Preliminary results from *mahi mahi* (dorado) collaborative research with IATTC member countries

Alex Aires-da-Silva¹, Cleridy Lennert-Cody¹, Mark Maunder¹, Carolina Minte-Vera, Jimmy Martinez² and José Carvajal³

¹Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

²Subsecretaria de los Recursos Pesqueros, Ecuador

³Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuicola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA)

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- Assessment framework plan for low information stocks and bycatch species in the EPO
- Available catch statistics for dorado in EPO
- Preliminary IATTC fishery indicators (purse seine CPUE) for dorado
- Ongoing collaborative activities with member countries
 - Ecuador and Central America
- IATTC future research plans for dorado



Need for alternative assessment methodologies...

- Low information species
 - Fishery-dependent data (e.g., catch and effort) is not available or quality varies among fisheries
 - Sharks species
- Bycatch species
 - Need to be monitored
 - Insufficient recourses (staff) for full assessments









Need for alternative assessment methodologies...



- High-productivity species
 - Fishery-dependent data is sufficient
 - But species life-history complicate conventional stock assessment methods (shot-lived, rapid-growth, high fecundities, high recruitment variability)
 - Very difficult to separate exploitation and environmental signals in conventional stock assessment models





IATTC assessment workplan for low information and bycatch species



- Task 1: Develop methods to define stock structure
- Task 2: Conduct "semi-quantitative" analyses
 - Productivity-susceptability analyses (PSA)
 - Ecological risk assessment (ESA) tools
- Task 3: Extensive literature review on fishery indicators, decision rules and management strategy evaluation (MSE)
 - FAO, Australia, California, others
- Task 4: Select candidate fishery indicators and decision rules based on literature review, life-history and data available
- Task 5: Management strategy evaluation work (MSE)
- Task 6: Apply indicators



Fishery indicators



- Based on data (catch, effort, CPUE and mean weight)
- Based on simple population dynamics models (biomass, recruitment or exploitation rate)
- Reference levels
 - Selected by managers
 - Examples: 5th and 95th percentiles, ATHL for northern albacore (ISC)



Indicators – skipjack example





Indicators – skipjack example





Dorado landings in EPO



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Source: FishStat FAO

World's perspective





Dorado exports to US









OBJ purse seine effort







Dorado purse seine CPUE







Collaborative work with Ecuador



- Identification of fishery units
- Development of fishery indicators
- Publications in preparation
 - Spatial analyses of the pelagic catch community (submit to journal)
 - Description of pelagic community data collection accomplishments (IATTC bulletin)



Identification of fishery units



- Analysis of catch composition suggests two "nodriza" fisheries:
 - Hook type 1 with dorado as a dominant proportion of the catch
 - Hook type 2 with a more varied species composition
- Catch composition for both fisheries changes with location of fishing and SST
 Anzuelo tamaño 2 | Anzuelo tamaño 1





Development of indicators



- By-trip catch and effort data used to compute relative indices for the "nodriza" fisheries catch species
- GAM standardized CPUE for dorado from the two "nodriza" fisheries show similar trends over last 5 years
- Precision measures are under development



Year / Año



Development of indicators







Dorado length frequency by month (2008-2011)



Numbers on top are average total length

Source: SRP Ecuador



- Assistance in developing data collection forms
- Development with databases resources
- Assistance with sampling design for data collection



FORMULARIO DE MUESTREOS BIOLÓGICO PESQUERO EN DESEMBARQUES

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FORMULARIO DE MUESTREOS BIOLÓGICO PESQUERO EN DESEMBARQUES

✓Manual para llenado de los formularios

✓Manual para el uso de la base de datos

✓ Base de datos para todos los países



BASE DE DATOS FORMULARIO DE MUESTREOS BIOLÓGICO PESQUERO EN DESEMBARQUES



Collaborative work with Costa Rica











- Stock structure (regression tree analyses)
- Develop fishery indicators
- Management strategy evaluation (MSE)
- Sampling design for data collection





QUESTIONS?