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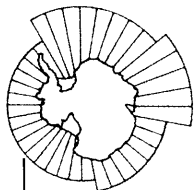
COMM CIRC 02/56
SC CIRC 02/18

Tuesday, 3 September 2002

Total Removals of Toothfish and Other WG-FSA Information

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

COMM CIRC 02/56
SC CIRC 02/18

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Total Removals of Toothfish and Other WG-FSA Information

The convener of WG-FSA, Dr I. Everson, has provided further information on the organisation of WG-FSA in 2002. Details were developed in consultation with working group participants and the proposed work plan is attached.

Highlights of this work plan are as follows:

IUU fishing activities – As part of annual assessments conducted by WG-FSA, the extent of toothfish catches both inside and outside the Convention Area is estimated from reported catch data, the Catch Documentation Scheme, at-sea and port inspections of vessels and from reports of Members on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing activities. Members are requested to provide information which they may have concerning IUU fishing and which has not been previously submitted to the Secretariat, no later than 20 September 2002.

Meeting documents – The deadline for the receipt of WG-FSA-02 papers by the Secretariat is 28 September 2002. Papers should be submitted via email to webmaster@ccamlr.org.

Meeting report – The extent and complexity of the work of WG-FSA in recent years has meant that the reports have become large, unwieldy and difficult to interpret. Much of the content is in fact 'house-keeping' information of only passing interest to non-WG-FSA participants. It is proposed that the report be stripped down to essential information, leaving the supporting information available in other documents such as SC-CAMLR background papers.

Dr D.G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary

Attch.

ORGANISATION OF WG-FSA 2002

During the recent WG-EMM Meeting in Big Sky, Montana, USA, I had the opportunity to discuss plans for WG-FSA in 2002 with a few people who have in the past made regular contributions to the Working Group meetings. Much of the discussion was supportive of the plans I outlined in SC CIRC 01/02 and there were several suggestions made that it was felt would facilitate the smooth running of the meeting. These are outlined below. I would stress that at this stage these are only suggestions. They will however be put to the Working Group on the first morning for consideration so if you have any alternative suggestions please let me know as soon as possible so that we can find a way to accommodate all views.

Submission of Papers

Please note that, as agreed at WG-FSA-01, the deadline for the receipt of papers at the Secretariat is 28 September 2002.

IUU Fishing

Every year WG-FSA spends a significant amount of time trying to estimate Total Removals from all fisheries. The most difficult part is with the estimation of IUU fishing. The staff at the Secretariat are collating all available information in advance of the meeting. In the past, some new information has always arrived on the first morning. **We would be grateful if you could provide information which you may have concerning IUU fishing and which has not been previously submitted to the Secretariat, no later than 20 September 2002.**

ACTION: Please send all information as soon as possible on:

- (a) Fishing Activity
Location, date of sighting, number of vessels, size, Flag State, type of fishing activity.
- (b) Trade outside of CDS
Port/transshipment, date of landing, landed weight, type of product, estimated green weight, origins of catch, vessel, likely fishing ground.

Assessment Methods

The Subgroup on Assessment Methods will be reporting on intersessional work and ways forward for developing and validating methods used by WG-FSA.

Assessment Parameters

These can be divided into two groups: fixed-value parameters and additions to time series. To save time in getting assessments started, I suggest that where there has been little or no change in the 'fixed-value parameters' we take the value used at WG-FSA-01, unless of course we have very good evidence to indicate that an immediate change is needed. Fixed-value parameters used at WG-FSA-01 are listed in Table 1.

The Working Group will need to consider all new data that adds to time series and agree values to be incorporated into the assessments. Examples include:

- new standing stock estimates from surveys;
- additions to recruitment series; and
- additions to CPUE series.

Organisation of the Report

The extent and complexity of the work of WG-FSA in recent years has meant that the reports have become large, unwieldy and difficult to interpret. Much of the content is in fact 'house-keeping' information of only passing interest to non-WG-FSA participants. Accordingly, I am proposing that the report be stripped down to essential information leaving the supporting information available in other documents. I envisage the following outputs from the meeting:

1. Report of WG-FSA to Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR Working Paper translated into French, Russian and Spanish)

Contents:

- summary information on all agenda items – a fuller explanation will be required for all topics that request action by the Secretariat and/or have budgetary implications;
- summary information containing essential details on all assessments; and
- advice to the Scientific Committee.

2. Review of biological information on harvested and by-catch species:

- (i) Species Profiles as tabled at WG-FSA-02 (WG-FSA-02/07 and 02/08). These contain reference information collated from previous WG-FSA reports and therefore contain the background against which the assessment results are considered; and
- (ii) New information from tabled papers and suggested revisions to Species Profiles. This information will be incorporated into the species profiles for consideration at WG-FSA-03.

Both these documents will be tabled at SC-CAMLR-XXI as background papers (not translated) to assist Commissioners and Scientific Committee Representatives in understanding the biological and ecological background against which the assessments should be considered.

3. Review of assessment methods

Guidelines for the development, validation, documentation and archiving of methods used by WG-FSA will be outlined for future work.

4. Information from the Scheme of International Scientific Observation

All observer reports are reviewed by the Secretariat and considered by WG-FSA. A report will be prepared, largely in tabular form, for consideration by SC-CAMLR-XXI and SCOI.

5. Electronic archive of assessments

All information used in the assessments will be archived electronically. These archives will be available to Members for consultation subject to the normal rules of CCAMLR Data access. Because such consultation may involve checking and re-running assessments, it is essential that this archive contains reference to the version of the assessment method used, source and output data-files.

Inigo Everson
Convener
WG-FSA-02

Table 1: Fixed value parameters used at WG-FSA 2001.

| Fishery for <i>Champscephalus gunnari</i> | Subarea 48.3 | Division 58.5.2 |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| | Short Term (Two Year) Projection | Short Term (Two Year) Projection |
| Assessment Method | | |
| Natural Mortality | | |
| M | 0.42 or 0.71 Decision based on M=0.71 | 0.4 |
| Recruitment | | |
| Age when fully recruited | 3 | 3 |
| Age when selection to fishery begins | 2 | 2.5 |
| VBGF | | |
| t_0 | -0.58 | 0.358 |
| k | 0.17 | 0.323 |
| L_8 (mm) | 557.6 | 457 |
| Length to mass | | |
| a (kg) | 6.172E-10 | 2.629 E-10 |
| b | 3.388 | 3.515 |
| Fishery for <i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i> | Subarea 48.3 | Division 58.5.2 |
| Gear | Longline | Trawl |
| Assessment Method | GYM + GLM (CPUE) | GYM |
| Natural Mortality | | |
| M | 0.132 – 0.198 | 0.132 – 0.198 |
| Recruitment | | |
| Age when fully recruited | 4 | 4 |
| Recruitment Range (mm) | 550-790 | 550-790 |
| Maturity Ogive | | |
| L_{m50} | 930 | 930 |
| Maturity range | 780-1080 | 780-1080 |
| VBGF | | |
| t_0 | -0.21 | -2.46 |
| k | 0.066 | 0.029 |
| L_8 (mm) | 1946 | 2465 |
| Length to mass | | |
| a (kg) | 3.96 E-08 | 2.59 E-09 |
| b | 2.8 | 3.2064 |