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**The 1982 Assessment of the Southern Bluefin  
Tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) Population and  
the Determination of Catch Levels  
which Stabilize the Parental Biomass**

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**THE 1982 ASSESSMENT OF THE SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA  
(*THUNNUS MACCOYII*) POPULATION AND THE DETERMINATION OF CATCH  
LEVELS WHICH STABILIZE THE PARENTAL BIOMASS**

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*Abstract*

The southern bluefin tuna population is assessed using cohort analysis. Four combinations of natural mortality and terminal fishing mortality parameters are used to see if their selection affects the assessment. Although the four cohort analyses provide quantitatively different results, the overall conclusions, which confirm the previously recognized critical state of the population, are not affected by the choice of these parameters. Recruitment for the period 1950-1976 was stable, but parental biomass underwent a significant decline (40%) from 1967 to 1975, then remained approximately constant until 1980. The 1980 parental biomass level is estimated to be 21-30% of the virgin parental biomass. Our major concern lay with the likelihood of further decline in parental biomass and the risk of recruitment failure which may result when the increased surface fishery catches of 1980-1983 begin to affect the adult population. The global catch which would stabilize the parental biomass at its 1980 level is calculated as 30 000-32 000 t per year, and is virtually unaffected by selection of cohort analysis input parameters. This catch level can be increased by 50% by postponing age-at-first-capture to 5 years. The relationship between catch and stable parental biomass is examined under different assumptions regarding recruitment.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Southern bluefin tuna are a highly migratory species. Spawning in an area between north-western Australia and Indonesia, juveniles (aged 1 to 8 years) inhabit, at least for part of the time, the continental shelf waters of southern and south-eastern Australia. Here they form large surface schools and are the basis of an Australian pole-and-line and purse-seine fishery. From an early age there is a gradual diffusion of fish to the waters of the Southern Ocean such that by maturity (8 years of age) most lead an oceanic, pelagic existence and have an almost circumpolar distribution between 30 and 50° S. This is disturbed only by a regular spawning migration during the southern summer (September-March). These oceanic fish are exploited by the Japanese longline fishery. Although the surface and longline fisheries are essentially geographically distinct, and the fish that they exploit are in different behavioural phases (surface schooling and deep water swimming, respectively), there is a substantial overlap in the age composition of their catches. Reviews of these aspects of the biology of southern bluefin tuna can be found in Shingu (1978) and Olson (1980).

Commercial exploitation of mainly juvenile southern bluefin tuna by Australian fishermen and tuna research by CSIRO date back to 1938 (Murphy 1979). The fishery developed from a small troll fishery off the south coast of New South Wales (NSW) to become Australia's most important fin-fish fishery. This was due primarily to the success of pole-and-live-bait fishing and the subsequent expansion of the fishery to areas of the coast of South Australia (SA) and Western Australia (WA). With the introduction of purse seining in 1974, the Australian catch was averaging around 10 000 t per year by the late 1970's (see Majkowski *et al.* 1981). In recent years (1980-1983), the harvesting capacity of the Australian tuna fleet has increased markedly, with corresponding increases in catches, particularly in SA and WA.

After a total southern bluefin tuna catch of about 19 000 t in 1982, a catch in excess of 20 000 t is expected in 1983.

The Japanese fishery directed primarily at adult southern bluefin tuna began in the early 1950's (Shingu 1978). Following a rapid expansion, the Japanese catch peaked at about 77 000 t in 1961. Since then there has been a steady decline to 20 000-30 000 t per year. The history of surface and longline catches is shown in Table 1.

The critical biological state of the southern bluefin tuna population (i.e. continuous and significant decline in the parental biomass) has been identified by CSIRO scientists (Murphy and Majkowski 1981) and subsequently accepted by New Zealand and Japanese scientists. This, in addition to the recent expansion of the Australian fishery, the entry of New Zealand to the fishery, and the lack of any significant reduction in Japanese fishing effort, has prompted (i) further intensive studies (Majkowski 1982*a*; Kirkwood 1983; Majkowski and Hampton 1983, 1984*a, b*; Majkowski and Murphy 1983) to provide a scientific basis for future management of the southern bluefin tuna fishery and (ii) the first steps toward international management of the fishery to be taken.

The objective of this report is to present the 1982 assessment of the southern bluefin tuna population and to identify catch levels which would stabilize the parental biomass at selected levels. The methods used for these purposes have been developed and used on an *ad hoc* basis over the past two years (Murphy and Majkowski 1981; Majkowski and Hampton 1983, 1984*a, b*). The results presented in this report reflect the "state of the art" in the refinement of these methods and the data holdings of the CSIRO Division of Fisheries Research to December 1982. The results may be subject to slight changes as new data become available and the analyses are further refined.

## 2. DATA AND PRELIMINARY METHODS USED FOR THEIR ANALYSES

### 2.1 Catch Data

Basic to most of the analyses presented in this report are statistics of global catches (in number of fish) by nation, geographical area and length class. Details of the methods for collecting and processing these data are presented in Majkowski (1982*b*). The global catch data used in this study refer to the calendar years 1952-1980, inclusive (Japanese fishery: 1952-1980, Australian fishery: 1963-1980) and are assumed to represent the entire catches of southern bluefin tuna taken during that period. Australian catches prior to 1963 were not considered as no length frequency sampling took place at that time. More current data could not be used at the time of report preparation because of the unavoidable delay in receiving Japanese catch-by-length-class statistics (see Majkowski 1982*b*).

### 2.2 Age Determination

The method used to convert the catch length composition to age composition is based on the following age length relationship:

$$t = t_0 - 1/K [\ln(1 - L/L_\infty)] \quad (1)$$

where  $t$  is age in years and  $L$  is fork length in centimetres. When this equation is used to estimate the age of a fish from a length class,  $L$  is assumed to be the midpoint of the length class. The parameters  $L_\infty$ ,  $K$  and  $t_0$  are estimated as equal to 207.6 cm,  $0.127 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , and  $-0.394 \text{ yr}$ , respectively (Kirkwood 1983). Full details for deriving the age composition are given in Majkowski and Hampton (1983, 1984*a*.) Note that the growth parameters used in those papers had been preliminary estimates made by Kirkwood (unpublished data). Although by no means perfect, this is the only

ageing method available to us at present. In this study the notation defining age classes is changed from that used in previous papers. Fish aged between 1.0 and 2.0 years are now referred to as belonging to class 1+ (previously age class 2). The results of applying the ageing procedure to the data are presented in Table 2*a* (catch age composition by cohort (e.g. the 1960 cohort includes all fish spawned during the 1959-1960 spawning season)) and Table 2*b* (catch age composition by calendar year of capture).

### 2.3 Age-Length-Weight Schedule

The schedule of age, length and weight (Table 3) is required for a number of analyses described in this report. It is constructed first by converting age to length using a simple transformation of equation (1) and then converting this length to weight using one of the following equations:

$$W = 3.13087 \times 10^{-5} L^{2.9058} \quad (2)$$

for  $L < 130 \text{ cm}$  (Robins 1962)

$$W = 2.50470 \times 10^{-6} L^{3.4229} \quad (3)$$

for  $L \geq 130 \text{ cm}$  (modified from Warashina and Hisada 1970).

where  $W$  is whole weight (in kilograms) and  $L$  is fork length (in centimetres). A conversion factor ( $\times 1.15$ ) for gilled and gutted to whole weight has been incorporated into equation (3). Because the conversion of age to length is a transformation rather than a statistical estimation, it is thought appropriate to use the growth parameter values specified in the previous section even though they were derived using a regression of age on length. The two equations (2) and (3) are necessary because they were formulated on the basis of samples of fish of restricted length ranges. In previous studies (Murphy and Majkowski 1981; Majkowski and Hampton 1984*b*), equation (2) had been used for estimating weight from length of fish regardless of length.

### 3. POPULATION ASSESSMENT

#### 3.1 Methods

Murphy (1965, 1966) described a method of estimating the instantaneous rates of fishing mortality and population abundances for age classes from a cohort when catch numbers by age class for that cohort are known. This technique, and its subsequent refinement by Tomlinson (1970), has come to be known generally as cohort analysis. Calculations associated with all cohort analysis results presented in this study are carried out using the computer programme COHORT developed by Dr William Fox (U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Center, La Jolla, California) and which is based on the equations of Tomlinson (1970).

Cohort analysis requires two additional input parameters, namely  $M$ , the instantaneous rate of natural mortality, and  $F_t$ , the instantaneous rate of fishing mortality for the oldest age class considered in the cohort (terminal rate of fishing mortality). If the relevant information is available,  $M$  may be specified individually for each age class. In this study, however,  $M$  is assumed to be constant for all age classes.

The reverse solution option of program COHORT is used for all cohort analyses. This option takes advantage of the convergent properties of cohort analysis results (especially recruitment) over a range of  $F_t$ -values (Tomlinson 1970). Majkowski and Hampton (1983, 1984a) have shown that errors in catch by age class estimates are of acceptable magnitude up to age class 12+ only. For cohorts 1968 and older, the reverse solution of cohort analysis is applied using age class 12+ as the starting age class. For these cohorts, the same  $F_t$ -value is assumed. It is expected that

Japanese fishing effort data will be available in the future, and weighting of  $F_t$  for different cohorts may then be possible. For cohorts more recent than 1968 (for which the most recently fished age classes with catch data available are 11+ or younger), the catch of the oldest available age class is used as the starting point and the average fishing mortality rate,  $F$ , for that age class from the three previous cohorts is used as  $F_t$ . This technique enables better estimates of recent recruitment levels than those made in the past (e.g. Murphy and Majkowski 1981). This is because recruitment estimates become more sensitive to incorrectly specified values of  $F_t$  for younger terminal age classes. By using values of  $F_t$  which are representative of the actual  $F$ 's of those age classes (rather than arbitrarily specifying), our confidence in the recruitment estimates for those cohorts is increased. Initial (i.e. at the beginning of the year) population numbers for age classes  $t + 1$  to the age class representing the cohort in 1980 (to a maximum of 20+) are calculated using the following equation:

$$N_{i+1} = N_i \exp(-M - F_t) \quad (4)$$

where  $N_i$  is the initial abundance of age class  $i$ .

Because estimates of  $M$  and  $F_{12+}$  (0.2 and 0.1  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ , respectively (Hayashi *et al.* 1969; Murphy and Majkowski 1981), are uncertain to some degree, cohort and subsequent analyses are performed using four different combinations of  $M$  and  $F_{12+}$ , i.e. (i)  $M = 0.2$ ,  $F_{12+} = 0.1$ , (ii)  $M = 0.2$ ,  $F_{12+} = 0.15$ , (iii)  $M = 0.2$ ,  $F_{12+} = 0.2$ , and (iv)  $M = 0.15$ ,  $F_{12+} = 0.15 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . Such an examination is referred to as ordinary sensitivity analysis (see reviews in Majkowski 1982c, 1983). These combinations are chosen for the following reasons. Recent analysis of tagging data indicates that total mortality,  $Z$ , of adult fish is between 0.3 and 0.4  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ . Therefore, the

sum of  $M$  and  $F_{12+}$  values needs to be within this range. Because of increases in Japanese fishing effort and a large decrease in the adult stock during the developmental period of the Japanese fishery, it is considered that  $0.1 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  is probably the lower limit of likely values for  $F_{12+}$ . Accordingly, the first three combinations use different levels of  $F_{12+}$  (0.1, 0.15, and  $0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ), and the best estimate of  $M$  ( $0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ). Tag return data show that southern bluefin tuna are very long lived: tagged fish have been recaptured at up to 21 years of age (J. Hampton unpubl. data). Because of this, we feel that if there is an error in the best estimate of  $M$ , it is one of over-estimation, i.e. the real value of  $M$  may be somewhat less than  $0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . Therefore, the fourth combination is chosen with a reduced value of  $M$  ( $0.15 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ) but which still satisfies the condition that  $0.3 < Z < 0.4 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ .

The parental biomass is assumed to be the combined weight of all fish in the population of ages 8.0, 9.0, ..., 20.0 years at the beginning of the year [the midpoint of the spawning season (Shingu 1978)]. The age at first spawning is based on the observation of gonad indices by Shingu (1970) who noted that sexual maturity is reached at a length of about 130 cm (approximately 7.5 years of age). Given our previous assumption that spawning occurs at the beginning of the year, the first spawning opportunity would then be at age 8.0 years. The parental biomass for a particular year is obtained by multiplying the initial population numbers of classes 8+ to 20+ by the respective weights given in Table 3 and summing them. Because the parental biomass is assumed to include fish to age 20.0 years, the extent of the catch data allows calculations only for 1967 onwards (the oldest cohort being that of 1947).

### 3.2 Basic Results

The basic and most useful results from

the cohort analyses described are estimates of initial population abundance of age classes 1+ to 20+ and estimates of fishing mortality rates of age classes 1+ to  $(t-1)+$ . This information is presented for the four cohort analyses in Tables 4a-d and Tables 5a-d respectively. For convenience, the tables are constructed by year rather than by cohort.

It is apparent from these results that the age structure of the population derived on the basis of cohort analysis is strongly dependent upon the choice of  $M$  and  $F_t$ . In general, increasing the value of  $M$  decreases the number of older fish and increases the number of younger fish in the population. For example, if  $M$  is increased from 0.15 to  $0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , the initial population of age class 20+ is reduced by approximately 30% and the initial population of age class 1+ is increased by approximately 25-70%. Increasing the value of  $F_t$  from 0.1 to  $0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  results in a reduction in the initial population of age class 20+ of about 75% and a reduction in the initial population of age class 1+ of 12-30%. Similarly, increasing  $M$  from 0.15 to  $0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  decreases  $F$  for all age classes but especially for the younger age classes (about 25% for age class 2+ and 7% for age class 10+). Increasing  $F_t$  from 0.1 to  $0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  increases  $F$  for all age classes, particularly the older age classes (15-30% for age class 2+ and 50-65% for age class 10+).

### 3.3 Recruitment

Fish first became susceptible to capture in Western Australian waters towards the end of their second year of life. Because it is convenient to define recruitment to the fishable stock as the initial abundance of an age class, it is defined here to be the number of fish at age 1.0 years (i.e. the initial abundance of age class 1+). The number of recruits by year is presented in Tables 4a-d for the four different cohort analyses. Because



of the convergent property of the reverse solution of cohort analysis, recruitment is relatively insensitive to the value of  $F_t$  chosen, at least for values not approaching zero. However, higher values of  $M$  yield significantly higher recruitment estimates. Increasing  $M$  from  $0.15$  to  $0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  ( $F_t = 0.15 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ) results in an increase in the recruitment estimate of 25-70%. Despite these quantitative differences, all four cohort analyses indicate that recruitment to 1976 had been relatively stable. Although on average, recruitment is slightly lower in the second half of the record, we do not believe that this constitutes a significant decreasing trend. Subsequent to 1976, recruitment cannot be reliably estimated by this method due to insufficient numbers of fished age classes within the recent cohorts.

For the stabilizing catch procedure considered later in this report, a constant level of recruitment must be specified. For this purpose, an average recruitment level is used, and is calculated for the second half of the data record (1964-1976), as it is thought that this period best represents the present situation regarding recruitment. The 1964-1976 average recruitment levels and their standard deviations for the four cohort analyses are presented in Table 6. The 1950-1963 averages and standard deviations are also presented in Table 6.

### 3.4 Parental Biomass

The 1967-1980 levels of parental biomass for each of the four cohort analyses are presented in Table 7. Changing  $M$  from  $0.15$  to  $0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  produces only minor changes in parental biomass (increases of 1-6%). However, the effect of choosing different values of  $F_t$  is much more significant. Increasing  $F_t$  from  $0.1$  to  $0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  results in decreases in parental biomass levels of approximately 40%.

Regardless of these differences, the trend over time (a continuous reduction from 1967 to 1975 of 45 - 50%, then approximately stable to 1980) is essentially the same.

For comparative purposes, an estimate of the virgin (pre-exploitation) parental biomass is made for each cohort analysis by generating a "cohort" from the 1950-1963 average recruitment level (Table 6), discounting successive age classes for natural mortality only. This recruitment level is assumed to be representative of that produced by the virgin parental biomass. The parental biomass for this "cohort" is used as an estimate of the virgin parental biomass and ranges from 500 894 to 697 270t depending on the  $M/F_t$  parameter values used. The 1980 parental biomass, expressed as a percentage of the virgin parental biomass, ranges from 21 to 30%. These results also are presented in Table 7.

## 4. DETERMINATION OF CATCH LEVELS WHICH STABILIZE THE PARENTAL BIOMASS.

### 4.1 Methods

The following analyses were undertaken in order to estimate the stabilizing (sustainable) catches which could be taken from the population. The method used has been described (as method II) by Majkowski and Hampton (1984b). We regard this method as superior to their method I because stabilizing catches having a predetermined age structure which are estimated using method I may be difficult to harvest for practical reasons (the southern bluefin tuna fishery has limited control over the catch-age structure). This difficulty is eliminated in method II where the age structure of the stabilizing catch is compatible with the catchability coefficients of the fishery.

The estimation of stabilizing catch requires estimates of catchability coefficients by age class, average fish weights at the beginning and in the middle of the year, natural mortality rate(s), the level at which the parental biomass is to be stabilized, and the level of recruitment which is generated by that parental biomass. Because each of these parameters depends on the  $M/F_t$  values used in cohort analysis, the stabilizing catches corresponding to the four cohort analyses presented in Section 3 are estimated.

Estimates of catchability coefficients,  $q_i$ , for the 1980 calendar year are used. They are derived on the basis of the following equation:

$$q_i = C_i / [N_i \exp(-M/2)] \quad (5)$$

where  $C_i$  is the 1980 global catch (in number) of age class  $i$  (Table 2b) and  $N_i$  is the initial abundance of age class  $i$  in 1980. Because the  $N_i$ 's for 1980 estimated on the basis of cohort analysis are the most uncertain (they are derived directly from the estimated or chosen  $F_t$ 's), an alternative method is used to obtain the 1980  $N_i$ 's. We assume that the initial population numbers for 1976 (Tables 4a-d) can be estimated with reasonable confidence on the basis of cohort analysis if  $M$  is accurately known. Using this population as a starting point, subsequent population numbers to 1980 are derived using the Pope (1972) catch equation,

$$N_{i+1} = N_i \exp(-M) - C_i \exp(-M/2) \quad (6)$$

assuming that recruitment for the period 1977-1980 is constant at the 1964-1976 average level. Four sets of  $q_i$ 's corresponding to each combination of  $M/F_t$  parameter values used in cohort analysis are presented in Table 8. The most recent estimate of parental biomass (1980) (Table 7), the 1964-1976 average recruitment (Table 6), and the weights-at-age presented in Table 3 comprise the remaining input parameter values required for the stabilizing catch estimations.

In addition to this basic analysis, we also examine the effect of postponing the age-at-first-capture,  $T_c$ , to various ages up to 5 years. This is accomplished by setting  $q_i$ 's for age classes younger than  $T_c$  to zero (only integer values of  $T_c$  are considered). Also, the relationship between stabilizing catch and parental biomass level is examined assuming (i) recruitment is constant at the 1964-1976 average level for all parental biomass magnitudes, and (ii) recruitment is dependent upon parental biomass through a stock recruitment relationship. The relationship used is that of Shephard (1982) and takes the following form:

$$R = aP/[1 + (P/K)^\beta] \quad (7)$$

where  $R$  is the number of recruits and  $P$  is the parental biomass which gave rise to those recruits. The parameters  $a$ ,  $K$ , and  $\beta$  take the values presented in Table 9. They are calculated from the 1967-1976 parental biomass data and the corresponding recruitment levels as outlined in Hampton and Majkowski (submitted).

## 4.2 Results

Calculated catches stabilizing the parental biomass at its 1980 level are presented in Table 10. They appear not to be seriously affected by the selection of  $M/F_t$  values. This, as explained by Majkowski and Hampton (1984b), results largely from the offsetting effect of recruitment and natural mortality in the stabilizing catch procedure. The slight differences in the results presented in Table 10 and those derived by Majkowski and Hampton (1984b) are caused mainly by the different age-length-weight schedule used. Postponing  $T_c$  has the effect of increasing the stabilizing catch. The analysis indicates that the stabilizing catch may be increased by approximately 50% if  $T_c$  were postponed to 5 years.

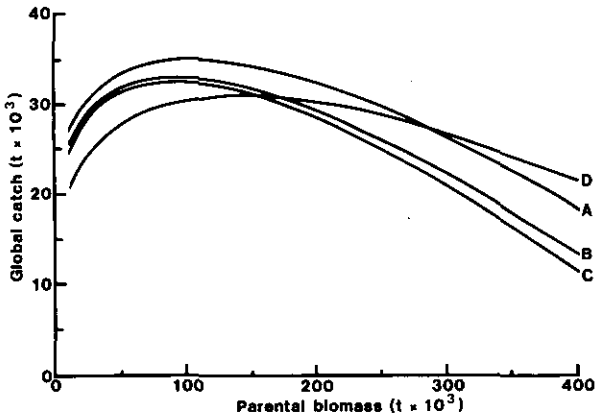


Figure 1. Global catch by stable parental biomass level assuming constant recruitment. Curve A is derived using data from cohort analysis in which  $M = 0.2$  and  $F_t = 0.1 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ; B -  $M = 0.2$  and  $F_t = 0.15 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ; C -  $M = 0.2$  and  $F_t = 0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ; D -  $M = 0.15$  and  $F_t = 0.15 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ .

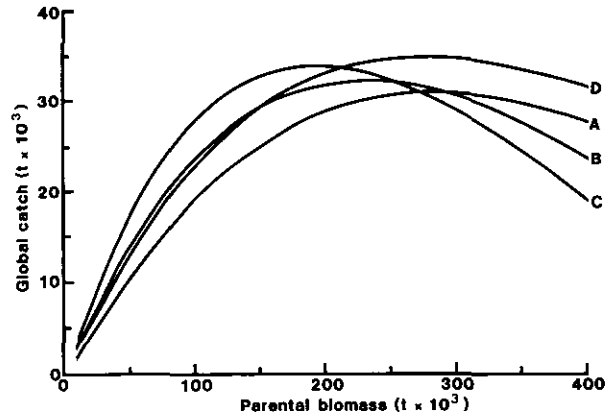


Figure 2. Global catch by stable parental biomass level assuming that recruitment is determined by a stock recruitment relationship. Curve A is derived using data from cohort analysis in which  $M = 0.2$  and  $F_t = 0.1 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ; B -  $M = 0.2$  and  $F_t = 0.15 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ; C -  $M = 0.2$  and  $F_t = 0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ; D -  $M = 0.15$  and  $F_t = 0.15 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ .

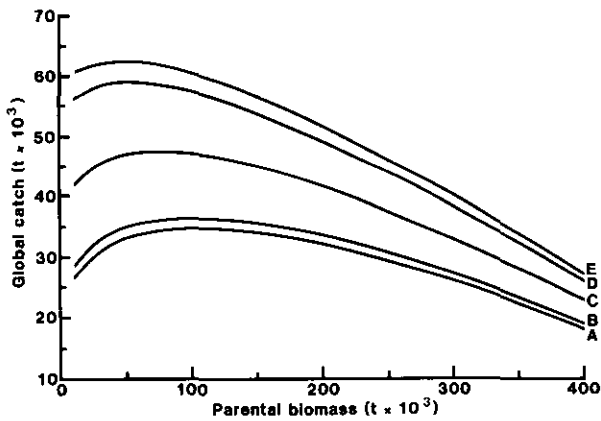


Figure 3. Global catch by stable parental biomass level assuming constant recruitment and showing the effect of (A)  $T_c=1$ , (B)  $T_c=2$ , (C)  $T_c=3$ , (D)  $T_c=4$ , and (E)  $T_c=5$ . The input parameters used for cohort analysis were  $M=0.2$  and  $F_t = 0.1 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ .

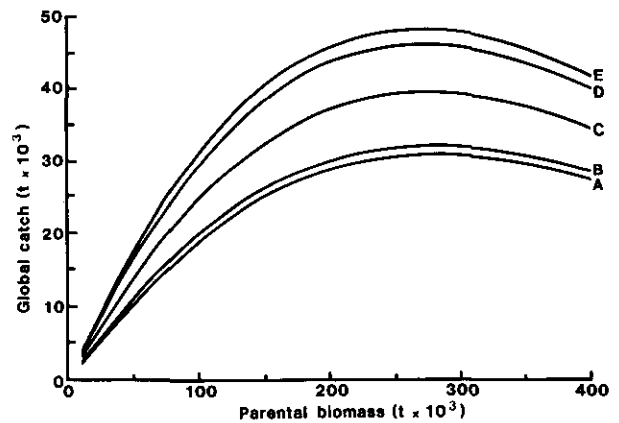


Figure 4. Global catch by stable parental biomass level assuming that recruitment is determined by a stock recruitment relationship and showing the effect of (A)  $T_c=1$ , (B)  $T_c=2$ , (C)  $T_c=3$ , (D)  $T_c=4$ , and (E)  $T_c=5$ . The input parameters used for cohort analysis were  $M=0.2$  and  $F_t = 0.1 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ .

Possible combinations of stabilizing catch and parental biomass assuming a recruitment level independent of the parental biomass are depicted in Figure 1. The four curves reflect differences induced by the choice of  $M$  and  $F_t$  values in cohort analysis and the resulting  $M$ ,  $q_t$ 's, and  $R$  used in the stabilizing catch procedure. Figure 2 shows the same set of curves but with recruitment dependent upon parental biomass consistent with the stock recruitment relationships defined in Table 9. The level of stabilized parental biomass which maximizes catch ranges from approximately 190 000 to 250 000 t depending on which  $M/F_t$  parameters are used. In each case this level is substantially higher than the corresponding 1980 parental biomass. Stabilizing catch declines sharply at low stock sizes (cf. Figure 1) because of falling recruitment. This is probably a more realistic picture than that in Figure 1 in which recruitment is assumed to remain constant even at intolerably low stock levels.

The effect of postponing age-at-first-capture under assumptions of constant and stock-dependent recruitment is shown in Figures 3 and 4, respectively. The best estimates of  $M$  ( $0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ) and  $F_t$  ( $0.1 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ) and the resultant cohort analysis outputs are used. Again, we believe stock-dependent recruitment to be the more realistic assumption and its effect is pronounced at low stock sizes where it forces convergence of the  $T_c$  situations depicted.

## 5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The results contained in this report confirm the previously identified (Murphy and Majkowski 1981) critical state of the southern bluefin tuna parental biomass. However, there is no evidence from the population assessment in Section 3 that fishing activities have had any effect upon the level of

recruitment until 1976. Because parental biomass appeared to be stable from 1975 to 1980, we can logically expect that cohort analysis estimates of recruitment to 1980 (when sufficient data become available) will behave similarly to those of pre-1976. However, we have no scientific basis for assuming that lower parental biomass levels will be able to sustain recruitment at this magnitude.

It is apparent that the activities of the global fishery have significantly decreased the parental biomass from its virgin level. The ratio of 1980 to virgin parental biomass level is sensitive to changes in input parameters for cohort analysis, but is likely to be in the range of 21-30%. No generalizations regarding what fraction of the virgin parental biomass represents a "safe" (in terms of consistently providing adequate recruitment) level can be made; it is likely to vary considerably for different species. It is therefore impossible to specify a "safe" level of parental biomass for southern bluefin tuna; it could only be determined by deliberately reducing the parental biomass until recruitment failure was observed. This approach is clearly unreasonable because recovery of the population could be slow and would require draconian restrictions on fishing. Therefore, it would seem imprudent to allow further significant decline in the parental biomass at the risk of recruitment failure. Hampton and Majkowski (submitted) have shown that the continuation of the 1982 fishing regime is likely to result in further significant reductions in parental biomass. We firmly believe that this fishing regime (1982) is not sustainable in the long term.

The stabilizing catch analyses in Section 4 give some indication of the sorts of fishing regimes which are likely to be sustainable on a long term basis. It is apparent that in order not to allow further long term reductions in parental biomass from the 1980 level, either

(i) global catch must be reduced, (ii) the age-at-first-capture increased, or (iii) a combination of actions (i) and (ii) introduced to allow more fish to survive to maturity.

The results provided in Section 4 are supported by observed data. The apparent stability of parental biomass during 1975-1980 was the result of levels of surface fishing from the early 1960's to the early 1970's (average catch approximately 8000t) and longline fishing from the early to late 1970's (average catch approximately 31 000t). This total catch (39 000t) can be interpreted as stabilizing the parental biomass in the same sense as the estimates provided in Section 4. This figure is in fact directly comparable to the estimated 1980 parental biomass stabilizing catch since the levels of stable parental biomass are about the same. The lower stabilizing catch calculated in Section 4 (31 784t) results because it refers to the 1980 catch age composition which is substantially younger than that of the 1960's and early 1970's. This comparison suggests that there is good agreement between empirical data and the stabilizing catch methodology.

Also, the simulation results of Hampton and Majkowski (submitted) show that, as would be predicted by the method used in Section 4 of this report, catches higher than the calculated stabilizing catch will cause further reduction in parental biomass. These consistencies make us confident that the stabilizing catch method is a valuable tool for fisheries analysis.

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**Table 1.** Annual southern bluefin tuna catches in tonnes and thousands of fish. Values enclosed in brackets are preliminary estimates.

Year	†NSW		*SA		WA		Aust		Total	NZ		Japan		Total	
	t	no	t	no	t	no	t	no		t	no	t	no	t	no
1952								227	18			556	6	783	24
1953								435	34			3809	49	4244	83
1954								605	48			2183	27	2788	75
1955								435	34			2915	36	3350	70
1956								841	66			14948	186	15789	252
1957								982	77			21878	400	22860	477
1958								2024	159			12417	225	14441	384
1959								2008	158			63896	1032	65904	1190
1960								3072	242			75672	1188	78744	1430
1961								3402	268			77491	1209	80893	1477
1962								5136	404			40852	675	45988	1079
1963	2610	207	3589	225			6199	432			59200	1009	65399	1441	
1964	2261	276	5517	379			7778	655			42718	743	50496	1398	
1965	2246	160	4730	289			6976	449			40595	721	47571	1170	
1966	2144	169	5994	417			8138	586			39607	683	47745	1269	
1967	3672	362	3385	245			7057	607			59086	931	66143	1538	
1968	5129	603	2926	263			8055	866			49482	828	57537	1694	
1969	5885	691	3255	428	299	69	9439	1188			49644	844	59083	2032	
1970	3611	393	3123	334	708	189	7442	916			40622	699	48064	1615	
1971	5033	451	2817	344	600	121	8450	916			38120	697	46570	1613	
1972	6133	340	4374	454	757	129	11264	923			39604	806	50868	1729	
1973	1811	81	6835	696	308	69	9107	846			31205	651	40312	1497	
1974	5276	297	6988	756	321	60	12585	1113			33924	672	46509	1785	
1975	2466	225	4842	599	1236	218	8544	1042			24118	441	32662	1483	
1976	308	32	6938	865	289	23	7535	920			33714	634	41249	1554	
1977	4814	248	8789	1160	982	137	14589	1545			29595	536	44184	2081	
1978	4332	224	4934	548	1999	495	11265	1267			22974	451	34059	1718	
1979	3611	159	4338	632	2267	450	10216	1241			27715	520	37931	1761	
1980	3427	138	6855	1083	2661	568	12943	1789		130	1	29474	521	42547	2311
1981	3267	117	9877	819	3327	727	16471	1663		173	2	(25000)	463	(41644)	2128
1982	1648	122	12748	1184	4345	734	18741	2040		257	4	(22000)	(407)	(40998)	(2433)

† As the NSW season is concentrated at the end of the year, small portions of catches accredited to a year may have been taken early in the following year.

\* As the SA season is concentrated at the beginning of the year, small portions of catches accredited to a year may have been taken late in the previous year.





**Table 3. Southern bluefin tuna age-length-weight schedule.**

Age (yr)	Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Age (yr)	Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
0.5	22.4	0.3	10.5	156.1	80.7
1.0	33.9	0.9	11.0	159.3	86.4
1.5	44.7	2.0	11.5	162.3	92.2
2.0	54.8	3.5	12.0	165.1	97.7
2.5	64.3	5.6	12.5	167.7	103.2
3.0	73.2	8.2	13.0	170.2	108.4
3.5	81.5	11.2	13.5	172.5	113.6
4.0	89.3	14.6	14.0	174.7	118.6
4.5	96.6	18.4	14.5	176.7	123.4
5.0	103.5	22.4	15.0	178.7	128.0
5.5	110.0	26.7	15.5	180.5	132.5
6.0	116.0	31.2	16.0	182.1	136.7
6.5	121.7	35.9	16.5	183.7	140.8
7.0	127.0	40.7	17.0	185.2	144.8
7.5	132.0	45.4	17.5	186.6	148.5
8.0	136.7	51.2	18.0	187.9	152.1
8.5	141.1	57.1	18.5	189.1	155.5
9.0	145.2	63.0	19.0	190.3	158.8
9.5	149.1	68.9	19.5	191.3	161.8
10.0	152.7	74.8	20.0	192.3	164.8

**Table 4a Initial population numbers estimated on the basis of cohort analysis using  $M = 0.2$  and  $F_t = 0.1 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ .**

AGE	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
1	2232141	2903993	4742666	5446279	7472431	6884665	6226645	5414589	6888308	6771833	6911837
2		1827523	2418338	3882967	4458873	6117909	5636687	5097946	4433998	5312177	5544388
3			1496249	1973418	3179184	3658616	5008920	4614929	4173845	3629567	4349215
4				1225225	1815698	2682838	2988672	4108957	3778368	3417255	2965225
5					1082966	1322821	2136988	2447881	3357588	3893468	2754840
6						821159	1082948	1744786	2803492	2746898	2473306
7							671932	886594	1428377	1642884	2213716
8								549985	725514	1167989	1387418
9									446164	576892	914858
10										311888	414684
11											218856
AGE	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1	7440325	6456823	5695624	5442342	5236972	4443695	4177689	4445876	4536886	5387846	6367928
2	5648934	4465424	5280956	4826929	4455894	4285125	3637149	3415477	3629271	3714484	4389990
3	4539278	4633143	4965949	4327856	3951711	5578176	3298805	2958985	2744973	2727127	2618974
4	3557268	3716444	3743255	4064758	3538172	3172916	2710713	2538342	2215295	2125776	1963733
5	2824921	2907561	3137943	5031431	3333891	2668282	2413146	2016758	1888187	1664911	1644173
6	2232262	1941223	2365552	2445415	2444698	2622917	2228106	1865739	1567452	1419275	1275627
7	2045819	1753701	1551184	1844364	1956766	1956223	2086721	1762276	1455450	1225967	1102369
8	1789248	1483811	1267247	1162290	1483888	1492549	1586841	1646453	1377768	1091591	916522
9	1236821	1197807	876927	770229	810991	998847	1056377	1051832	1179977	954558	769678
10	712217	632492	699814	431305	513938	481446	687864	749862	762672	778893	654789
11	315482	462629	371596	394791	274772	286533	311421	540838	545802	505434	526667
12	160752	214984	322731	224444	240045	180833	208358	222053	375736	383198	358156
13		119368	154261	259885	166276	207907	125815	148423	164581	276361	285888
14			88223	117984	177119	123189	154821	91132	109954	121865	206219
15				65357	87404	131213	91254	114102	67512	81456	98284
16					48414	64751	97285	67683	84529	58814	68344
17						35869	47969	72811	58881	62628	37051
18							26972	35336	53347	37181	46390
19								19485	26326	39588	27485
20									14883	19583	29877
AGE	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
1	6925829	4617199	5257488	5186967	6652813	4778284	4692981	3409553	5919132	8823737	
2	5184668	4614999	4596721	3248914	4243448	5361562	3766904	3715981	2699458	4644327	6197528
3	2875794	3612234	4155757	3511866	3331568	3849358	5879413	2729519	2569384	1763582	3341365
4	1887843	2264562	2652975	2954179	2677785	2840278	2282771	2872822	1823462	1824465	1188238
5	1475461	1464524	1691555	1864772	1988249	1984938	1892643	1599595	2107559	1383924	1381749
6	1246926	1113301	1128017	1257197	1389686	1422945	1567778	1498229	1224776	1596651	986235
7	962215	971813	848786	833947	938161	1028926	1113982	1243316	1194258	934884	1197864
8	819767	724157	741719	612233	611799	688891	791367	835243	968533	927482	749223
9	438684	594637	513191	518944	433046	417994	499126	550147	563432	727085	693332
10	500273	414968	483339	321188	397889	275339	273568	316258	348372	393819	524452
11	337293	338875	287538	247829	214958	236857	181158	157585	208378	247778	275493
12	175812	325676	227547	181937	173832	188460	172234	117659	188875	153159	177547
13	265320	277968	226446	168484	176264	128778	109942	127594	87144	88864	113443
14	218394	196557	205921	147755	124988	102947	95401	81477	94524	64573	59313
15	152771	155749	145613	152559	124276	92534	74783	78675	63359	78825	47837
16	68881	113176	115917	147873	113012	92866	68551	55401	52357	44715	51876
17	44784	49847	83842	85503	79914	83721	68284	58784	41842	38787	33126
18	27448	33118	36785	62112	63342	59242	62822	58527	37622	38485	28734
19	34367	20334	24534	27192	46814	86925	43658	45947	37431	27871	22524
20	28362	25468	15864	18175	20184	34888	34763	32491	34838	87738	28647

**Table 4b Initial population numbers estimated on the basis of cohort analysis using  $M = 0.2$  and  $F_t = 0.15 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ .**

AGE	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
1	1770994	2327414	3816523	4799245	6063255	6403964	5649067	4775729	5410039	5672176	5883498
2		1444967	1905525	3124705	3929289	5455411	5243123	4625065	3910036	4429365	4643985
3			1187133	1560112	2558292	3217830	4466513	4292706	3786683	3281265	3626438
4				971942	1277312	2094552	2633881	3656872	3514570	3100274	2614618
5					795759	1045774	1714845	2156440	2993993	2877475	2495318
6						651512	856121	1403997	1765535	2451218	2296868
7							533037	706884	1149428	1445181	1969998
8								436268	573467	939525	1147913
9									353060	452469	727881
10										235021	312883
11											147734
AGE	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1	6330792	5578385	5241352	4913440	4737869	4418923	3682865	4107143	4225378	4947148	5857149
2	4816994	5183214	4567196	4291256	4022784	3875837	3267575	3810419	3351939	3459447	4029144
3	3802148	3943621	4243637	3739304	3513139	3215578	2963732	2672378	2413358	2508097	2462254
4	2865493	3112936	3228886	3473387	3056304	2813846	2420424	2264824	1981882	1854272	1737922
5	2117463	2423864	2543835	2629365	2819724	2453764	2119194	1779122	1583600	1473115	1381913
6	2019724	1766270	1968879	2041876	2116391	2226522	1905116	1625887	1372009	1235471	1118618
7	1861036	1579740	1356768	1534666	1625561	1646504	1762186	1497841	1258429	1066694	951830
8	1589789	1364498	1124665	1002776	1178907	1221489	1255282	1340766	1161275	930388	786141
9	906232	1038617	782067	659843	682492	741546	834883	874309	962583	777400	637681
10	559141	524750	564462	352413	408743	376134	509861	567472	592847	593029	569765
11	232479	337448	284425	281955	210264	208822	225703	355150	397173	366529	380572
12	129733	146750	224343	153213	191574	115351	136763	151578	256498	261579	244400
13		77328	103413	155245	107967	135000	79877	96375	106815	180751	184352
14			54492	72874	104399	76885	95133	56288	67914	75271	127373
15				38408	51353	77492	53619	67859	39666	47859	53843
16					27968	36168	54326	37782	47242	27952	33725
17						19069	25501	38283	26624	33291	19697
18							13434	17978	26978	18762	23459
19								9460	12664	19011	13221
20									8473	8924	13397
AGE	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
1	6392514	4855274	4433115	4598195	5686845	4126272	4117910	3880519	5889481	7330735	
2	4760469	5140267	3972291	3614940	3687717	4570665	3233497	3205162	2304506	3945888	5630182
3	2808627	3270811	3722963	3081247	2777799	2586128	3232874	2292601	2184122	1489673	2785349
4	1717006	1962914	2372848	2645149	2259766	1982939	1878491	2342935	1468842	1511144	964130
5	1323348	1328664	1493730	1635523	1731332	1636255	1522441	1294886	1673831	1011488	1883664
6	1064964	988776	1213514	1095264	1201945	1212672	1287628	1195147	975326	1235595	746775
7	833678	822842	746764	748259	805800	876311	941852	1013960	948979	729872	968414
8	686888	618934	619764	528796	535078	560345	665628	694328	780743	724229	542849
9	523917	469819	420882	416249	365211	355216	418315	447239	447743	573295	527817
10	392327	327708	380887	250786	276201	221788	222245	243644	264236	296688	396448
11	318731	242385	196185	180406	157361	170868	135491	115659	148984	178915	148496
12	256127	288656	155362	125559	118661	101341	117371	80316	71774	104944	121197
13	172282	182490	147497	189482	84400	86319	71414	82851	56598	51988	73674
14	199896	121405	127189	103616	77150	62351	58925	58324	58304	39884	36353
15	89758	91936	85553	89629	73917	54367	43958	41524	35463	41143	28106
16	37379	63252	44948	60288	63169	51454	58312	30962	29261	24998	20993
17	23766	26349	44573	45456	42484	44508	36259	26998	21819	26628	17618
18	13881	16748	18562	31410	32832	29938	31764	25551	19025	15376	14531
19	16532	9781	11862	13980	22134	22573	21897	22182	18886	13467	18839
20	9317	11650	6893	8317	9217	15998	15987	14867	15579	12668	9448

**Table 4c Initial population numbers estimated on the basis of cohort analysis using  $M = 0.2$  and  $F_t = 0.2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ .**

AGE	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
1	1540459	2019197	3353426	4475244	6287944	6162972	5359806	4455995	4870961	5122373	5369288
2		1261221	1653179	2745553	3664920	5123571	5045014	4368244	3640261	3988005	4193845
3			1032601	1353508	2247869	2999846	4194825	4131163	3592787	2986941	3269875
4				845422	1108159	1840399	2456066	3434433	3362310	2941525	2439136
5					692173	907284	1506762	2010857	2611876	2769190	2365347
6						566703	742734	1233633	1646342	2302113	2207813
7							463602	688051	1209946	1547594	1447922
8								379419	497462	825327	1068016
9									306516	398183	634369
10										197548	261083
11											110083
AGE	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1	5791874	4139212	4914081	3648728	4486934	3683275	3435410	3937586	4069395	4726567	5601594
2	4395929	2741986	4287631	4023244	3886957	3671943	3112654	2807816	3213118	3331739	3048581
3	3433600	3599083	3682000	3404917	3293709	3936139	2796079	2529165	2247465	2386457	2297745
4	2669641	2811197	2946638	3177623	2815281	2634194	2275167	2126774	1863770	1718477	1664919
5	1973797	2140840	2296793	2398280	2577574	2258432	1972126	1668224	1471275	1377158	1278751
6	1913312	1568574	1774564	1438617	1427196	2020270	1743563	1544667	1275566	1143311	1048848
7	1788451	1492625	1262464	1377245	1459967	1491611	1599874	1365976	1159859	987801	876545
8	1489762	1305080	1053502	923948	1045009	1088851	1128478	1207898	1052492	849621	728907
9	840820	952800	733523	691581	617543	672613	723566	770542	653748	608811	571654
10	482621	472510	499727	312931	361111	323461	420928	476721	507947	594125	437303
11	192796	274448	240794	227580	178802	169993	182677	282377	322909	297127	307869
12	84251	112673	169146	117635	147088	87034	105005	116389	196936	200837	187709
13		56473	75527	115382	78853	98596	58338	70387	78812	132010	134625
14			37854	50827	76042	52857	66291	39105	47182	52293	86489
15				25376	53936	50946	35431	44392	26213	31627	35053
16					17010	22748	34150	23758	29697	17571	21208
17						11402	15249	22891	15920	19908	11778
18							7643	10221	15345	10672	13344
19								5123	6852	10286	7133
20									3434	4893	6099
AGE	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
1	6085447	4470398	4087621	4282015	5686805	4126272	4117910	3080519	5089401	7330735	
2	4557259	4927609	3657100	3331174	3202537	4576605	3233897	3245162	2364568	3965008	5638182
3	2432950	3098800	3593878	2743266	2546224	2438571	3232876	2292601	2184122	1489673	2785349
4	1631468	1842022	2232709	2498471	2048593	1792547	1706460	2342935	1466042	1511164	944150
5	1247713	1256036	1394758	1523867	1611512	1465408	1367277	1193377	1673831	1011406	1033664
6	973959	926452	946187	1214244	1198076	1146414	1146117	1068674	892227	1235595	746775
7	769367	748354	695743	633333	739285	799476	861554	696104	842073	661847	906414
8	634984	586299	556772	487039	496669	526107	602727	628686	685915	639085	486364
9	478549	439366	381806	366350	331941	323794	365994	395778	393990	495657	457326
10	338356	288066	299661	215488	235301	193778	196553	207346	222109	254712	335117
11	259409	198204	164528	146717	128504	136702	112663	94700	119319	144514	148529
12	196651	160200	119285	96403	91107	77809	90269	61666	50643	60272	93654
13	185825	131819	107308	79959	64621	61071	52157	60509	41336	37969	53008
14	90202	84343	88361	71984	53590	43317	40937	34962	40560	27708	25451
15	59316	60491	56537	57930	48253	35928	29036	27441	23456	27109	10573
16	23497	37611	40546	37890	39703	32345	24083	19463	10394	15709	10225
17	14211	15750	16652	27180	25400	26614	21681	16143	13047	12330	10930
18	7895	9526	10558	17866	18220	17829	17840	14533	10821	8745	8265
19	6940	5292	6385	7077	11976	12213	11415	11950	9742	7254	5862
20	4795	5996	3548	4280	4740	6828	8187	7651	8016	6530	4662

**Table 4d Initial population numbers estimated on the basis of cohort analysis using  $M = 0.15$  and  $F_t = 0.15 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ .**

AGE	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
1	1952973	1375759	2264782	2953168	4204744	4179915	3680698	3054844	3384554	3538462	3492793
2		906392	1184127	1949314	2541632	3619056	3597686	3168006	2626640	2913113	3045582
3			780062	1919187	1677798	2187775	3114951	3096557	2726728	2262499	2507311
4				671405	877223	1444007	1883836	2681063	2665231	2366917	1940813
5					577884	755033	1242908	1620744	2307612	2293974	1975919
6						497349	649774	1069781	1394979	1986123	1913462
7							427721	559215	920700	1200344	1671428
8								367993	480944	790866	996922
9									312501	396398	638265
10										214109	282858
11											137894
AGE	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1	3992493	3559143	3479923	3377696	3318724	2770193	2492026	2961307	3084373	3686873	4357403
2	3178416	3436371	3463183	2995197	2947210	2453838	2383092	2139921	2537045	2654745	3125743
3	2621331	2735688	2957712	2636678	2577740	2422228	2241327	2031304	1789127	1933044	1843622
4	2154393	2256291	2354586	2544674	2264896	2154585	1867825	1762420	1536871	1415145	1367245
5	1646669	1649299	1436983	2012017	2165557	1898934	1645061	1394117	1239832	1169420	1078233
6	1476812	1389155	1576359	1624246	1694469	1779692	1527861	1320295	1118331	1094460	916774
7	1627297	1367448	1565152	1282518	1351050	1369931	1469773	1251468	1062424	983706	803304
8	1414982	1237220	1044002	842844	1019196	1050045	1083919	1160124	1012414	811802	688342
9	973560	943828	720710	545985	617269	689446	734565	775456	859736	691690	571045
10	511614	486791	524985	324393	377949	344106	459928	513425	541188	539748	465244
11	218524	316757	248029	244222	198824	195993	211813	331921	372685	343747	356782
12	1071628	143329	215154	149632	167096	116702	133566	148035	250504	245465	238767
13		79342	106174	159394	112857	138604	82010	98948	104607	145578	109293
14			48815	76454	110479	82129	102680	60755	73703	81243	137460
15				43571	50270	47475	60836	76068	45008	50304	60167
16					32278	43167	64803	45068	56352	33343	40229
17						23912	31979	48007	33387	41747	24701
18							17715	23691	35565	24734	30927
19								13123	17550	26347	18323
20									9722	13002	19518
AGE	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
1	4724740	3327794	3026281	3324526	4255934	3234235	3299969	2454953	4157205	5068875	0
2	3720758	2011461	2881312	2588853	2458880	3575596	2614731	2710715	2018544	3371821	4669950
3	1453449	2553407	2996950	2275234	2042405	2015516	2554124	1903966	1847848	1279226	2426372
4	1330548	1527403	1885415	2126444	1695473	1458002	1440420	1887149	1216916	1368096	838756
5	1057853	1061953	1199363	1375532	1344086	1241897	1152053	1438650	1373469	853542	966542
6	859857	813330	641147	909409	984783	981441	1013849	936888	800032	1043796	651219
7	704757	649726	636821	632491	681474	736955	792781	831317	774864	618137	790431
8	606551	541295	538316	462361	471181	505281	581109	603203	664831	615258	475857
9	469557	439418	381946	369741	328381	320474	368920	399838	395247	504551	461891
10	358596	304186	275374	228941	251922	203247	205410	222231	239462	278483	361678
11	299150	227695	184366	169292	147796	154253	127672	108671	139420	167804	183534
12	250141	207808	151731	126224	115888	98973	114823	78439	72850	102106	118365
13	176483	145709	120204	112465	90842	85852	73321	85063	58109	53376	75642
14	140202	131038	137280	111837	83272	67297	63601	54318	63816	43008	39542
15	101847	103864	97975	101700	82851	61669	49855	47117	40239	46664	31691
16	80587	75450	76945	71915	75341	61377	45708	36934	34905	29810	34584
17	29803	33031	55845	57902	53276	55814	85469	33856	27361	25558	22884
18	18299	22978	24479	41408	42228	39468	41348	33685	25081	28270	19156
19	22911	13556	16356	18128	30676	31263	29239	30631	24954	18688	15616
20	13574	16973	10943	12117	13429	22725	23175	21660	22692	16887	13763











**Table 6. Mean values of southern bluefin tuna recruitment and their standard deviations.**

Period		M/F <sub>t</sub> combination used in cohort analysis			
		0.2/0.1	0.2/0.15	0.2/0.2	0.15/0.15
1950-1963	mean	6 199 916	5 419 609	5 029 191	3 477 226
	s.d.	851 866	775 884	761 748	507 955
1964-1976	mean	5 266 970	4 685 897	4 494 638	3 424 210
	s.d.	897 459	815 480	806 806	656 033

**Table 7. Southern bluefin tuna parental biomass (tonnes).**

Year	M/F <sub>t</sub> combination used in cohort analysis			
	0.2/0.1	0.2/0.15	0.2/0.2	0.15/0.15
1967	358 816	266 053	220 594	251 731
1968	340 889	248 822	203 756	237 566
1969	321 478	232 537	189 054	224 628
1970	295 423	210 974	169 713	205 654
1971	272 253	192 549	153 734	189 762
1972	251 630	176 164	139 523	174 572
1973	228 852	158 589	124 687	158 420
1974	213 731	149 032	118 001	149 597
1975	201 892	140 878	111 726	141 064
1976	199 090	141 331	113 699	140 026
1977	193 994	138 042	111 422	134 952
1978	198 442	141 106	113 612	135 111
1979	209 703	149 805	121 702	141 750
1980	209 082	147 695	120 148	140 533
Pre-exploitation	697 270	609 513	565 605	500 894
1980 x 100				
Pre-exploitation	29.99%	24.23%	21.24%	28.06%

**Table 8. Southern bluefin tuna 1980 catchability coefficients.**

Age class	M/F <sub>t</sub> combination used in cohort analysis			
	0.2/0.1	0.2/0.15	0.2/.2	0.15/0.15
1+	0.0403	0.0453	0.0473	0.0605
2+	0.2604	0.2961	0.3101	0.3900
3+	0.1906	0.2201	0.2319	0.2863
4+	0.0612	0.0715	0.0757	0.0905
5+	0.0773	0.0958	0.0958	0.1047
6+	0.0586	0.0775	0.0775	0.0866
7+	0.0585	0.0773	0.0773	0.0864
8+	0.1136	0.1488	0.1659	0.1656
9+	0.1571	0.2068	0.2383	0.2301
10+	0.1572	0.2069	0.2463	0.2224
11+	0.1316	0.1832	0.2242	0.1910
12+	0.0959	0.1411	0.1844	0.1407
13+	0.0602	0.0932	0.1282	0.0884
14+	0.0388	0.0644	0.0962	0.0575
15+	0.0217	0.0350	0.0507	0.0298
16+	0.0056	0.0089	0.0126	0.0072
17+	0.0052	0.0085	0.0124	0.0065
18+	0.0025	0.0041	0.0062	0.0030
19+	0.0023	0.0040	0.0060	0.0028

**Table 9. Parameter values for the southern bluefin tuna stock recruitment relationship.**

Parameter	M/F <sub>t</sub> combination used in cohort analysis			
	.2/.1	.2/.15	.2/.2	.15/.15
a (recruits t <sup>-1</sup> )	34.88	43.03	54.73	32.24
	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
K (t)	345 935	250 322	182 748	247 927

**Table 10. Catches stabilizing the parental biomass at its 1980 level for a series of ages-at-first capture (Tc's).**

Tc	M/F <sub>t</sub> combination used in cohort analysis			
	0.2/0.1	0.2/0.15	0.2/0.2	0.15/0.15
1	31 784	31 546	32 100	30 706
2	32 928	32 642	33 208	32 006
3	40 988	40 395	41 078	41 315
4	48 250	47 217	47 990	51 640
5	50 439	49 191	49 970	54 931

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