17th Meeting of the
International Scientific Committee
for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
Vancouver, Canada
12-17 July 2017

US PROPOSAL FOR A DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR STOCK STATUS INFORMATION AND CONSERVATION INFORMATION

July 2017

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Information

ISC15 agreed to develop a template for WGs to present information on stock status and conservation advice. This would produce greater consistency and facilitate Plenary deliberations.

1. Stock status
    i. Describe all existing adopted reference points (RP) including limit (LRP) and/or target (TRP) reference points and the organizations who adopted them.
    ii. Calculated B values.
        1. SSB_{MSY} and any other relevant Bs or proxies
        2. $B_{terminal\ year}$ (e.g. SSB_{2015}) and the ratio to the calculated Bs including B_{MSY} or adopted reference points..
    iii. Calculated F values.
        1. F_{MSY} and any other relevant Fs or proxies used
        2. $F_{terminal\ year}$ and the ratio to the calculated Fs including F_{MSY} as well as any adopted reference points (e.g. $1\text{-}SPR_{2015}$ and $1\text{-}SPR_{MSY}$).
    iv. Kobe plots
        1. Identify terminal year F and B (with error bars or confidence intervals) points and history of each
        2. Clearly label and explain axes
        3. Do not color code quadrants; color code between overfished/not overfished only if a RP for B exists; color code between overfishing/not overfishing only if a RP for F exists; color code all four quadrants if a RP exists for both B and F.
    v. General notes:
        1. Do not use terms "overfishing" or "overfished, unless there are adopted RPs for F and B respectively, and in those cases, clearly indicate which RP the status is in reference to.
        2. In general, if including language "is not likely" or "is likely" wrt to whether a B or F exceeds or is below a potential or adopted reference point, include the % probability of being above or below the potential or adopted RP.
        3. If no adopted RPs exist, include the ratios of $B_{terminal\ year}$ and $F_{terminal\ year}$ with respect to their potential/proxy RPs
        4. Avoid relative terms, like "current" fishing mortality; specify the year. Examples: F_{2015} or SSB_{2015}.
        5. Identify model considered the "base case."
2. Conservation Information – This should be phrased in terms of if/then statements.

"If the fishery were reduced by x%, then SSB is expected to increase y%...)
   a. Projection results, if available, of B or SSB, and by fishery: yield, fishery impact on SSB (under *status quo* and F_{MSY} and other useful/requested levels)
   b. MSE information, if available.
   c. If a data poor stock assessment, neither of these may be available. In which case there will be no conservation information.
3. In addition to the above information, the following items should be included in the Stock Assessment Report Executive Summary:
   a. description of fishery data updates
   b. description of stock assessment model assumptions
   c. description of major changes to the data and model structure from last assessment (if not the first assessment of the stock)
   d. description of any major issues with the results or model that should be considered when interpreting results
   e. description of future research directions/research needed to improve stock assessment.