

Break out Group 2 (S. P. ALB)

HSW (MOW4), Bali, 2015

Main Question

- Does the proposed CMM (WCPFC-2016-DP03) address your objectives for the fishery?
 - Formalizes LRP to 20% SBF=0
 - Sets interim TRP to 0.45 SBF=0
 - Sets max. risk of breaching LRP at 5%

Main group discussion points

- General agreement that setting a TRP and a LRP risk level is a good idea. Not necessarily agreement on exact levels.
- The proposed DP03 TRP implies a 41% reduction in catch. Uncertainty about how this will be achieved (time frame, allocation) makes it difficult for some CCMs to agree to this TRP

Other discussion points

- Many participants (especially SIDs) worry that catch rates and profits have progressively worsened in recent years (though 2015 appears to be better). This worry is independent of what the stock assessment indicates.
- Many factors may influence profitability. Not everyone agrees that CPUE is a good proxy for profits
- There is general concern that fishing capacity continues to increase.
- Given current trends – increasing capacity and effort, the longer it takes to agree a management response, the harder it will get over time. Adoption of a TRP and HS work should not be used as an excuse to delay needed action.

Other discussion points (cont.)

- Generally agreed that a key management objective is stability in the fishery. But “stability” can be confused with status quo.
 - Some fleets would like to maintain current catch levels (status quo). But the assessment shows this cannot be sustained.
 - Proponents of draft CMM would like to transition from the current state to a stable CPUE state that would be more profitable.

Thoughts on a way forward

- Agreement on a TRP seems attainable but more clarity about future actions (how catch will be reduced) is needed
- SBT (reverse) analogy: The CCSBT HCR has allowed for the gradual increase in catches in a stock that is severely overfished. In our case, could a HCR facilitate a gradual decrease in catches in a healthy stock?
- DP09 (HS Workplan) proposes HCR (MSE) work to be conducted in 2016-2018. Could DP03 be amended to make it clear that alternative future actions will be analyzed in the HS workplan?
- In other words: Agree on an interim TRP that will enable HS work to go on, and not necessarily agree to a specific catch reduction today. Possibly look at alternative candidate TRPs and risk levels?

Ideas on HCR development

- Timeline: 20 years?
- General support for HCR that combines empirical (CPUE) and model-based (assessment) indicators to track progress
- Need to think about monitoring (e.g. observer coverage)
- Capacity controls
- Consider other factors that add to uncertainty, such as catches in the east
- etc.