- (Para 67) The TCMP **NOTED** the high level of uncertainty in the catches used to condition the operating models. The TCMP further **NOTED** that this uncertainty is not consistent over time. The TCMP therefore **REQUESTED** that the WPM review this problem and potential solutions to reduce this problem in the OM conditioning.
- (Para. 74) The TCMP **REQUESTED** the albacore OM developer to explore the effects of having values different than 15% in TAC change constraint, including some values varying with stock status, and report to the WPM and SC.
- (Para. 77) The TCMP **REQUESTED** that the developer consider the same tuning criteria as proposed for other stocks (50%, 60% and 70% with the percentages corresponding to the percentage of time the stock status is in the Kobe green quadrant over the reference years (i.e. 2030-2034 or 11 – 15 years from model terminal year) for consistency. One CPC suggested that the initial tuning criteria should be depletion based, but additional tuning criteria, including MSY based criteria, should also be investigated, and discussed by the WPM and SC and presented to the TCMP in 2022.
- (Para. 81) The TCMP **ENDORSED** the value of 15% of TAC change constraint for the bigeye tuna Operating Model but **REQUESTED** the modeler to explore the impact of alternative values on the results as this value is often hit in the simulations and this could have an important effect on the Management Procedure assessment.

#### RECOMMENDATION/S

That the TCMP:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2022–TCMP05–03 which outlined the outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee on Management Procedure, and **AGREE** to consider how best to provide the commission with the information it needs, in order to satisfy the Commission’s requests, throughout the course of the current TCMP meeting.