MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES IN AUSTRALIA’S EASTERN TUNA AND BILLFISH FISHERY

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Management Objectives in Australia’s Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

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Australia’s Fisheries Management Objectives

• Contained in the Fisheries Management Act

1. Ensuring fisheries are managed in an ecologically sustainable manner, including the exercise of the precautionary principle

2. Maximising net economic returns to the Australian community

3. Efficient and cost effective management
Australia’s Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

- **Mixed fishery with quota management on 5 species**
  - Yellowfin Tuna
  - Bigeye Tuna
  - Albacore Tuna
  - Broadbill Swordfish
  - Striped Marlin
- **Boats are**
  - longliners
  - fresh boats
  - typically 20-25m
- **Trips are typically 4-10 days**
Harvest Strategy – Broadbill Swordfish

- Target based on standardised catch rates (CPUE)
- Chosen by industry to maintain profitable catch rates (average 1997-2001)
- Tested through Management Strategy Evaluation to ensure it meets sustainability objectives
- Primary harvest control rule
  - Compare current CPUE to target CPUE
  - Recommends management control (quota or effort) based on the above comparison
- Secondary harvest control rule
  - Uses size structure and recent CPUE trends (5 years) to refine the above adjustment
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

- Broadbill Swordfish is managed in the WCPFC by flag based catch limits in the South Pacific
- If taken these limits would exceed the MSY
  - Cause a decline in biomass
  - A decline in catch rates
  - A decline in the profitability of the industry
- Australia can’t meet the management objectives on our own – we are all in this together
Co-operation and compatibility

• Need for agreed management objectives by all WCPFC CCMs
• Ideally with harvest control rules designed to meet agreed objectives
• It is possible to develop different but compatible management arrangements to respond to changes in the fishery, for example
  – Quota limits
  – Vessel day limits
  – Licence limits
Any Questions?