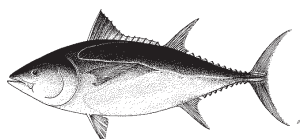


Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery



Main features

STATUS

Overfished, and **overfishing** is occurring; spawning stock severely depleted and current catches severely limit likelihood of rebuilding

RELIABILITY OF THE ASSESSMENT

High (assuming data on catch and effort from international fleets are reliable—if there has been substantial under-reporting of catch then the stock may be more depleted and/or more productive than currently estimated)

CURRENT CATCH (2004)

Total world catch 13 507 t: Australia 5062 t, worth A\$245m⁹; Japan 5846 t; Korea 131 t; Taiwan 1298 t; New Zealand 393 t; Indonesia 677 t; Philippines 80 t; other 20 t

LONG-TERM POTENTIAL YIELD

Much higher than current yield if spawning stock rebuilds

MAIN MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

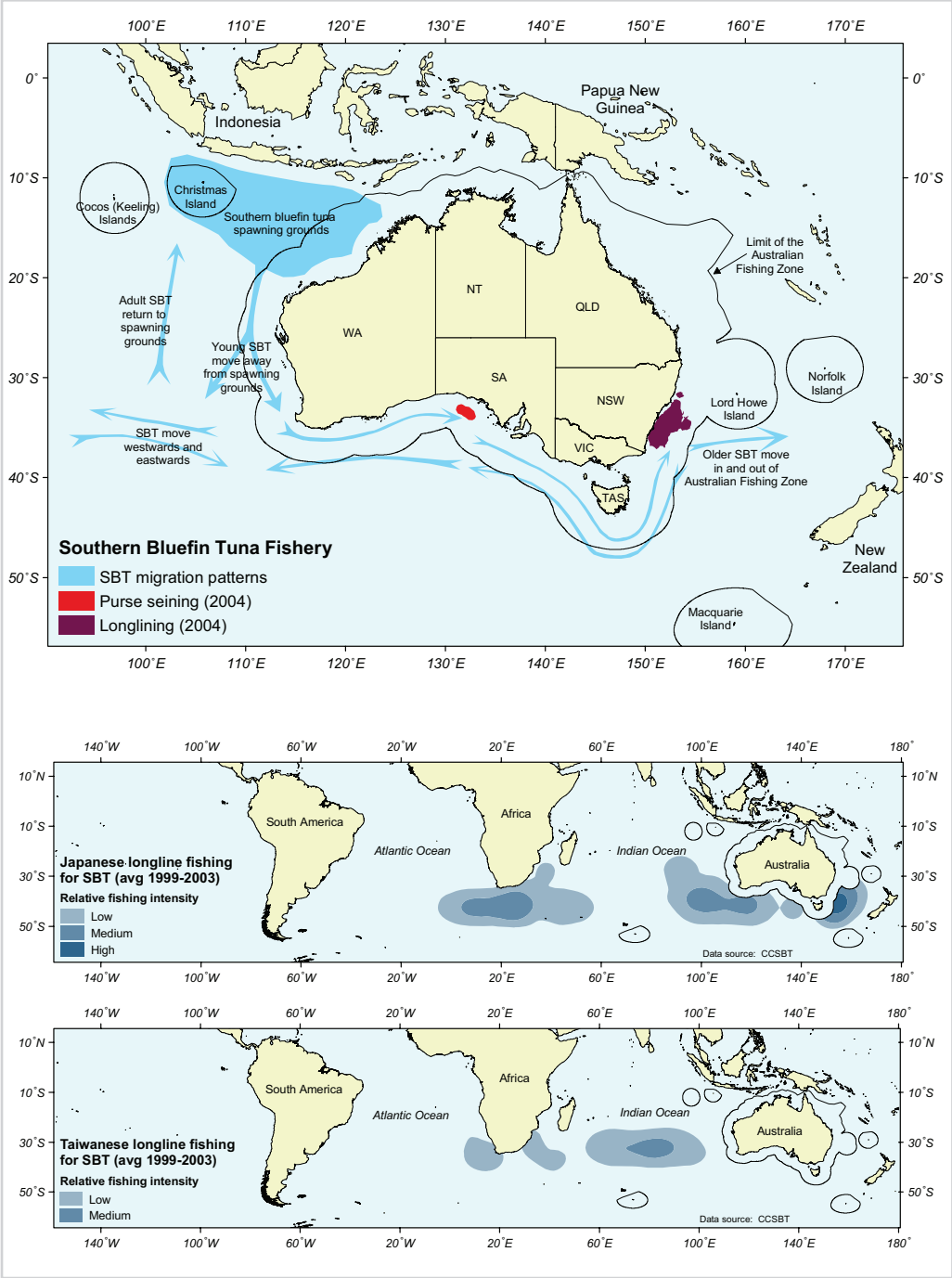
Rebuild spawning stock to the 1980 level by 2020. This objective is now very unlikely to be achieved and the CCSBT needs to agree on an alternate set of rebuilding objectives

MANAGEMENT METHODS

Global total allowable catch (TAC) for members of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) in 2005 was 14 030 t; national allocations (Australia 5265 t, New Zealand 420 t, Japan 6065 t, Korea 1140 t, Taiwan 1140 t); nominal limits for prominent non-members in 2005 (Indonesia¹⁰ 800 t, Philippines 50 t & Republic of South Africa 45 t); trade restrictions on countries that are not members of, or cooperating with, the CCSBT; domestic individual transferable quotas (Australia, Taiwan, New Zealand); limited entry (Japan, Korea), time/area effort controls (Japan). No formal agreement on global TAC or national allocations in 2006, but CCSBT members agreed to abide by their 2005 national allocations in 2006

⁹ This value includes value-adding by fattening the fish in farm cages and longline-caught fish.

¹⁰ Contingent on Indonesia applying to become a Cooperating Non-Member.



Highlights

- ➡ Southern bluefin tuna are slow-growing, live to about 40 years, mature at about 12 years, and migrate widely in the southern hemisphere. Especially valuable, they are marketed almost exclusively in Japan as sashimi.
- ➡ The Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery is an international fishery, managed since 1994 by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, which is advised by a scientific committee of member-country scientists and independent international scientists.
- ➡ Excessive catches over many years reduced the spawning stock to a low level, and catches outside the Commission's control frustrated efforts to rebuild the stock. However, in late 2001, the Republic of Korea became a party to the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, and in 2002 the Fishing Entity of Taiwan became a member of the Extended Commission.
- ➡ Nonetheless, scientific advice is that recent global catches allow little chance of achieving the long-term management objective—rebuilding the spawning stock to its 1980 level by 2020. Moreover, there have been 2–4 years of poor recruitment in recent years and the stock is more likely to decline than increase if recent catch levels continue.

Background

History of the fishery

Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) (SBT) is one of the most highly valued fish species for sashimi, especially in Japan, the main market. The typical wholesale price of A\$30–50/kg—some individual fish fetch tens of thousands of dollars—encourages targeting, even when stock levels and catch rates are very low. Combined with this, it is vulnerable to surface fisheries, grows slowly,

matures late, and has a single spawning ground. Consequently, SBT is vulnerable to overfishing.

Australians established a pole-and-live-bait fishery in the early 1950s for surface-schooling SBT off New South Wales, South Australia and, later (1970), Western Australia. In 1982, when catches peaked at 21 500 t, most of the catch was purse-seined for canning. The introduction of a total allowable catch (TAC) of 21 000 t in 1983, then the reduction of that TAC and of the quotas allocated to individual fishers, closed down the Western Australian pole fishery for very small juveniles. It also forced the southeastern fishery to target larger (hence, more valuable) SBT for sashimi. Surface-fishery catches decreased further between 1989 and 1995 when up to half of the Australian TAC was taken by Australia–Japan joint-venture longliners in the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ).

In 1990–91, about 20 t of SBT that were pole-caught off South Australia were transferred to floating enclosures and fattened to increase their market value. ‘Tuna farming’ now involves purse-seining the schools of SBT, transferring them to floating pens, towing the pens to Port Lincoln in South Australia and transferring the fish to moored ‘farm’ pens. Whereas it used 3% of the Australian TAC in 1991–92, farming now uses more than 95%, with the remainder taken by domestic longline vessels. The farmed SBT, fattened for up to six months, are a premium export product.

Most domestic longline vessels target broadbill swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), bigeye tuna (*T. obesus*) and yellowfin tuna (*T. albacares*). When they target SBT, their main bycatch is shark, albacore tuna (*T. alalunga*) and Ray’s bream (*Brama brama*). The South Australian purse-seiners occasionally take schools of skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*); the two larger seiners also fish seasonally for skipjack off southern New South Wales and northeastern Tasmania.

Japanese longliners began to fish for SBT in the 1950s on the spawning grounds south

of Java. In the 1960s, they expanded into SBT areas of the southern oceans, where catches spanned all age groups from young juveniles to old adults. The longline catch peaked (81 605 t) in the early 1960s. The subsequent decline persisted despite increasing fishing effort, until the catch was stabilised by the quota regime of the late 1980s.

From 1979 to 1997, Japanese longliners operated in the AFZ under licence. There were no meaningful restraints at first, but their access to the zone, and later their catch from it, were progressively reduced until their exclusion after failure to reach agreement on a global TAC for SBT.

In the early 1980s, when there were signs that the SBT spawning stock and juveniles were dangerously overfished, Australia, Japan and New Zealand developed informal collaborative-management arrangements. Their signing of an international convention in 1993, which came into force in 1994, formally established the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

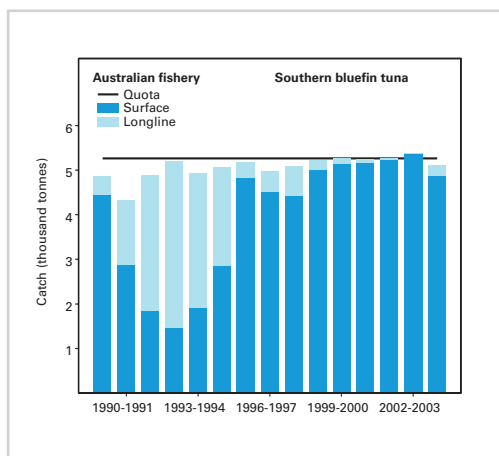
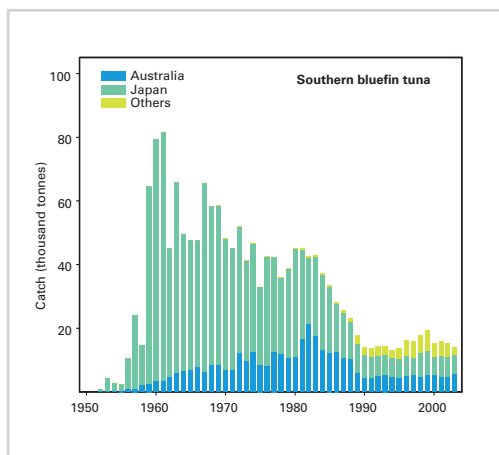
From 1989 to 1997, the three countries set informal, then CCSBT-allocated, limits of 5265 t (Australia), 6065 t (Japan) and 420 t (New Zealand), but from 1998 to 2002 there was no agreement on a global TAC or country allocations. In the absence of agreement, Australia and New Zealand maintained the previous CCSBT limits. In 1995, Japan sought a quota increase of up to 6000 t over and above their previous allocation of 6065 t, either as an additional commercial catch, or an 'experimental fishing programme' (EFP), or a combination of these. Australia and New Zealand opposed an increase, concerned that it would increase risk to the spawning stock and its ability to rebuild. No agreements were reached despite numerous and extensive meetings, so in 1998 Japan undertook an EFP without CCSBT endorsement, increasing its reported catch by 1464 t to 7500 t.

In 1999, Australia, New Zealand and Japan again could not create an acceptable joint EFP. Japan proceeded unilaterally, including an EFP of 2241 t in its reported catch of 7554 t.

Australia and New Zealand, maintaining their previous quota allocation, sought and obtained the prescription of interim measures by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) to halt the Japanese 'experimental catch' pending constitution of a formal arbitral tribunal to consider the dispute. At the sixth meeting of the CCSBT in March 2000, Japan advised that it would deduct the amount of the EFP catch over the previously agreed national allocation from its year 2000 catch in accordance with the ITLOS order. In August 2000, the international arbitral tribunal determined that ITLOS did not have jurisdiction in the matter. Subsequently, Japan stated that it would voluntarily set its catch at 6065 t, but would also increase this level by 711 t in 2001 to recover catch paid back as a result of the ITLOS interim measures. As part of the dispute resolution, Australia and New Zealand agreed to let Japan catch 365 t of the 711 t on a one-off basis, and during one fishing year. In 2001 Japan reported a total of 6674 t.

In the late 1990s, around a third of the global catch was not controlled by CCSBT. Most of the non-CCSBT catch was taken by longliners from Indonesia, Korea and Taiwan, and marketed in Japan. There were also incidental catches, often under a 'flag-of-convenience', but these were less readily accepted, with some Japanese trading companies actively campaigning against their sale. In 2000, the estimated non-CCSBT catch was 3835 t. In 1999, when it included 1464 t from the Japanese EFP, it was estimated to have exceeded 7400 t.

The number of Korean longliners targeting SBT increased greatly from 1994 to 1998, their reported catch increasing more than 10-fold in that period. Korean reports to CCSBT, and Japanese import statistics, indicate that the catch has decreased since 1998, reportedly because the Korean fishing industry voluntarily reduced the number of vessels in its SBT fleet. When it joined the Commission in late 2001, Korea agreed to a national allocation of 1140 t. In 2001 and



2002 the Korean catch was 845 t and 746 t respectively. Most of its SBT fleet has since moved out of the Indian Ocean and catches have declined to less than 10% of the peak.

The number of longliners that caught SBT under a Taiwan flag more than doubled in the late 1990s, and other longliners from Taiwan caught SBT under a flag-of-convenience, despite Taiwan's efforts to stop them. In 1996, Taiwan set a voluntary catch limit of 1450 t, to remain in force until the stock recovered (or for other reasons deemed appropriate). Despite this, substantially more Taiwan-sourced product was reported in Japanese import statistics in 1998 and 1999, and Taiwan's own estimate of its 2001 catch (1580 t) was also higher than the limit. The

proportion of SBT relative to other tuna species increased in 1999, although few Taiwan skippers reported targeting SBT. In 2002, Taiwan joined the Extended Commission and agreed to abide by an allocation of 1140 t.

The Indonesian SBT catch is a byproduct of longlining for tropical tunas on the SBT spawning ground. The Australia–Indonesia collaborative sampling programme at Indonesian ports showed a tripling of the Indonesian SBT catch from 1995 to a peak in 1999 of 2483 t. Catches between 2000 and 2002 ranged between 1200 and 1700 t, but declined markedly in 2003 to 564 t and in 2004 to 677 t.

A trade information scheme introduced in 2000 enables estimation of SBT imports and exports by CCSBT members (primarily Japan) and United States, providing information on CCSBT-member catches and, more importantly, on catches outside CCSBT control. All CCSBT members have agreed not to accept imports of SBT that are not accompanied by the trade documents established by the scheme. It does not encompass the large component of the global catch landed in Japan by Japanese longliners (a catch that, by definition, is not considered as 'trade'). In July 2005, Japan and the United States agreed not to accept imports from countries that are not members or cooperating non-members of the CCSBT.

Biology

SBT is a migratory pelagic fish found throughout most of the southern temperate oceans, mainly between 30°S and 45°S. It lives for 40 years or more, growing to about 200 cm long and 200 kg weight. Juveniles recruit to the fished stock at around 9–12 months' old (~55 cm; 3.5 kg). SBT matures at about 12 years' old (~167 cm; 92 kg). SBT comprise a single stock. From September to April it spawns between 7°S and 20°S in the Indian Ocean south of Java.

Very young fish move southwards along the Western Australian coast from the spawning area. Surface-schooling juveniles

are found seasonally in the continental-shelf region of southern Australia, but it is not known what fraction of the juvenile stock is present. Historically, the surface fishery took juveniles aged one to five (55–125 cm; 3.5–41 kg), but the fishery now targets fish aged three and four (around 20–30 kg), and catches very few younger fish. Longliners harvest all ages from juveniles about three-years old (~100 cm and 20 kg) through to adults.

The biology and life-history of this species make it slow to recover from overfishing, contrasting sharply with tropical tunas such as yellowfin and skipjack.

The fishery from 2002 to 2005

The estimated 2002 global SBT catch, including catches outside CCSBT control, was 15 229 t. Most of the catch was taken by Australia and Japan. About 70% of the 2002 SBT global catch was longlined; the remainder was purse-seined for Port Lincoln farms.

In 2003, the estimated global catch of SBT was 14 051 t. More than 40% of the 2003 SBT global catch was taken by purse seine for Port Lincoln farms, with the remainder taken by global longline fleets. In 2003, for the first time since 1997, the CCSBT had an agreed global TAC (14 030 t) for members, and national allocations (5265 t for Australia, 6065 t for Japan, 1140 t for Korea, 420 t for New Zealand and 1140 t for Taiwan). For the same year it also set nominal catch limits for Indonesia (800 t), Philippines (50 t) and the Republic of South Africa (45 t).

In 2004, the global TAC and nominal catch limits for non-members remained unchanged from 2003 levels. The estimated global catch of SBT was 13 507 t. Global longline fleets took 65% of the global catch, with the remainder taken by purse seine for Australian farms.

The Australian TAC of 5265 t has not changed since 1989–90. Currently it applies from 1 December to the following 30

November—the ‘quota year’. Recent quota-year catches were 5263 t (A\$261m) in 2001–02, 5391 t (A\$256m) in 2002–03 and 5126 t (A\$245m) in 2003–04. The overcatch in the 2002–03 quota year was deducted from the TAC for the 2003–04 quota year.

Export tonnages to Japan from the Port Lincoln farms were about 9245 t in 2001–02, 9000 t in 2002–03 and 9290 t in 2003–04. Financial returns to the farms declined substantially in 2003 and remained depressed in 2004 and, reportedly, 2005 because of a range of market developments that reduced price—including a strengthening Australian dollar, and increased competition from Atlantic-bluefin farming in the Mediterranean and, to a lesser extent, Pacific-bluefin farming in Mexico.

In 2000, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) introduced management arrangements to reduce the risk of SBT being caught by longliners outside the quota system. From 2000 to 2002 inclusive, AFMA excluded boats from pelagic longlining off New South Wales between Sydney and Eden in the months of June, July and August if they did not carry 500 kg of SBT quota per trip to cover incidental SBT catches.

In 2003 and again in 2004, this requirement continued for a ‘buffer zone’ south of Sydney. Additionally, vessels



Tuna farm pen

intending to fish further to the south were required to hold 4 t of quota that could be fished down over the season. These arrangements continued in 2004. However, data collected by onboard observers indicated that some fishing mortality was continuing despite the quota arrangements; consequently, in 2005, AFMA introduced 100% observer coverage for vessels operating in the area where there was a high probability of catching SBT. Vessels operating there were also required to hold a minimum of 2 t of SBT quota. Initial data suggests these measures eliminated mortality of SBT outside the quota system.

Current monitoring and research

There has been intensive data collection and research over many years into both the biology of SBT and the fisheries that catch it. Nevertheless, there remains uncertainty about key components used in stock assessment, in particular the true global catch of SBT. In 2001, the CCSBT agreed to a scientific research programme to address the uncertainties, with an emphasis on:

- Characterising the global catch
- implementing an independent observer programme
- conventional tagging
- improving understanding of catch-per-unit-effort
- Direct ageing.

Vessels from all CCSBT members are required to complete logbooks detailing catch and effort; members report this information annually to the CCSBT. In addition, the trade information scheme provides the CCSBT with information on the trade of the SBT. A collaborative project collects data on the catch of SBT by Indonesian vessels.

In 2001, the CCSBT recommenced large-scale conventional tagging of juvenile SBT. Since then more than 43 000 have been

tagged and nearly 3000 tagged-SBT recaptures have been reported. However, fishers' reporting rates of recaptured fish remain uncertain because of low levels of observer coverage.

In 2002, the CCSBT agreed to implement a routine, independent observer programme for member vessels. This programme has a target coverage-level of 10% of catch and effort in all sectors. To date, only the Australian purse seine fishery and New Zealand charter (longline) fishery have met or exceeded this target. Most other sectors have achieved less than half of the CCSBT target level for observer coverage.

The annual production of new recruits (that is, additions from births) to the fishery is of major interest for stock assessment. Since the late 1980s, CSIRO and the Japan National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries have sought jointly to develop a suitable, annual, recruit-abundance index, using aerial or acoustic surveys, and conventional-tagging and archival-tagging studies. Trends in longline catch-rates of older juveniles continue to be the main indicator of recruitment. However, the line-transect aerial survey in the Great Australian Bight is likely to play a larger role in estimating trends in recruitment in future.

In addition to the key components of the scientific research programme, several CCSBT members have undertaken additional research, including pop-up archival and fixed-archival tagging of both adults and juveniles. The results of this work are expected to greatly improve the information available for stock assessment.

Status of stock

Since the early 1990s, the spawning biomass of SBT has remained at stable but historically low levels—in the order of 5–12% of the unfished level. Moreover, the most recent assessments suggest that the spawning stock is likely to decline further if the global catch remains at recent levels.

Between 1980 and the late 1990s, SBT recruitment averaged around half its level during the late 1960s and early 1970s and around one-third its 1960 level. For many years, Australian scientists have warned that the low level of spawning biomass could combine with unfavourable environmental conditions to further depress recruitment. The CCSBT scientific meetings in 2005 confirmed there had been markedly lower recruitment of the 2000 and 2001 year classes (i.e. fish born in those years), and that there was evidence that the 1999 year class was also weak. The little information that is available on more recent year classes suggests that recruitment of the 2002 year class was somewhat stronger than the 2000 and 2001 year classes (but still well below recruitment of the 1990s year classes).

Scientists from all CCSBT member nations and CCSBT's Independent Scientific Panel are very concerned about the risks—to both the stock and the fisheries it supports—that are associated with the low and declining parental stock size. At the 2005 CCSBT scientific meetings, this group recommended substantial cuts in catches, to be followed by the implementation of a management procedure—a set of agreed rules for setting future TACs based on information about the stock.

To stem stock decline and stabilise the spawning stock at around its 2004 level, scientists recommended:

- a 5000 t reduction in the assumed global catch (14 930 t) to take effect in 2006
- if the catch reduction does not occur until 2007, a reduction of 7160 t to achieve the same likelihood of stabilisation (i.e. a 50% chance that the spawning stock in 2014 will be at or above its 2004 level, and a 90% chance that it will be at or above the 2004 level in 2022).

The scientists estimated that if catches continue at recent levels (e.g. 14 930 t), there is a 50% chance that the spawning stock will be half its 2004 size by 2022. Similarly, if catch reductions are delayed, the spawning stock is likely to decline to levels well below

those observed in the past. There is no knowledge of how the SBT population might respond at such low levels, but experience from other fish stocks suggests a substantial risk of severe and persistent stock decline and potential for fishery collapse.

Reliability of the assessment

Given the challenges of fisheries research, especially in the study of highly migratory species such as SBT that live in the open ocean, there will always be some uncertainty. The impact of uncertainty on fisheries stock assessment is that the true level and productivity of the stock may be higher or lower than the scientific assessment suggests.

However, data collection and stock-assessment procedures for SBT are among the most comprehensive in the world for highly migratory species. The long history of the global fishery and the substantial investment in science to understand SBT biology and fisheries have markedly reduced the level of uncertainty in scientific advice.

Stock assessments use a combination of probability-based, integrated statistical models and empirical indicators. Model-based stock assessments for SBT take information on catch and effort from all sectors of the global fishery and combine this with biological information to describe changes in the stock over time and the likely impacts of future catch levels on stock status. The stock-assessment techniques used by the CCSBT Stock Assessment Group are sophisticated and well-accepted by the international scientific community. Nevertheless, some uncertainty remains about the true stock level and its productivity. This uncertainty is principally the result of unreported catches of SBT, potentially by both members and by non-members of CCSBT.

There is clear evidence that some SBT catch (both retained and discarded) is not reported, especially since the introduction of international catch limits in the mid-1980s. The actual amount of unreported catch is unknown and, so its impact on assessments of stock status and productivity is similarly unclear. However, until the total catch

(regardless of source) is reduced, stock rebuilding is unlikely and the current overfished status of the stock is likely to remain unchanged.

Future assessment needs

Recent recruitment remains a key uncertainty that needs to be resolved to improve future assessment. The line-transect aerial survey and tagging information should help clarify the recruitment question.

Recently, information on the amount of SBT sold on the Japanese market has raised more doubt about the accuracy of the catch, and possibly catch-per-unit-effort, data used in stock assessment. Some market data suggest that substantially more SBT is being sold on the Japanese market than is reported as caught to the CCSBT. The CCSBT intends to review market and other catch data in an attempt to reduce uncertainty about the total global catch.

Environmental issues

Logbook data suggest that there is minimal bycatch during pole-and-line and purse-seine fishing for SBT. The longlining bycatch consists mainly of large, oceanic, pelagic fish. Substantial bycatches of shark species are longlined in both tropical and temperate waters. In waters south of 30°S, albatross and other seabirds are occasionally hooked when diving on baits during line-setting. Some albatross populations have declined markedly in the last 20–30 years, probably because of incidental longline catches. In 1995, the Macquarie Island population of wandering albatross was listed in Australia as endangered under the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*, and longline fishing for tuna was listed as a ‘key threatening process’.

In August 1998, the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Heritage approved a threat abatement plan to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds by Australian pelagic longliners. Longline operators are required to carry and use an



Tuna harvest

approved bird-scaring ‘tori’ line, to only set at night when operating south of 30°S, and to not discharge offal during line setting and hauling.

In 2001, industry and government agreed to the deployment of observers on ten longliners trialling underwater line-setting ‘chutes’ that release baited hooks 4–5 m below the sea surface. The observers monitored seabird-catch rates and the performance of the chutes. Trials of line weighting, double tori poles and ‘side setting’ have also been made. To date, no mitigation technique has been able to meet the threat abatement plan’s target of reducing seabird bycatch to less than 0.05 birds per thousand hooks, but trials continue.

For many years, a number of environmental organisations have expressed concern in the media, and in direct representations to the Australian Government, about the status of the SBT stock and the substantial, uncontrolled catches by fleets not subject to CCSBT management.

In late 1999, despite lobbying to the contrary by various organisations, Australia decided not to pursue nomination of SBT under the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*.

In 2005, Humane Society International appealed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to overturn the approval of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery as a Wildlife

Trade Operation under the *Australian Government Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) lists SBT as critically endangered. SBT is a threatened taxon under the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and an endangered species under the New South Wales *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. In 2005, the Minister for Environment and Heritage rejected another nomination (there have been several others) to list SBT as a threatened species under the EPBC Act.

Further reading

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CCSBT (2005) *Report of the Extended Commission of the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Commission*. 11–14 October 2005, Taipei, Taiwan.

Hobsbawn, P.I., Williams, G.C., Findlay, J.D. and McLoughlin, K.J. (2005) *Australia's 2003–04 Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishing Season*. CCSBT–ESC/0509/SBT Fisheries–Australia, presented at the Tenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, 5–8 September 2005, Taipei, Taiwan.

Hobsbawn, P.I., Findlay, J.D., Rowcliffe, S. and Bodsworth, A. (2005) *Australia's Annual Review of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery*. CCSBT–EC/0510/SBT Fisheries–Australia, presented at the Second Meeting of the Extended Commission of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, 11–14 October 2005, Taipei, Taiwan.

Management performance

The Australian domestic SBT fishery is managed by AFMA through a system of ITQs that are allocated as statutory fishing rights under the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995*. The broad management objectives of this plan are to ensure efficient and cost-effective fisheries management; ecologically sustainable development; maximised economic efficiency; accountability; and cost recovery. Domestic SBT-fishery management, however, must also satisfy Australia's obligations as a party to CCSBT.

The CCSBT, with Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Korea and the fishing entity of Taiwan as members, seeks to set a global TAC and establish national allocations (shares of the global TAC) for its members. However, its inability to monitor and control all SBT catches remains a key management deficiency. This is evident from the combined global catch, which in the late 1990s was some 7800 t (nearly 70% greater than the previously agreed 'global' TAC). In 2003 and 2004, the catch outside CCSBT control decreased to less than 700 t. Nonetheless, it represents the greatest impediment to effective management because CCSBT members will remain reluctant to agree to necessary cuts in the global TAC while other nations can fish without controls.

The key tool used by the CCSBT to pursue rebuilding of the stock is to limit total annual SBT global catches to agreed levels. The CCSBT has failed to agree on a formal TAC for six of the twelve years, since its establishment, including 2006. Furthermore, it appears some catches may have exceeded agreed limits. Nevertheless, the CCSBT has made substantial progress in a number of areas, including dealing with unregulated catches by non-members.

At present there is no agreed mechanism for determining appropriate annual catch limits to achieve rebuilding. Considerable progress has been made on developing a management procedure (a set of agreed rules for setting TAC), and at its most recent meeting the CCSBT agreed to implement a management procedure for setting TAC in future years.