

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

1st REVIEW OF THE STOCK ASSESSMENT OF SKIPJACK TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

La Jolla, California (USA)

7-10 November 2022

(participation by teleconferencing optional)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the review of the assessment conducted by the IATTC staff of the skipjack stock in the eastern Pacific Ocean and the tagging analysis is to provide information that will improve the analyses used for providing management advice.

To this end, the goals and objectives of this review are to:

- a. identify the best available science for use in the skipjack stock assessment and tagging analysis;
- b. provide an independent review of the assessment and tagging analysis;
- c. provide recommendations on how to integrate the tagging information into the assessment and/or management advice; and
- d. provide advice on future research and data collection that will improve the assessment, tagging analysis, and the provision of management advice.

2. REVIEW PANEL RESPONSIBILITIES

The main responsibility of the Review Panel is to perform an adequate technical review of the skipjack assessment and tagging analysis. To ensure the greatest objectivity in this exercise, the members of the Panel should disclose any conflicts of interest they may have, including, but not limited to, personal financial interests and investments, employer affiliations, and consulting arrangements, grants, or contracts, etc.

The specific responsibilities of the Panel are to:

- a. be familiar with the Terms of Reference;
- b. review background documents, data inputs, and analytical models, along with other pertinent information (*e.g.*, previous assessments and Review Panel reports);
- c. discuss the technical merits and deficiencies of the input data and analytical methods, work with the IATTC staff and contractors to correct deficiencies, and, when possible, suggest new tools, analyses, and data collection methods to improve future assessments; and
- d. draft a report of the meeting, to document the discussions and recommendations.

It is the Panel chair's responsibility to coordinate the discussions so that the review is completed in the time available.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

During the meeting, time will be set aside for public comment. The Panel will take these comments into consideration, as appropriate, when developing its report.

4. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

Since the purpose of the meeting is to conduct a technical review of the assessment methodology, it may

be beneficial to conduct analyses during the course of the meeting. The Panel may also request a reasonable number of sensitivity runs, as well as additional details on the models presented, or further analyses of alternative runs. However, any such requests must be clear, explicit, and be presented in writing, and be practical in terms of the time available. Such requests should be listed individually in the Panel's report, along with their rationale and the response. To the extent possible, analyses requested by the Panel should be completed during the meeting by the assessment team.

5. PANEL REPORT

The Panel's report should be drafted and approved shortly after the meeting. The report writing process will follow these steps:

- a. Panel outlines report at meeting;
- b. Panel writes and agrees draft report;
- c. Panel provides draft report to IATTC staff for comment on technical accuracy; and
- d. Panel reviews staff comments, and modifies report as necessary.

The report will include:

- a. Names and affiliations of Panel members;
- b. Brief overview of the meeting (location, agenda, main recommendations by Panel, *etc.*);
- c. Brief summary of current assessment model, tagging analysis, data used, analyses presented, and proposed assessment model;
- d. List of analyses requested by the Panel, rationale for each request, and brief summary of the response;
- e. Comments on technical merits and/or deficiencies in the assessment and tagging analysis, and recommendations for remedies;
- f. Unresolved problems and major uncertainties, *e.g.*, any special issues that complicate the assessment and/or interpretation of results;
- g. Data, fishery or analysis related issues raised by the public; and
- h. Prioritized recommendations for research and data collection for the subsequent assessment.

The Panel and the IATTC staff will strive to resolve any differences of opinion that may arise regarding the contents of the report. Any unresolved differences of opinion must be documented and reflected in the report, which will be published as an IATTC Special Report.