

Holothuria whitmaei - SANTO-ISLANDS_2014-03

The selected data includes **14 habitat zone(s)** of the study area (**4.01 km²**). The field census occurred from 17/03/2014 to 21/03/2014. **56 transects** are considered in the results below.

Zones : Z004 ; Z009 ; Z021 ; Z022 ; Z024 ; Z025 ; Z026 ; Z027 ; Z029 ; Z034 ; Z037 ; Z057 ; Z063 ; Z078 ;

Reference indicators for all individuals

Reference indicators include biomass, abundance and density estimates.

The conservative stock biomass of all individuals is **3232 kg** (wet) and the conservative total abundance is **1802 individual(s)**. This wet biomass is equivalent to **1616 kg** of gutted and salted products, and **323 kg** of dried products (bêche-de-mer).

The conservative mean density estimate of all individuals is **4 individual/ha** and **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 (300 mm) represent **42 % 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 47.62 % and 71.43 % of the estimated TAC (see table) as a precautionary approach.**

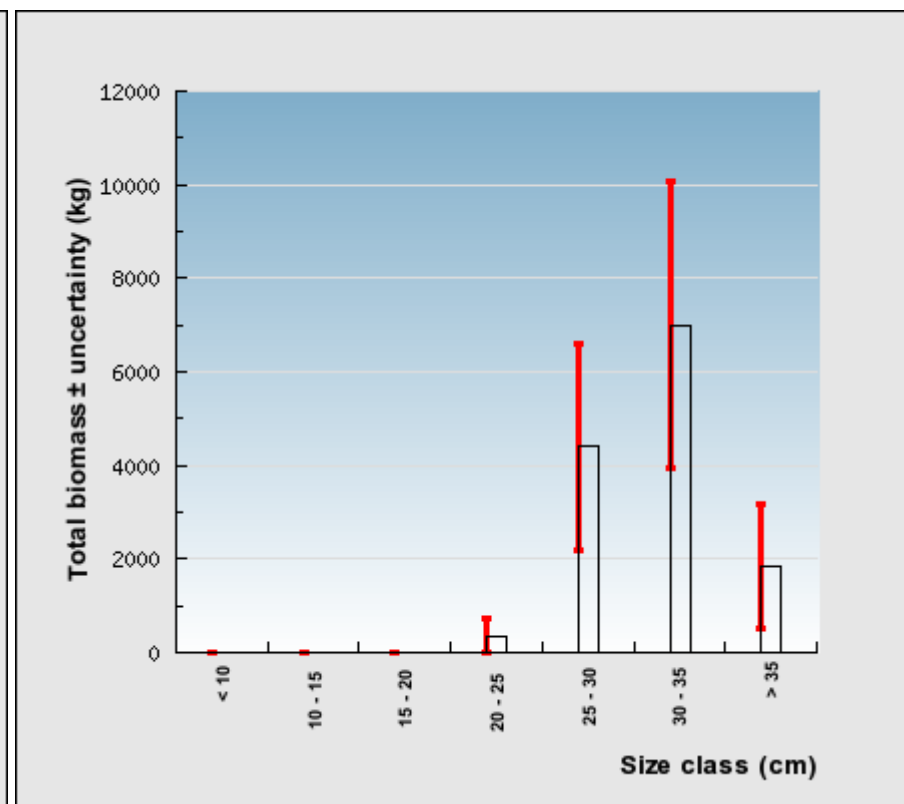
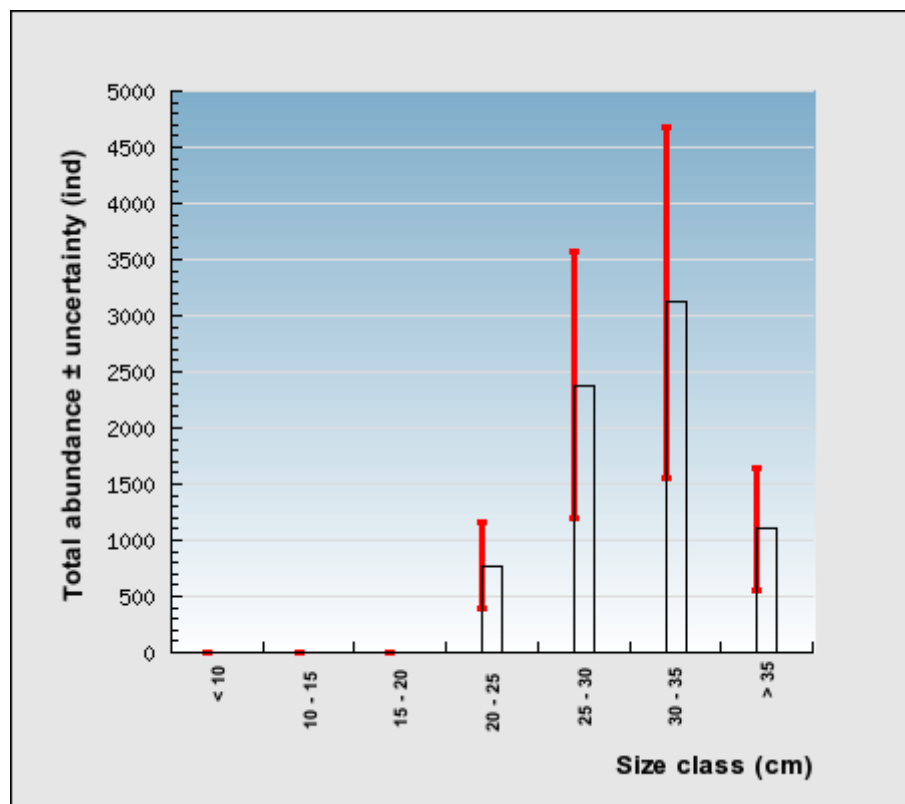
Total stock estimates for Holothuria whitmaei

(all sizes)	13.601 t ± 10.37 t
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Recommended TAC (Total Allowable Catch, or quota) of legal-sized individuals (300 mm) :

Fresh/wet products	1.369 t
Salted and gutted products	0.684 t
Dried products (bêche-de-mer)	0.137 t

Size structure of the whole stock of Holothuria whitmaei



Size distribution of observed sea cucumbers (n=19)

