



OUTCOMES OF THE 7th TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 15 APRIL 2024

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 8th Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP08) of the outcomes of the 7th Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedure (TCMP07), held on 19th to 21th Feb 2024, relating to the work of the TCMP.

BACKGROUND

The TCMP07 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.

DISCUSSION

The TCMP discussed the progress of MSE for skipjack tuna and swordfish, the actions for next iteration of management procedure development. The following extracts from the TCMP07 Report are provided here for the consideration:

- *(Para. 30) TCMP **NOTED** the instability in catches associated with more aggressive tuning targets. It was proposed to exclude the 50% tuning, **NOTING** that a similar decision had been made for the MSE for bigeye tuna and swordfish. However, TCMP **NOTED** that MPs need still be evaluated using the full assessment model grid (currently only half models are included in the OM) and the MP performance may also change if TAC stabilizers are introduced. TCMP **AGREED** to postpone the decision to the TCMP08 meeting in May, pending full results, to allow MP options to be further narrowing down. Furthermore, the TCMP **NOTED** that the MP tuned for 50% of probability of reaching the target was preliminarily evaluated to have achieved a probability of being in the green Kobe quadrant ($B > BMSY$ and $F < FMSY$) of 83% and 85% for Type A MP and Type B MP, respectively.*
- The TCMP found that the qualitative comparisons of multiple MPs against different management objectives (e.g., Type-A, 60% tuning is preferred against the maximum average catch; Type-B, 50% tuning is preferred against the maximum possible catch) in the skipjack MSE are very informative, and **REQUESTED** that the developers produce such qualitative comparisons (with an emphasis on whether the difference is significant) to summarize MP performance in order to assist managers in making MP selection decisions.
- *(Para. 37) The TCMP **NOTED** that the estimator in the Model-based MP is based on a standard Schaefer surplus production model, which assumes MSY occurs at 50% SBO. The TCMP further **NOTED** that this assumption does not align with the underlying 40-10 Hockey stick harvest control rule, as management actions may not be triggered when the stock falls below BMSY. It was pointed out that the discrepancy might not be important since the estimator serves to provide inputs to the HCR and it is subject to testing. Nevertheless, the TCMP suggested examining the effects of an estimator more in tune with the HCR, one that corresponds to an MSY occurring at 40% SBO, to determine its influence on MP performance. The TCMP **AGREED** that this warrants a technical discussion at the upcoming MSE April task force meeting.*
- *(Para. 38) Based on the observed performance of MPs, the TCMP discussed options to refine MP selections for further consideration at the TCMP meeting in May. The TCMP **NOTED** that the performance was quite similar among various TAC stabilizers and **AGREED** to eliminate both the 15-15 and 10-10 options while retaining the 15-10 option. Additionally, the TCMP **AGREED** to maintaining all types of MPs (although model-based MPs typically yield lower catches they offer greater stability)*
- *(Para. 40) The TCMP **RECALLED** that the deadline for submission of full documents for the TCMP in May falls on 10 April (30 days prior to the start of the TCMP meeting). The TCMP **NOTED** that this deadline falls before the*



*completion of the MSE Task Force meeting, which takes place from the 10 – 13 April. As such, any discussions that take place during that meeting would not be able to be incorporated into the documents submitted for the TCMP. As such, the TCMP **AGREED** that the deadline for submission of documents for the TCMP should be extended until the 19th of April on an exceptional basis in 2024.*

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the TCMP:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2024–TCMP08–03 which outlined the outcomes of the 7th 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.