

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

**2nd REVIEW OF THE STOCK ASSESSMENT OF BIGEYE TUNA IN THE
EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

La Jolla, California (USA)
11-15 March 2019

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the review of the IATTC staff's assessment of the bigeye stock is not to determine whether the current or proposed assessment is adequate for providing management advice; the intention is to provide information to the assessment team to improve the assessment. The goals and objectives of the review are to:

- a. identify the best available science for use in the assessment;
- b. provide an independent review of the assessment; and
- c. provide advice on future research and data collection that will improve the assessment and the provision of management advice.

2. REVIEW PANEL RESPONSIBILITIES

The main responsibility of the Review Panel is to perform an adequate technical review of the assessment. The members of the Panel should disclose any conflicts of interest that could significantly impair their objectivity. Conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to, personal financial interests and investments, employer affiliations, and consulting arrangements, grants, or contracts.

The specific responsibilities of the Panel are to:

- a. be familiar with the Terms of Reference;
- b. review background documents, data inputs, and analytical models, along with other pertinent information (*e.g.*, previous assessments and Review Panel reports);
- c. discuss the technical merits and deficiencies of the input data and analytical methods, work with the IATTC staff to correct deficiencies, and, when possible, suggest new tools, analyses, and data collection methods to improve future assessments; and
- d. draft a report of the meeting, to document the discussions and recommendations.

It is the Panel chair's responsibility to coordinate the discussions so that the review is completed in the time available.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Time will be allocated during the meeting for public comment. The Panel will take these comments into consideration when developing its report, as appropriate.

4. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

The meeting is intended as a technical review of the assessment methodology, and additional analyses during the meeting may be beneficial. In the course of the meeting, the Panel may request a reasonable number of sensitivity runs, additional details on the models presented, or further analyses of alternative runs. However, any such requests must be clear, explicit, and be presented in writing, and be practical in terms of the time available. They should be listed individually in the Panel's report, along with their rationale and the response. To the extent possible, analyses requested by the Panel should be completed

during the meeting by the assessment team.

5. PANEL REPORT

The Panel's report should be drafted and approved shortly after the meeting. The report writing process will follow these steps:

- a. Panel outlines report at meeting;
- b. Panel writes and agrees draft report;
- c. Panel provides draft report to IATTC staff for comment on technical accuracy; and
- d. Panel reviews staff comments, and modifies report as necessary.

The report will include:

- a. Names and affiliations of Panel members;
- b. Brief overview of the meeting (location, agenda, main recommendations by Panel, *etc.*);
- c. Brief summary of current assessment model, data used, analyses presented, and proposed assessment model;
- d. List of analyses requested by the Panel, rationale for each request, and brief summary of the response;
- e. Comments on technical merits and/or deficiencies in the assessment, and recommendations for remedies;
- f. Unresolved problems and major uncertainties, *e.g.*, any special issues that complicate the assessment and/or interpretation of results;
- g. Data, fishery or assessment related issues raised by the public; and
- h. Prioritized recommendations for research and data collection for the subsequent assessment.

The Panel and the IATTC staff will strive to resolve any differences of opinion that may arise regarding the contents of the report. Any unresolved differences of opinion must be documented and reflected in the report, which will be published as an IATTC Special Report.