

OUTCOMES OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 4 NOVEMBER, 2011

PURPOSE

To inform the Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT) of the recommendations arising from the Thirteenth Session of the Scientific Committee held from 6–10 December 2010, specifically relating to the work of the WPNT.

BACKGROUND

At the 13th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC) adopted revised Executive Summaries for each of the neritic tuna species, and these will be discussed under Agenda item 10. The current status, outlook and recommendation for each neritic tuna species agreed to by the SC, are provided at Attachment A.

DISCUSSION

In addition to the recommendations outlined in Attachment A, the SC made another recommendations relevant to the WPNT, which participants are asked to consider:

Data reporting requirements:

- 1) The SC endorsed the minimum data requirements for gillnet and pole-and-line fisheries. In order to complete this work, the SC recommended that this minimum requirement are translated into proposals of Resolutions for the recording of catch by gillnet and pole-and line fisheries in the IOTC area for presentation at the next meeting of the Commission. (para 141 of the SC13 report).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Working Party on Tropical Tuna **NOTE** the recommendations of the Thirteenth Session of the Scientific Committee on data and research, and consider how to progress these issues at the present meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Recommendations to the Commission on the status of neritic tuna stocks.

ATTACHMENT A

Extract of the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Scientific Committee

(IOTC–2010–SC13–R; SECT. 16.3, PAGES 48–49)

16.3. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION – ON THE STATUS OF THE STOCKS

NERITIC TUNAS**BULLET TUNA (*Auxis rochei*)**

No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for bullet tuna in the Indian Ocean, therefore the stock status is uncertain. The SC notes the catches of bullet tuna are typically variable but relatively low compared to the other neritic species. The reasons for this are not clear: it may be problem related to reporting, or it may be a normal fluctuation in the fishery. Bullet tuna is a relatively productive species with high fecundity and rapid growth and this makes it relatively resilient and less prone to overfishing. Nevertheless, bullet tuna appears to be an important prey species for other pelagic species including the commercial tunas.

The SC recommended that bullet tuna be reviewed at the first meeting of the IOTC Working Party on Neritic Tunas.

FRIGATE TUNA (*Auxis thazard*)

No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for the frigate tuna in the Indian Ocean, therefore the stock status is uncertain. This species is a relatively productive species with high fecundity and rapid growth and this makes it relatively resilient and not prone to overfishing. Nevertheless, frigate tuna appears to be an important prey species for other pelagic species including the commercial tunas.

The SC recommended that frigate tuna be reviewed at the first meeting of the IOTC Working Party on Neritic Tunas.

INDO-PACIFIC KING MACKEREL (*Scomberomorus guttatus*)

No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for the Indo-Pacific king mackerel in the Indian Ocean, therefore the stock status is uncertain. This species is a relatively productive species with high fecundity and rapid growth and this makes it relatively resilient and not prone to overfishing.

The SC recommended that indo-pacific king mackerel be reviewed at the first meeting of the IOTC Working Party on Neritic Tunas.

KAWAKAWA (*Euthynnus affinis*)

No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for kawakawa in the Indian Ocean, therefore the stock status is uncertain. The SC notes that catches have been relatively stable for the past 10 years.

The SC recommended that kawakawa be reviewed at the first meeting of the IOTC Working Party on Neritic Tunas.

LONGTAIL TUNA (*Thunnus tonggol*)

No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for longtail tuna in the Indian Ocean, therefore the stock status is uncertain. The SC notes the catches of longtail tuna are increasing.

The SC recommended that longtail tuna be reviewed at the first meeting of the IOTC Working Party on Neritic Tunas.

NARROW-BARRED SPANISH MACKEREL (*Scomberomorus commerson*)

No quantitative stock assessment is currently available for narrow-barred Spanish mackerel tuna in the Indian Ocean, therefore the stock status is uncertain. The SC notes that Spanish mackerel is a relatively productive species with high fecundity and this makes it relatively resilient and less prone to overfishing.

The SC recommended that narrow-barred Spanish mackerel be reviewed at the first meeting of the IOTC Working Party on Neritic Tunas.