

1 | Active Harvest Strategy

Southern Bluefin Tuna



Management Authority:

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Adoption Year:

Adopted in 2001; updated in 2019

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% SSB_0
- **Target Reference Point (long-term):** 30% SSB_0 by 2035, with a 50% chance of success

* SSB_0 = 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% SSB_0 in 2010 to 20% SSB_0 in 2020.

Link to relevant policy document or update:

- [Management Procedure. \(https://www.ccsbt.org/en/content/management-procedure\)](https://www.ccsbt.org/en/content/management-procedure) Overview and history of the harvest strategy
- [A scientific alternative to moratoria for rebuilding depleted international tuna stocks \(https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280972562_A_scientific_alternative_to_moratoria_for_rebuilding_depleted_international_tuna_stocks\)](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280972562_A_scientific_alternative_to_moratoria_for_rebuilding_depleted_international_tuna_stocks)