

LETTER FROM PA2 CHAIR ON CLOSURE OF DISCUSSIONS

December 18, 2020

Dear PA2 Members:

I hope this letter finds you and your colleagues fine.

This letter summarizes the discussion at Panel 2 and intends to finish all the business of Panel 2.

1. North Atlantic albacore

PA2-606B and PA2-607C have been sent to the Commission for adoption. A consolidation of these Recommendations will be considered at the 2021 Commission meeting.

2. Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

PA2-609B has been sent to the Commission for adoption. The allocation request from Russia will be discussed at the 2021 Commission meeting. The interpretation of paragraph 10 in Rec. 19-04 will also be discussed at the 2021 Commission meeting if necessary.

3. Panel 2 Intersessional Meeting

PA2-618-APP-1A and PA2-618-APP-2A have been adopted and submitted to the Commission for reference.

4. Western Atlantic bluefin tuna

PA2-608C has been sent to the Commission for adoption with the following text to be inserted to the report to the Commission:

“Panel 2 agreed to recommend to the Commission that a stock assessment for the western Atlantic BFT be conducted in 2021, one year earlier than the SCRS original plan. In relation to this agreement, Panel 2 understood that: (i) the proposed meeting for the stock assessment in September 2021 as well as the preparatory work required to conduct the assessment will not negatively affect the ongoing MSE process for BFT and if the SCRS considers a negative impact to be unavoidable, MSE will be given priority and the 2021 SCRS advice to the Commission on WBFT will be based on the 2020 stock assessment; (ii) if the preparatory work does not proceed as planned, the SCRS will postpone the assessment to 2022; and (iii) the external expert will be contracted and perform the required work in accordance with standard SCRS and Secretariat practices and procedures and will be supported by the Commission budget with a voluntary fund from Canada”

With this letter, the work of PA2 is now considered closed. A summary report for PA2 will be circulated shortly as part of the Chair's letter which will cover several subsidiary bodies.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for your cooperation and flexibility.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shingo Ota". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'O'.

Shingo Ota
Panel 2 Chair