Active Harvest Strategy
Southern Bluefin Tuna

Management Objectives:
- Convention objective: “Ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of southern bluefin tuna”
- Harvest strategy objectives: See target reference points below

Reference Points:
- Limit Reference Point: 24% SSB₀
- Target Reference Point (long-term): 30% SSB₀ by 2035, with a 50% chance of success

*SSB₀ = spawning stock size that would exist in the absence of fishing

Harvest Strategy:
Fully-specified ‘Cape Town Procedure’ adopted in 2019 was tested through comprehensive MSE process.

Specifications:
- Type: Empirical
- Management cycle: 3 years
- Data inputs: Longline catch per unit effort index, gene tagging, close-kin genetics
- Management output: Quota
- Harvest control rule: Hybrid rule that increases or decreases quota using model-based log-linear trend in adult biomass inferred by an age-structured model using genetic data and an empirical-based-staged response to CPUE.
- Other:
  - Maximum quota change = 3000 t (15-20%)
  - Minimum quota change = 100 t

Outcome:
Quotas have increased each management cycle since the harvest strategy was adopted (an 87% increase between 2011 and 2020). The number of adult fish increased from 5% SSB₀ in 2010 to 20% SSB₀ in 2020.

Link to relevant policy document or update:
  Overview and history of the harvest strategy
- [A scientific alternative to moratoria for rebuilding depleted international tuna stocks](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/288091052_A_scientific_alternative_to_moratoria_for_rebuilding_depleted_international_tuna_stocks)