Terms of Reference and Logistics of the External Review

1st External review of data used in stock assessments of tropical tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean

2 - 6 Oct 2023 - Videoconference

Outline

- Terms of reference
  - Goals and objectives
  - Review panel responsibilities
  - Public comment
  - Requests for additional analyses
  - Panel report
- Main areas of focus
- Logistics

Goal

- To provide information to the assessment team to improve the inputs into the stock assessments and consequently the assessments and management advice

Objectives

a) Identify the best available science for use in the assessments and associated analyses (e.g. what data to use, how to analyze it, standardize it, raise it from samples to totals)

b) Provide an independent review of the data used in the stock assessments

c) Provide advice on future research and data collection that will improve the assessment and management advice

Panel responsibilities

To perform an adequate technical review of the data used in the stock assessments and associated analyses.

a) Be familiar with the ToR

b) Review relevant background docs (e.g. assessments reports, reviews)

c) Discuss the technical merits and deficiencies of the input data and analytical methods, work with the IATTC staff to correct deficiencies, and, when possible, suggest new tools, analyses, and data collection methods to improve future assessments

d) Draft a report of the meeting, to document the discussions and recommendations

Public comment

- Time will be allocated during the meeting for public comment
- The Panel will take these comments into consideration when developing its report, as appropriate

Requests for additional analyses

- The panel may request additional details on the data and methods presented, or further analyses
- Requests must be clear, explicit, be practical in terms of time available, submitted in writing (alexdasilva@iattc.org, mmaunder@iattc.org)
- Listed in Panel's report, along with rationale and staff's response
- To the extent possible, requests should be completed by staff during the meeting

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 the meeting;

b. Panel writes and agrees on the 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 data used in the assessment and associated analyses;

d. list of analyses requested by the Panel, rationale for each request, and brief summary of the responses;

e. comments on technical merits and/or deficiencies in the data used in the assessments and associated analyses, and recommendations for remedies;

f. unresolved problems and major uncertainties, *e.g.*, any special issues that complicate the use of the data or the analyses conducted;

g. data, fishery or analysis related issues raised by the public; and

h. prioritized recommendations for research and data collection for the subsequent assessments.

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.

Main topics

Data collection programs:

    Purse-seine data

    Longline data

    Tagging data

Stock structure & fisheries definitions

    Conceptual model

Catch

Discards

Indices of abundance:

    Indices based on CPUE standardization

    Echosounder buoy index

    Tagging data index

Composition data

    Purse-seine: Length composition from port sampling

    Purse-seine: Size categories (small, medium, large) from observer data

    Longline: length and weight composition data

    Standardized average body weight for longline

    Computation of fisheries and index composition data using spatiotemporal models

How to treat the pandemic years
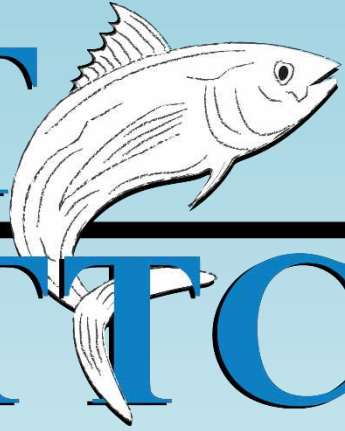
Biology

    Length – Weight relationships

    Reproductive biology (Maturity, fecundity, etc.)

    Weight – weight conversion factors

Effects of data decisions (Model runs with effect of data uncertainty)

Questions