The draft document entitled *Specifications for MSE Trials for Bluefin Tuna in the North Atlantic*, developed during the Monterey meeting [Please replace with appropriate reference], included a number of items specifically referred to this Data Preparation meeting for final decision. Those decisions are set out below, with the references being to that draft document unless otherwise indicated.

**Table 2.1** (Overview of available data which may be used)

The ICCAT CATDIS dataset and the ICCAT bluefin size frequency data set are the sources of catch and catch composition observations, respectively. These data are now available at a sufficiently fine scale to allow for modification of fleet definitions and spatio-temporal strata for the operating models to be used for the MSE.

**Tables 2.2 and 2.3** (PSAT and otolith microchemistry data)

The stock of origin data (otolith microchemistry) and electronic tagging (PSAT) data had both been compiled into single datasets. These are now available in their raw form, providing flexibility over how they may be aggregated and interpreted. Data of this nature which are provided to ICCAT only after the final day of this meeting will not be included among those to be used in conditioning the operating models.

**Fleet selection** (Section 3 part *III*)

Fleets are defined as fishing activities for which size selectivity can be assumed to be constant over time and space. Based on historical changes in fishing, observations of size data and the estimated selectivities from a previous stock assessment model, the group identified 14 discrete fleets (see Section 6 of the report of this meeting). These were structured using fishing season, year, area, flag and gear group codes.

**Indices to use in projections** (Section 7 part *I*)

The predictions of the conditioned operating models can be compared with relative abundance indices to characterize the statistical properties of these data (e.g. imprecision, autocorrelation, constant of proportionality). In the absence of a combined index derived from Canadian, US and Japanese longline catch rate data in the west, the meeting agreed to replace this option with two alternative options: the Japanese longline index and the combined US-Canada longline index (SCRS/2015/171).

**Parameter values** (Table 8.2)

The von Bertalanffy growth curve will be replaced by a Richards curve (see section ?? of the report of this meeting).

The same age-based mortality curve will be used for both stocks. This is a Lorenzen type curve in which natural mortality rate is inversely related to weight. M=3W-0.288 (see details given in section 3.1 of the report of this meeting).

Two scenarios for maturity-at-age were developed during the meeting, which could be applied to either stock to form a crossed design (younger/older maturity schedule in the west by younger/older maturity schedule in the east) (see details given in section ?? of the report of this meeting).

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