

Subject:	SBT ARIAL SURVEY
Date:	7 APRIL 2017

2017 RAW RESULTS:

Table 1 has the final update summarising results of the CSIRO Aerial Survey for 2017 and the previous 7-survey seasons.

2017 is the 3rd highest tonnage per transect line flown (behind 2016 and 2011). The total tonnage sighted is amongst the higher values recorded over the previous 7-survey seasons and is comparable to 2010 which also had a lower number of days flown.

Table 1: Aerial Survey summary data for 2017, compared with previous seasons

Updated to completion on 31st March 2017			
Year	Total Tonnage Sighted	Average per Line (t)	No. Days flown to date
2009	8,715	140	21
2010	18,365	255	18
2011	29,636	386	22
2012	9,867	120	26
2013	23,267	259	24
2014	27,499	304	23
2015	No Aerial Survey		
2016	24,588	412	20
2017	18,864	359	18

STOCK ASSESSMENT:

The majority of sightings this season included schools where the average size of SBT was more than 8kg, so will qualify for inclusion in the index. The actual 'Recruitment Monitoring Index' (RMI) result will depend on the calibre Con factors applied to the spotter/observer and as always the weather and spotting condition standardisations (as occurs for all seasons). The high average tonnage per line suggests that the RMI is likely to end up between the record high values of 2014 and 2016 (Figure 1). Note in 2017, again the encore quota caught within the GAB was east of the Aerial Survey area.

Table 5: Total sightings for the year and proportion of sightings by each month to show how the Aerial Survey of 2017 compares to other years (note this is total tonnage sighted within the boundaries of the transect lines and includes SBT of all sizes)

Year	Total Tonnage Sighted	% January	% February	% March
2009 ¹	8,715	86%	7%	7%
2010 ²	18,365	30%	30%	40%
2011 ³	29,636	91%	8%	1%
2012 ⁴	9,867	21%	45%	34%
2013 ⁵	23,267	25%	65%	10%
2014 ⁶	27,500	26%	46%	28%
2015 ⁷	NO AERIAL SURVEY			
2016 ⁸	24,588	29%	38%	33%
2017*	18,864	46%	9%	45%

¹ Climate phase La Nina

² Climate phase El Nino

³ Climate phase very strong La Nina

⁴ Climate phase La Nina plus BP Seismic Survey from mid November to June

⁵ Climate phase Neutral trending towards La Nina, GAB broad-scale warming late December

⁶ Climate phase Neutral trending towards El Nino, TGS (Chevron) seismic survey from late January to June

⁷ Climate phase Neutral trending towards El Nino, PGS (Santos) plus TGS (Chevron) seismic surveys (3 vessels) from mid November to June, strong upwelling

⁸ Climate phase strong El Nino, early warming of the GAB area, strong upwelling

* Climate phase Neutral trending towards La Nina, late warming of the GAB area, strong upwelling

