ISC/17/PLENARY/13

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

US Proposal for a draft template for stock status information and conservation 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.

The following items should be included in the Executive Summaries of Stock Assessment Reports by Working Groups:

a. Description of fishery data updates.
b. Identification and description of model considered the "base case."
c. Description of stock assessment model assumptions.
d. Description of major changes to the data and model structure from last assessment (if not the first assessment of the stock).
e. Description of any major issues with the results or model that should be considered when interpreting results.
f. Description of future research directions/research needed to improve stock assessment.

The following is a minimum set of information that should be included in the Stock Status and Conservation Information sections of Stock Assessment Reports by Working Groups, and also put forward by the ISC Plenary.

Stock Status

a. Describe all existing adopted reference points (RP) including limit (LRP) and/or target (TRP) reference points and the organizations who adopted them.
b. Calculated B values.
    1. SSB_{MSY} and any other relevant Bs or proxies used
    2. $B_{terminal\ year}$ (e.g. SSB_{2015}) and the ratio to the calculated adopted RPs or proxy RPs such as B_{MSY}.
c. Calculated F values.
    1. F_{MSY} and any other relevant Fs or proxies used
    2. $F_{terminal\ year}$ and the ratio to the calculated adopted RPs (e.g. $1\text{-}SPR_{2015}$ and $1\text{-}SPR_{MSY}$) or proxy RPs such as F_{MSY}.
d. 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.
e. General notes:
    1. If there is an adopted RP for F, use the term "overfishing" or "not overfishing" and specify the RP in the same sentence.
    2. If there is an adopted RP for B, use the term "overfished" or "not

overfished" and specify the RP in the same sentence.

3. In cases where there is no adopted RP for F, and/or B, the terms "overfishing" or "overfished" may be used but the same sentence must also specify the proxy RP used and must also indicate that the RP is a proxy.
4. If including language "is not likely" or "is likely" with respect to whether a B or F exceeds or is below a proxy or adopted RP, include the % probability of being above or below the proxy or adopted RP if that value was calculated in the assessment.
5. If no adopted RPs exist, include the exact values of $B_{\text{terminal year}}$ and $F_{\text{terminal year}}$ and also their ratios with respect to their proxy RPs
6. Avoid relative terms, like "current" fishing mortality; specify the year. Examples: F_{2015} or SSB_{2015}.

Conservation Information

This information should be phrased in terms of if/then statements. Example: "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. In a data poor stock assessment, neither of these may be available. In which case there will be no conservation information.