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MEDAC advice on DG MARE questions on ICCAT BFT MSE

PENDING ISSUES AT STAKE[1]

- *What is your position on the following parameters?*

  - Caps on total allowable catches (TACs) (historical max or factor; with-without)

    Rather than establishing a cap on TAC, setting a limit on the increase per year would be advisable. A step-wise approach would give the possibility to evaluate the impact of TAC variations in time[2]. It is in this sense that establishing new distributions at internal levels of the different ICCAT contracting parties should be taken into account.

  - Variation in TAC (20% or different; with-without)

    Increasing stability of the stock status should be a strong focus. 20% variation in catches between management cycles seems to be a reasonable target. It would be advisable that the achievement of a stable stock is accompanied by a long-term visibility on the authorised catch volumes. In this sense, it is recommended an inter-annual progressivity in the variation of the TAC and proposes that the HCR tests be based on variations of +10%/-10% and +20%/-20% to take into account the periodicity of management cycles[3].

  - minimum threshold of change in tonnage from the previous TAC (i.e. no change if less than XXX)

    NOT CLEAR (although the reduction could be established in % rather than in tonnage)

[1] The French sector raises up that proposals are conditioned by uncertainties regarding the evaluation of the various parameters, the lack of scientific information prevents a definitive position being taken. It is then a majority position, expressing the preferences of the profession according to the data available to date.

[2] The French fishery sector believes that consideration should be given to the introduction of a minimum TAC under which not to pass in order to maintain, in particular, the socio-economic balance of fleets.

[3] EAA raises up that the EU member States allocate too little BFT quota to recreational angling (1% or less). It should be considered that more BFT quota to the recreational angling sector is allocated at ICCAT level, including to recreational angling in EU Member States and other states without a BFT quota.

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- duration of the management cycle (2-3 years)

Especially if the variation of TAC is kept at the lower level (20% from previous management cycle), management cycle of 3 years seems to be appropriate in order to allow a vision on the longer term of the HCR[4].

- PENDING ISSUES AT STAKE - Operational management objectives (status, safety, yield, stability) to be identified by PA2 of 9 May

  - Would you be ready for a status probability to be in the green zone for 70% or slightly higher?
    - Agree to target a probability of at least 70% for the stock to be in GREEN in line with CFP and ICCAT objectives.
    - A higher probability (>60%) will substantially reduce the risk of breaching the limit reference points and increase stability (less market volatility)**.**

In line with the MSE processes developed for other ICCAT stocks, the probability of the stock being in the green part of the Kobe matrix should be at least 60%[5].

  - Would you be ready for a probability of breaching the limit reference point in line with UNFSA (very low) and ICES (5%) or would prefer 10%?

    The probability of breaching Blim should be low and the HCR tests should be conducted on values of 5% and 10%.[6]

  - Should a time-frame be shorter than 30 years to evaluate the probability to compare the performance of cMPS?

    Considering the increasing environmental variability, a shorter time frame seems to be more adequate. HCR should be projected over 30 years, although some indicators should be looked at over shorter time periods. HCR tests should be based on projections of a range of 20 - 30 years. It is necessary to take into account several variables that advise shortening this period: the situation of the stock, the

[4] FACOPE deems ideal a management cycle in 2 years, being able to adopt new measures in the third. More than two years can be quite problematic for the sustainability of the artisanal fleet.

[5] FACOPE does not consider that 60% may seem low and unsuitable for good condition stock. We believe that the entire affected fleet and the process suffered during the recovery plan must be taken into account and not only take into account the objectives of the CFP and ICCAT

[6]WWF: The stock already proved to be vulnerable to overfishing. A lower probability (5%) to breach limit reference points would better respond to the precautionary approach.

economic profitability of the companies, environmental changes, the effect on other fisheries, etc.

Other: HCRs and abundance indices should be understandable and sufficiently robust.