

IOTC study on management objectives and conditions for Management Strategy Evaluations

Martin Pastoors, 1 february 2012

Background

Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Colombo, Sri Lanka 18-22 March 2011: "The Scientific Committee has agreed that the development of a Management Strategy Evaluation process be initiated to provide better advice that would incorporate explicit consideration of uncertainty."

According to the outline provide by Iago Mosqueira "the adoption of management plans for Indian Ocean tuna stocks appears to be in the IOTC agenda for the near future, as expressed by both Commission and Scientific Committee. Scientific backing for any management plan needs to be the result of careful and detailed work that attempts, to the best capacity of the IOTC scientific community, to acknowledge all sources of error and variability, explore possible measures robust to those uncertainties, and present this in a clear and direct manner to managers and stakeholders."

Objective

Deciding on precise objectives for management of IOTC stocks and essential preconditions for the development of a Management Strategy Evaluation process.

Setting precise management objectives is an essential component for the development of HCRs. Discussion on this issue could be best carried out in some multi-lateral meeting, where scientists, managers, industry and other stakeholders, can be introduced into the precise ways in which IOTC finally decides to conduct the development of management plans, feedback can be obtained on the issues of interest to various parties, and agreement could be attempted on the exact objectives that the plans should attempt to provide for.

Approach

The involvement of CMP should provide for a facilitation at the next annual assembly of IOTC in order to investigate and if possible agree on management objectives and preconditions for MSE.

Steps to be taken in this process:

- Develop workplan
- Scan of relevant literature (IOTC, peer reviewed)
- Identification of relevant stakeholders, stakes and main issues (stakeholder analysis)
- Selection of stakeholders to be included in questionnaire and workshop
- Preparation of a short questionnaire to initiate discussions
- Analysis of questionnaire results
- Short interviews with selected stakeholders during IOTC meeting (22-26 April 2012, Fremantle, Australia).
- Two 2-hour workshop sessions during IOTC meeting to explore and if possible agree management objectives and preconditions for MSE (including the process)

Implementation

- 1 student assistant for 2 months (VHL, to be hired)
- Process facilitation during the IOTC meeting: to be decided
- Guidance and process issues: Luc van Hoof (Martin Pastoors)
- Guidance and content issues: Mark Dickey Collas

Caveats

Experience from the JAKFISH project have shown that a stakeholder process can be derailed if the modelling approach is already to firmly fixed. There needs to be sufficient flexibility in the modelling approach to be able to deal with issues that come up from the objectives sessions.