

Report of the Intersessional catch-at-age working group

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1. Age-reading error experiment

Last year, the IA sub-committee recommended that the experiment to conduct independent age readings of 250 earplugs which had been planned for 2008/09 (but could not be undertaken due to logistic arrangements) be undertaken during 2009/10. The experiment was conducted as planned during 2009/10 by Lockyer with additional readings by Zenitani and the data (along with the historical estimates of age for the earplugs concerned) were analysed to estimate age-reading error matrices for Misaki, Kato and Zenitani (see SC/62/IA2 for details). The age-reading error matrices from SC/62/IA2 were included in the analyses of changes over time in minke whale abundance based on the statistical catch-at-age analysis method of Punt and Polacheck (see SC/62/IA6 for details).

2. Further catch-at-age analyses

Last year, the IA sub-committee recommended that scenarios be conducted in which mis-reporting of catches occurred. The formulation of the scenarios was referred to the working group, but no progress occurred.