

OUTCOMES OF THE 5th TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 8 MARCH 2023

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 6th Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP06) of the outcomes of the 5th Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP05), held on 13th to 14th May 2022, relating to the work of the TCMP.

BACKGROUND

The TCMP05 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 5th TCMP provided the following recommendations:

- (Para. 58) *The next technical issue discussed by the TCMP related to the choice of MP. Two distinct MPs were included in the proposal for discussion, namely the Model-based hockey stick (PT-HS, MP1_Harvest) and the Model-based Catch and CPUE projection (PT-PROJ, MP2_Target). The TCMP **NOTED** that both MPs have very similar results with subtle differences in the outputs (e.g. catch stability, short term catch levels, population status at the end of the reference years) that require consideration by the Commission and no consensus was reached on which MP was preferable for the TCMP. The TCMP **NOTED** that both candidate MPs for BET, reviewed by the SC, are acceptable and meet the management objectives for the stock. As such the TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission discuss them both and consider selecting one MP for adoption.*
- (Para. 77) *The TCMP **NOTED** that CPCs require time to process the outputs of the SC in order to fully explore and understand the advice provided using the MSE process. To facilitate this, the TCMP **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission endorse holding a virtual TCMP meeting early each year with a view to discuss or narrow down the alternative candidate MPs proposed by the SC, providing sufficient time for CPCs to discuss the outputs of the SC and consider developing proposals based on them. The TCMP would then meet again physically prior to the Commission..*

DISCUSSION

The TCMP also discussed the workplan and future direction of TCMP, the actions for next iteration of management procedure development. The following extracts from the TCMP05 Report are provided here for the consideration:

- (Para. 55) *The TCMP **ACKNOWLEDGED** the extensive work conducted on the BET MSE and the collaborative efforts to bring this work to a mature stage. The TCMP **AGREED** that momentum should not be lost and that the work was of a sufficiently advanced stage to be discussed by the Commission for possible adoption as a CMM.*
- (Para. 61) *The TCMP **REQUESTED** clarification on the Revised Australian proposal to conduct a preliminary stock assessment in 2022 with a final assessment in 2023. It was clarified that the preliminary assessment would review the latest information and conduct the bulk of the work towards the assessment, but in order to offset the assessment year from the MP run year (something considered best practice for MP implementation in order to separate the assessment and MSE processes), the assessment would be updated in 2023 with only the latest years catch data added to the assessment.*
- (Para. 65) *The TCMP **DISCUSSED** the necessity to constrain the TAC changes, between management periods, even if the stock is below BMSY (but not Blim) to ensure stability for the fishery. Different options for TAC changes could be explored, but not exceed 30%. The developer was also **REQUESTED** to explore asymmetric TAC estimations but not be limited to this option only and continue with symmetric options as well.*



- (Para. 66) The developer was also **REQUESTED** to include a minimum catch mechanism, not only to support a bycatch and subsistence harvest, but also to ensure the continued availability of data for scientific monitoring purposes.
- (Para. 67) The TCMP **NOTED** that previously (for skipjack tuna), a request had been made to the developer to remove positive bias in catches and therefore implementation error had been removed from the OM tuning. The TCMP **AGREED** that it is best practice to include implementation error and this option should once again be explored in the tuning. In addition, the tuning should continue to use the three options for being in the green zone of 50, 60 and 70%
- (Para. 75) The TCMP **NOTED** a very brief presentation by the Secretariat on document IOTC-2021-SC24-INF06 which provided the Terms of Reference for the Bigeye Tuna Peer review process. The TCMP **NOTED** these terms of reference that were endorsed by the SC and **ENCOURAGED** the SC to proceed with this process.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the TCMP:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2023–TCMP06–03 which outlined the outcomes of the 5th 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.