

Stichopus chloronotus - SANTO-ISLANDS_2014-03

The selected data includes **26 habitat zone(s)** of the study area (**8.84 km²**). The field census occurred from 17/03/2014 to 21/03/2014. **99 transects** are considered in the results below.

Zones : Z005 ; Z006 ; Z007 ; Z009 ; Z010 ; Z014 ; Z018 ; Z019 ; Z021 ; Z022 ; Z024 ; Z025 ; Z029 ; Z030 ; Z034 ; Z036 ; Z037 ; Z038 ; Z041 ; Z054 ; Z057 ; Z058 ; Z066 ; Z074 ; Z075 ; Z080 ;

Outlying transects (removed from analysis) : T181;

Reference indicators for all individuals

Reference indicators include biomass, abundance and density estimates.

The conservative stock biomass of all individuals is **6871 kg** (wet) and the conservative total abundance is **25463 individual(s)**. This wet biomass is equivalent to **3435 kg** of gutted and salted products, and **206 kg** of dried products (bêche-de-mer).

The conservative mean density estimate of all individuals is **29 individual/ha** and **7.8 kg/ha** over the selected habitat zones .

The above estimates incorporate measure uncertainty that is attributable to survey method and heterogeneous resource distribution over the survey site.

Biological interpretation

Legal-sized individuals (200 mm) represent **54 % of the total stock biomass**. This high proportion means that small individuals were rarely observed during survey compared to large individuals, and may be indicative of recruitment failure. **Consequently, the recommended TAC must range between 37.04 % and 55.56 % of the estimated TAC (see table) as a precautionary approach.**

Total stock estimates for Stichopus chloronotus

(all sizes)	13.862 t ± 6.991 t
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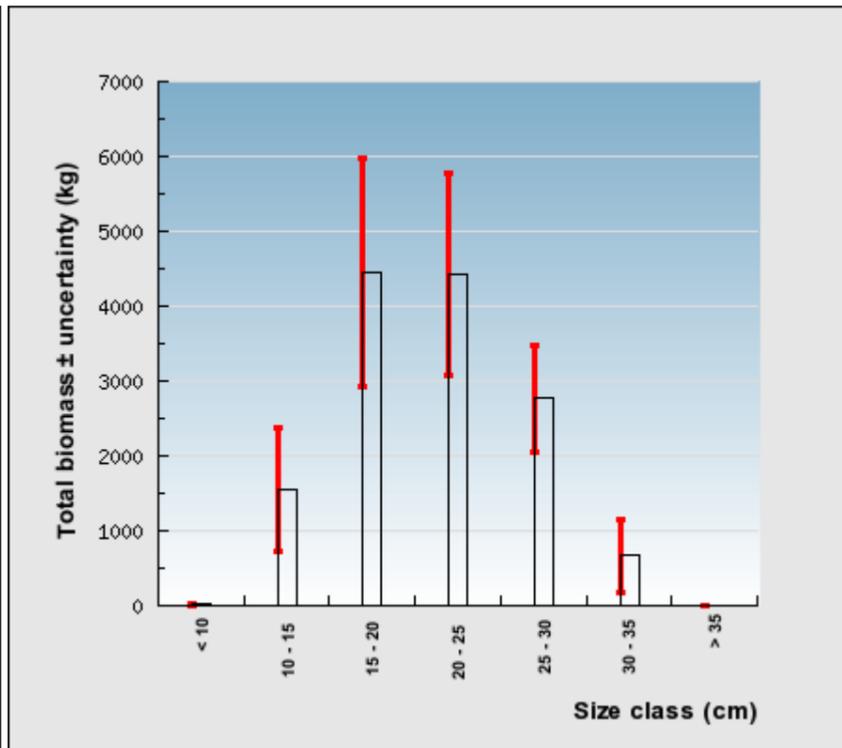
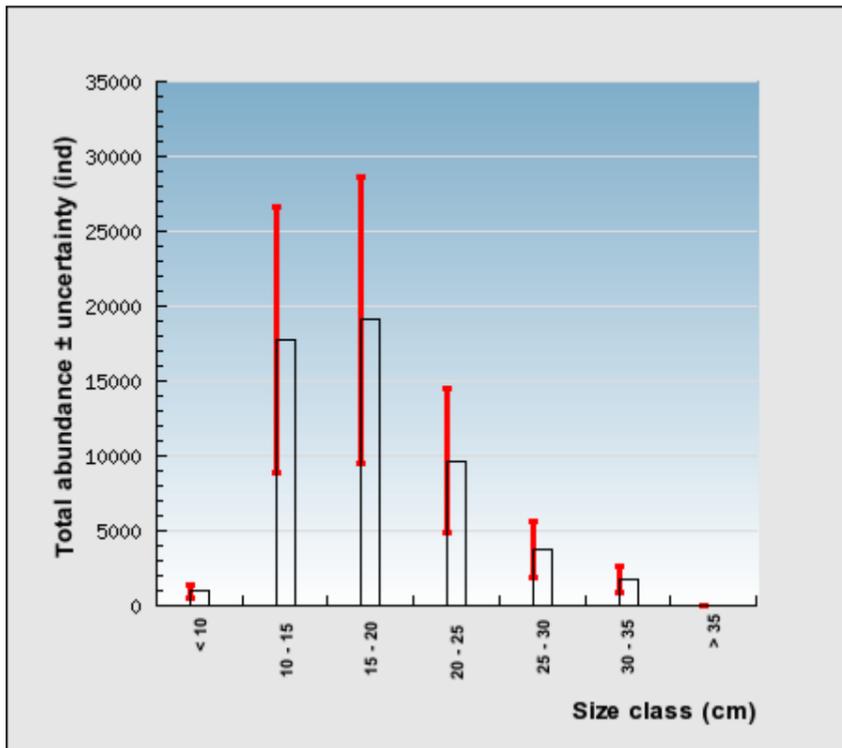
Recommended TAC (Total Allowable Catch, or quota) of legal-sized individuals (200 mm) :

Fresh/wet products	3.728 t
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Salted and gutted products	1.864 t
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Dried products (bêche-de-mer)	0.112 t
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Size structure of the whole stock of Stichopus chloronotus



Size distribution of observed sea cucumbers (n=196)

