

Appendix 1 - Total Allowable Catch (TAC) table – Addendum (September 2020)

The purpose of this document is to provide further background around the decision making in assigning species Total Allowable Catches (TAC's), other regulatory restrictions such as Minimum Landing Sizes (MLS) and also provides the reasoning behind the assigning of quotas amongst the following sectors (as requested by the Economic Development Committee):

- Commercial
- Sports (Spearfishing and Angling)
- Recreational (Spearfishing and Angling)

Fishing effort data and in some instances landings are very poorly understood across the industry in general. Biological data about individual species is often limited to global knowledge rather than St Helena specifically. It is the intention of the ENRP Fisheries and Marine teams that in the first 6-12 months following the introduction of the new fisheries licences and log books will form a major data gathering and monitoring exercise, after which a review will be undertaken to continue to inform the TAC's and relevant sector quotas assigned.

1 Yellowfin Tuna (YFT) and Wahoo (WAH)

TAC's for YFT have been determined taking into account recommendations from the Cefas 'Tuna fishery status and management advice' report

WAH TAC's have been determined using landings data from SHFC over the past 10 years, an understanding of the species globally as well as information included within the Fisheries investor prospectus

1.1 Commercial

The commercial sector provides the main landing for these species and is allocated the majority of the quota. However these species have also been considered in the context of the effort calculation for the other sectors set out in sections 1.2 -1.5 below.

1.2 Sports spearfishing

1.2.1 Effort calculation

Number of licences	6
Number of days per licence	21
Number of fish per day	6
Total (fish)	756

1.2.2 Tonnage amount

A split of 60% WAH and 40% YFT was applied based on stakeholder engagement indicating that spearfishing activities are more likely to target WAH than YFT.

WAH – 60% - 454 fish

YFT 40% - 302 fish

If it is assumed an average of 13kg per fish for YFT and 20kg for WAH (as per consultation points 109 and 106) then the species tonnage amounts are approximately split as:

WAH – 60% - 9mt
YFT 40% - 4mt

The YFT allocation has been increased to accommodate the consultation feedback (detailed in point 109), however the WAH quota has not been increased and remains at 4mt with the justification given in point 106.

1.3 Sports angling

1.3.1 Effort Calculation - Peak Season

Number of licences	8
Number of trips* per month	4
Number of fish per trip*	3
Number of months (peak)	3
Total (fish)	288

*as per consultation feedback (point 72) a trip is defined as 5 days fishing during peak season

1.3.2 Effort Calculation - Off peak

Number of licences	8
Number of trips per month	1
Number of fish per day	1
Number of months (off peak)	9
Total (fish)	72

*as per consultation feedback (point 73) a trip is defined as 1-2 days fishing during off-peak season

Total (peak and off peak) – 360 fish

1.3.3 Tonnage amount

A split of 50% WAH and 50% YFT was applied based on the fact that stakeholder engagement indicated that sports angling activities are equally likely to target WAH and YFT. If it is assumed an average of 10kg per fish (confirmed in point 90) for 360 fish then the quota tonnage amounts are approximately split as

WAH – 50% - 2mt
YFT 50% - 2mt

1.4 Recreational angling and spearfishing

1.4.1 Effort calculation

Number of licences	30
Number of months*	6
Number of fish per month	8
Total (fish)	1440

*based on a seasonal effort of 6 months for recreational fishers

1.4.2 Tonnage amount

A figure of 25kg (point 108) was provided by consultation feedback, however this is considered to be too high when calculating a tonnage amount given the feedback from other sectors and scientific data on average inshore YFT sizes. If assumed an average of 13kg per fish for YFT (which is consistent with other sectors feedback) then then the tonnage amounts would be 18.7mt. Given that some recreational fishers will look to fish outside of the 6 'seasonal' months a total sector quota of 20mt has been proposed.

1.5 Minimum landing size (MLS)

A no take MLS of 67cm (SFL) is proposed based on the recommendations provided within the Cefas 'Tuna fishery status and management advice' document for both the commercial and recreational fishers. Recreational fishers are not covered by the 85cm MLS to allow something to be landed in the event of a poor days fishing.

A no take MLS of 85cm (SFL) is recommended for sports fishers, this is based on the rationale and feedback from consultation that sports fishers (spear and angling) will target the larger fish due to the 'sports' element. Sports anglers can still catch/tag and release fish landed at any time under the 85cm limit.

2 Bigeye Tuna (BET)

TAC's for BET have been determined taking into account recommendations from the Cefas 'Tuna fishery status and management advice' report, and the need for further exploratory effort to better understand the species, its behaviour and a determination of biomass.

2.1 Commercial

The commercial sector provides the main landing for this species predominantly in offshore locations and is allocated the majority of the quota. Following consultation feedback (point 21) it is proposed that 8mt remain reserved for inshore fisheries. This species have also been considered in the context of the effort calculation for the other sectors set out in section 2.2 below

2.2 Recreational and Sports

As BET is rarely caught inshore (circa 0-12mt a year commercially) a small amount of 2mt has been reserved across the Recreational and Sports industries to account for the allowance of landing of this species by these sectors, further detail is provide in consultation feedback point 1.

3 Albacore (ALB)

The UKOT ICCAT quota is for 100mt, however, the species has not regularly 'run' in St Helena for the last 8 or so years. The majority of the TAC is assigned to the commercial sector.

3.1 Commercial

The commercial sector provides the main landing for this species and is allocated the majority of the quota.

3.2 Recreational and Sports

With ALB rarely running and being caught inshore a small amount of 1mt has been reserved across the Recreational and Sports industries to account for the allowance of landing of this species by these sectors.

4 Dorado (COE)

4.1 Commercial

The quota allocated to the commercial sector is indicative based upon knowledge of species, landings at SHFC over the past 10 years and wider global species information provided by Cefas. Further information is provided in consultation points 25-27.

4.2 Recreational and Sports

An amount proportional to the commercial quota has been allocated recognising that the Dorado is a fish that is targeted by both of these sectors

5 Skipjack (SKJ)

No set TAC was advised by the Cefas 'Tuna fishery status and management advice' document, and there is currently no ICCAT regional TAC or UKOT Quota in place. However a limit 750mt is considered a reasonable limit given the levels of historic landings.

5.1 All sectors

The quota suggested is a spread across all sectors.

6 Blue Marlin (BUM), White Marlin (WHM), Black Marlin (ISI), Atlantic Sailfish (ISP), Southern Swordfish (SWO)

6.1 All sectors

No landing of the majority of these species is permitted due to their status on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, and the high mercury content of the Southern Swordfish coupled with minimum landing size makes it uneconomical to be landed.

Catch and release of certain species (i.e. Marlin) are permitted. For Recreational and Sports Angling landings are permitted for record attempts where sizes are above specified ICCAT minimum landing sizes.

Further information around decisions are provided in consultation responses 22, 62 - 63

7 Shark (All species)

7.1 All sectors

No landing permitted due to status of most species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

Further information around decisions are provided in consultation responses 101

8 Mackerel (MAS) and Bigeye Scad (SEC)

This TAC has been set as a result of the recommendations within the Cefas 'Small pelagic species (baitfish) fishery Management Advice' which indicates that there is 'likely to be a low risk of overexploitation' of these species.

8.1 Commercial

The quota has been set based on the outcomes of the above report and is also based upon knowledge of species and landings at SHFC over the past 10 years.

The TAC for MAS was increased following consultation discussions, further detail can be found in consultation point 79

8.2 Recreational and Sports

Given the low risk of exploitation and recognising that these two species are targeted by other sectors (mainly recreational) a relatively high quota has been allocated when compared to the commercial sector.

The TAC for MAS was increased following consultation discussions, further detail can be found in consultation point 78

9 Grouper (GRP)

Previous scientific studies by Choat (2007) indicated that sustainable TAC should be in the region of 36mt. This TAC may be revised following the delivery of the CEFAS Grouper fishery management advice report.

9.1 Commercial

Feedback from stakeholders as part of the consultation indicated that a lower TAC for the commercial sector would be appropriate, and this has been implemented in accordance with the feedback.

9.2 Recreational and Sports

This quota has been set based on a proportionate amount of the commercial sector, and also recognising that it is a species that is targeted by these sectors.

9.3 Minimum Landing Size

A minimum landing size of 35cm (WL) is recommended based on the finding of the Choat (2007) study, this mitigation measure is due to the population dynamics and slow growth rate of the grouper species. Further detail is provided in consultation feedback points 53-54.

10 Spotted Moray (GYO) and Brown Moray (GYU)

The TAC for these species is based on the currently understood effort for the species, its status and the landings at SHFC over the past 10 years

10.1 Commercial

An equal quota is allocated between the commercial for Spotted moray as a result of it not being landed significantly commercially, and being a species that is targeted by the remaining sectors.

The Brown moray quota is spread across all sectors as it is not a species that is targeted commercially or by other sectors. The nominal amount still allows some of this species to be landed.

10.2 Recreational

Following consultation around the request for monthly limits (point 60, 65-66) these have been proposed for the recreational sector, with a limit of 12 per month for both GYO and GYU.

11 Guelly Jack (PSD), Almaco Jack (SER), Black Jack (CAL) and Tile Trevally

The TAC for these species is based on the currently understood effort for the species, its status and the landings at SHFC over the past 10 years.

11.1 All sectors

The quota volumes are relatively low to due concerns over the status of this population through both scientific assessment (dive surveys and local knowledge) leading to a precautionary limit for these species. The recreation sector is now provided a monthly limit as per consultation feedback points 91 and 65-66.

11.2 Minimum Landing Size (MLS)

Due to the concerns over the status of this population a minimum landing size has been introduced based on the same species elsewhere globally, in an effort to ensure fishing of these species is sustainable. Following consultation feedback (point 93) and analysis of further evidence provided by Cefas, this MLS was reduced from 80cm (SFL) to 50cm (SFL).

12 Rock Bullseye (GSS), Deepwater Bullseye (COJ), Blackbar Soldier (MYJ), Squirrelfish (HOA)

The TAC for these species is based on the currently understood effort for the species, its status and the landings at SHFC over the past 10 years.

12.1 Commercial Sector

The quota allocated to the commercial sector is indicative based upon knowledge of species and landings at SHFC over the past 10 years. This sector quota was increased based on consultation feedback (point 58). The quota given is low as a precautionary approach to due concerns over the status of this population through both scientific assessment (dive surveys) local knowledge (tour operators) and the landings at SHFC over the past 10 years.

12.2 Recreational Sector

The recreation sector is now provided a monthly limit as per consultation feedback points 57 and 65-66.

12.3 Minimum Landing Size (MLS)

Due to the concerns over the status of this population (potentially as a result of the use of droppers) a minimum landing size of 15cm has been introduced and was also supported by consultation feedback (point 56). This is based on biological information from the same species elsewhere globally, in an effort to ensure fishing of these species is sustainable.

13 Rainbow Runner (ELB)

The TAC for these species is based on the current understood effort for the species, its status and the landings at SHFC over the past 10 years.

13.1 Commercial

The quota allocated to the commercial sector is indicative based upon knowledge of species and landings at SHFC over the past 10 years. This sector quota was increased based on consultation feedback (point 36)

13.2 Recreational and Sports

An amount proportional to the commercial quota has been allocated recognising that the Rainbow Runner is a fish that is occasionally caught by these sectors. This quota was increased based on consultation feedback (points 34, 35)

14 Ocean Triggerfish (CDS)

The TAC for these species is based on the currently understood effort for the species, its status and the landings at SHFC over the past 10 years.

14.1 Commercial

The quota allocated to the commercial sector is indicative based upon knowledge of species and landings at SHFC over the past 10 years. This quota was increased based on consultation feedback (point 24)

14.2 Recreational and Sports

An amount proportional to the commercial quota has been allocated recognising that the Rainbow Runner is a fish that is caught by these sectors.

The recreation sector is now provided a monthly limit as per consultation feedback points 23 and 65-66.

15 Brown Spiny (PAE) and Red Slipper (SCO) Lobsters

The TAC for these species as advised based on the preliminary outputs from the Darwin Plus project 'Sustainable fishery management for St Helena's lobster populations' (DPLUS077). Further revision of this TAC may be implemented following the completion of the project in 2020

15.1 All Sectors

An equal quota is allocated between the commercial and recreational sectors for lobster species, recognising that the species are targeted heavily recreationally.

15.2 Minimum Landing Size (MLS)

Minimum carapace lengths for both species have also been recommended as part of the Darwin Plus project 'Sustainable fishery management for St Helena's lobster populations' (DPLUS077)

16 St Helena Seabream (DIS)

The TAC for this species is based on the currently understood effort for the species, its status and the landings at SHFC over the past 10 years.

16.1 Commercial

The quota allocated to the commercial sector is indicative based upon knowledge of species and landings at SHFC over the past 10 years. This quota was increased based on consultation feedback (point 33)

16.2 Recreational and Sports

An amount proportional to the commercial quota has been allocated recognising that the St Helena Seabream is a fish that is caught by these sectors. The recreation sector is now provided a monthly limit as per consultation feedback points 65-66.

17 St Helena Wrasse, Strigate Parrotfish, Island Hogfish, Pompano, Sergeant-major, spotted scorpionfish

The TAC for these species is based on the currently understood effort for the individual species, its status (level of endemism), recreational effort and the landings at SHFC over the past 10 years.

17.1 Commercial

Quota has been allocated to Spotted scorpionfish and Sergeant-major as a result of consultation feedback (points 83 and 84).

17.2 Recreational and Sports

A small quota has been allocated to these species recognising that most of these species are endemics and will be occasionally caught by the recreational sector.

The recreation sector is now provided a monthly limit as per consultation feedback point 65-66.