

**Strategic Plan for the Commission for the
Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna**

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1. Introduction

A strategic plan for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

This strategic plan outlines a common vision for how members would like to see the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna in the future. Components of that vision include the state of the southern bluefin tuna stock; how the Commission operates to effectively manage the stock; and how members are implementing their obligations and benefiting from their successful management of the stock.

A strategic plan outlines not only a desired future state, but also specific strategies and tasks associated with achieving the desired future state (even if achieving that state is a long term goal). The strategic plan will become the basis for the Secretariat and members to compile annual operating plans.

A recent review of the Commission's performance provided many suggestions for areas in which performance may be improved. A strategic plan allows these suggested actions to be incorporated, as appropriate, into future work plans. Suggested actions are prioritised so that the overall work plan is achievable.

The Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Origins

Southern bluefin tuna (SBT) were heavily fished in the past, with annual catches reaching 80,000 tonnes in the early 1960s. Heavy fishing resulted in a significant decline in the numbers of mature fish, and the annual catch began to fall rapidly. In the mid 1980s it became apparent that a way of limiting catches was needed. To enable the SBT stocks to rebuild, the main nations fishing SBT at the time – Australia, Japan and New Zealand – began to apply strict quotas to their fishing fleets from 1985.

On 20 May 1994, the voluntary management arrangement between Australia, Japan and New Zealand was formalised when the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, which the three countries signed in May 1993, came into force.

The role of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

The objective of the Convention is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of the global SBT fishery. The Convention created the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and describes how it operates and functions. The functions of the CCSBT include—

- collecting information,
- deciding on a total allowable catch (TAC) and its allocation,
- deciding on additional measures including monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures considered necessary in order to achieve effective implementation of the Convention,
- agreeing an annual budget, and

- encouraging accession by other states.

The CCSBT meets annually. The CCSBT has six subsidiary bodies which provide advice on their areas of expertise—

- the Scientific Committee (SC)/Extended Scientific Committee (ESC),
- Stock Assessment Group (SAG),
- Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG),
- the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG),
- Compliance Committee (CC),
- the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC).

A panel of independent scientists attend SC and SAG meetings and are able to provide advice directly to the CCSBT if required.

The Convention also provided for the establishment of the CCSBT Secretariat, which supports the running of the Commission. The Secretariat is based in Canberra, Australia. Staff include an Executive Secretary, Deputy Executive Secretary, a Data Manager and other support staff.

Membership of the Commission

Membership of the CCSBT is only open to States. To facilitate the participation of fishing entities, the CCSBT established the extended CCSBT (ECCSBT) and the extended scientific committee (ESC) in 2001. Membership of the ECCSBT and the ESC includes all parties to the Convention, and fishing entities may also be admitted. The fishing entity of Taiwan was admitted in 2002.

The ECCSBT and the ESC perform the same functions as the CCSBT and the SC respectively. Each member has equal voting rights. Decisions of the ECCSBT that are reported to the CCSBT become decisions of the CCSBT unless the CCSBT agrees otherwise. Any decision of the Commission that affects the operation of the ECCSBT or the rights, obligations, or status of any individual member within the ECCSBT should not be taken without prior due deliberation of that issue by the ECCSBT.

Currently the ECCSBT consists of six members and three cooperating non-members:

Members

- Australia
- Fishing entity of Taiwan (member of the ECCSBT only)
- Indonesia
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Republic of Korea

Cooperating Non-Members

- European Union
- Philippines
- South Africa

The southern bluefin tuna fishery

Characterisation of the fishery

The primary market for SBT is the Japanese Sashimi market, where premium prices can be obtained, largely because of the high fat content of SBT flesh. The total value of the SBT global fishery is estimated to be about \$AUD1 billion.

The main methods used for catching SBT are longline fishing and purse seining.

Longlining involves using long lengths of fishing line with many hooks. The SBT caught are mainly frozen at very low temperatures (-60C) and either unloaded at intermediate ports and shipped to markets in Japan or unloaded directly at markets in Japan.

Purse seining involves using purse seine nets to enclose schools of SBT. This method is currently only used in the Australian SBT fishery. The enclosed schools of fish are towed to waters near the Australian mainland and placed in floating cages anchored to the ocean floor. The tuna are fattened for several months and sold direct to Japanese markets as frozen or chilled fish.

Status of the stock

Southern bluefin tuna are recognised as being at a small fraction of their pre-exploitation biomass. The Extended Scientific Committee reported in 2008 that the scenarios analysed indicate that spawning stock biomass is still at a very low level (generally below 10% of pre-exploitation spawning stock biomass). This was recognised as a level at which recruitment may be at risk of further decline. Further, the stock is below the level that could produce maximum sustainable yield, a level that is generally recognised internationally as a benchmark for sustainably managing fishstocks. The scientific committee also noted that there is no sign of the spawning stock biomass rebuilding at present.

Strategic issues

This section highlights strategic issues facing the Commission that this plan will seek to address. These issues have been identified recently through a performance review; the first meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group; and through an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) facing the Commission. This SWOT analysis helped highlight any other areas outside the performance review that might help the Commission in developing its strategic plan (see below).

In 2008, a Performance Review Working Group made up of representatives from the Commission undertook a self assessment of the Commission's performance, using the criteria adopted at the 2006 Joint Meeting of the five Tuna RFMOs in Kobe, Japan. An independent expert, United States Ambassador David Balton, reviewed the self assessment.

The 2008 meeting of the CCSBT agreed to various initiatives in order to implement recommendations of the performance reviews (see paragraph 41 of the meeting report).

One important outcome of the performance review was to establish a Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG), to develop a strategic plan for the Commission and a fisheries management plan comprising management objectives for SBT and ecologically related species, consistent with modern fisheries management principles. The Commission tasked the SFMWG with the development of a strategic plan, as a way of creating a common vision of where members want the Commission to be heading.

Performance review

The performance review highlighted areas where the Commission is doing well, including the inclusion within the Commission as members or cooperating non-members of virtually all fishing activity for SBT; recent improvements in the transparency with which the Commission operates; and the undertaking of the Commission's first performance review.

The performance review also highlighted a number of areas in which the performance of the Commission could improve, as outlined below. The recommendations of the performance review working group and the independent expert have been incorporated into the goals and strategies described later in the plan.

General

- The CCSBT should examine its Convention, compare it to more modern instruments, and seriously consider the need to renegotiate it. Even if it is not amended at this time, many of the modern standards for fisheries management can be incorporated into the work of the Commission in other ways, including through adoption of additional conservation and management measures and an updated management procedure.
- A strategic plan and management plan could provide direction and common vision, and greatly improve the functioning and performance of the CCSBT.

Conservation and management

Status of living marine resources

- Determine management objectives and a rebuild strategy consistent with UNFSA requirements to guide future scientific assessments.
- Develop the most accurate stock assessment possible in light of uncertainties caused by under-reported past catches, then set catches at a level that will allow the stock to rebuild, taking into account precautionary principles.
- Develop and implement a strategy to address the impacts of SBT fisheries on ecologically related species, including collection and sharing of data between CCSBT members and Secretariats of other RFMOs.

Data collection and sharing

- Focus effort on improving data collection and reporting through full and urgent implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the CCSBT at its annual meeting in 2006.
- Pursue opportunities to harmonise data collection and sharing with the other four tuna RFMOs.
- Ensure clear standards are set for the level of detail and type of data provided by members, so the science process has the information it requires (including provision of data that meets UNFSA minimum requirements; commercial confidentiality should no longer limit access to data within the CCSBT).

Quality and provision of scientific advice

- Maintain the structure of the Extended Scientific Committee, including the independent chairs and advisory panel, but review the number and skill sets of independent experts required in support of the scientific process.
- Consider the balance of effort between SBT and ecologically related species.

- Adopt and implement measures to minimise pollution, waste, discards or catch by lost and abandoned gear.

Adoption of conservation and management measures

- Continue to make conservation and management measures that are consistent with scientific advice from the Extended Scientific Committee.
- Develop a strategic plan and management plan to implement minimum standards for the fishery.

Capacity management

- Discuss with Indonesia the capacity for temporal and spatial closures in the SBT spawning ground.
- Implement the recommendations set forth in the FAO International Plan of Action on the management of fishing capacity.

Fishing allocations and opportunities

- Once long term allocations are finalised among members, including the CCSBT 1 MoU, consider moving to national allocations based on alternative principles, such as proportional allocations, rather than set tonnages.

Compliance and enforcement

Flag state measures

- All members and cooperating non-members should continue to take all necessary actions to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the CCSBT.
- Institute promptly an integrated VMS system.

Port state measures

- When considering implementation of any port state measure, the CCSBT should bear in mind the need to avoid duplication of effort, and consider the 'FAO technical consultation on port state measures'.
- Adopt port state measures designed to prevent the landing and transshipment of illegal, unreported and unregulated SBT catches – including by vessels on the CCSBT authorised vessel list.

Monitoring, control and surveillance

- Cooperate with other tuna RFMOs to optimise harmonisation, improve global effectiveness, and avoid duplication of work.
- Prioritise the development of MCS in the context of a compliance plan.
- Develop effective measures relating to transshipment, a regional observer programme, and high seas boarding and inspection (as set forth in the UNFSA).

Follow up on infringements

- As a minimum, establish agreed rules on the treatment of overcatch (requirement of payback).
- Ideally, establish a range of penalties in relation to all conservation measures.

Cooperative mechanisms to detect and deter non-compliance

- All members and cooperating non-members should submit their national reports to the CCSBT.

- Allocate sufficient time to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission to allow them to complete both routine and development work each year.

Market related measures

- Implement a CDS as a matter of urgency.
- Pending implementation of a CDS, all members and cooperating non-members should be required to implement the TIS.
- Monitor all market and port states and encourage compliance with CCSBT monitoring and trade measures.

Decision-making and dispute resolution

Decision making

- Consider devolving some day to day operational decision making to the Chair or the Executive Secretary (by the unanimous decision of the Commission).

Dispute settlement

- Note the dispute settlement rules established under the UNFSA that may make it unnecessary to amend the Convention to achieve a compulsory and binding regime for the settlement of disputes.

International cooperation

Transparency

- Improve openness by better publication of the rules for observers (e.g. placing information on the CCSBT website).
- Consider revising current rules and procedures for observers, since they appear to create an unduly restrictive process that is not in line with other tuna RFMOs (or Article 12(2) of the UNFSA).

Cooperation with other RFMOs

- Make working more closely with and harmonising measures with other RFMOs a priority area (including on ERS mitigation, impacts of fishing on the environment, data collection, and combating IUU fishing).

Financial and administrative issues

Availability of resources for RFMO activities

- Consider establishing a position at the Secretariat to provide policy and fisheries management advice.
- Provide the necessary resources to the Commission to implement agreed measures (e.g. the CDS).

Efficiency and cost-effectiveness

- If the CCSBT has not always received full and timely payment of member financial contributions, discuss what could be done to prevent the problem in the future.

SWOT analysis

The following SWOT analysis outlines the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats that the Commission may face in achieving its objective. In relation to the opportunities and threats, these include both potential and actual outcomes that may occur. The strategic plan allows strategies to be developed to work towards the opportunities while avoiding threats that are identified as high risk.

The SWOT analysis gives an indication of both internal and external factors that need to be addressed in the goals and strategies outlined below. The strengths, opportunities, and threats sections, in particular, have helped identify areas outside the scope of the performance review where further effort by the Commission may be beneficial.

Key challenges

Taking into account the wide range of recommendations made by the performance reviews of the CCSBT, and the other strategic issues identified above, the following key challenges can be identified:

- To provide for the rebuild of the SBT fishery to the level that can sustain maximum sustainable yields (stock re-building);
- To account for all sources of SBT mortality, and to ensure unreported catches are prevented (compliance); and
- To balance the competing demands of those who harvest SBT against the biological demands of stock rebuilding (TAC setting and allocation)

Ongoing Review

The CCSBT strategic plan will be reviewed and updated on an ongoing and regular basis to accommodate the decisions and priorities of CCSBT.

Objective: to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission already incorporates almost all fishing effort for SBT - well-regarded model for provision of science advice - decision-making components established (including compliance committee, scientific committee, annual meeting, centralised Secretariat) - coordination with other regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) - Agreements reached on basic monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) components (e.g. catch documentation) - Competency for all areas in which SBT found - agreed mechanism for controlling fishing for SBT (global Total Allowable Catch) - formation of a strategy and fisheries management working group to develop fisheries management options and advice for the Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - currently SBT stock at around 10% or less of virgin spawning stock biomass - history of failure to decide on and implement key management measures (e.g. TACs) - information base for stock assessment is poor - objective of Convention relates only to single species (SBT) - approach to controlling fishery does not address potential over-capacity issues - Members have not always met their obligations under the Convention, including implementing agreed measures - application of precautionary principle not explicit - commercial imperatives sometimes override the obligations of member states to cooperatively manage the stock - no specific provisions in the Convention for developing countries
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increased value (economic, catch per unit effort, social) from stock at the biomass that supports maximum sustainable yields - harmonisation with other RFMOs to increase efficiencies and improve management - taking advantage of developing concepts of best practice for fisheries management including for tuna RFMOs - developing innovative measures to allow more efficient fishing - opportunity to incorporate modern standards of fisheries management (e.g. precautionary principle, ecosystem approach) through development and implementation of management procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increased illegal fishing, including by non-members - failure of Commission to follow scientific advice - disruption to industry caused by stock collapse - international community condemnation over failure to fulfil mandate - consumer resistance to poorly managed stocks - CITES listing (trade prohibitions) - continuation of catch anomalies

2. Objective, vision, and goals

This strategic plan sets out the objective of the Commission (as outlined in the Convention text). The plan also establishes a common vision for how members would like to see the Commission in the future. Components of that vision include the state of the southern bluefin tuna stock; how the Commission operates to effectively manage the stock; and how members are implementing their obligations and benefiting from their successful management of the stock. Each of these components is associated with specific **goals** – the desired future state of the Commission – and **strategies** – the suggested approach to achieving the desired future state.

Convention objective

The objective of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna.

Vision and goals

A. Management of SBT

Southern bluefin tuna stocks are managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks of fishing for SBT are mitigated

This category includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation, ecologically related species.

B. Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat

The Commission is operating effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT

This category includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, including harmonization with other RFMOs.

C. Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance

Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission, and implementing its decisions

This category includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions, assistance to developing countries.

A. Goals concerning management of SBT	
Goals	Strategies
1. Re-building SBT	
<p>1.1 Stock is at a biomass level that supports the MSY</p> <p>Priority: Very High</p>	<p>(i) Adopt an interim rebuilding target reference point, with timeframe and desired probabilities</p> <p>(ii) Adopt a target biomass of achieving B_{MSY}, with timeframe and desired probabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confirm Commission's target for SBT stock and adopt an interim rebuilding target reference point (e.g. 20% of the original spawning biomass) (agreed at annual meeting in October 2009) ▪ Develop goal for timeframe for rebuilding SBT stock (at 2011 annual meeting, based on report of the SC) ▪ Agree on desirable probability associated with meeting rebuild target (at 2010 annual meeting, based on report of the SC) <p>(iii) Set limits below which stock size should not be allowed to fall, and strategies for managing if limits are breached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limits agreed as current SSB at 2010 annual meeting ▪ Rules to be considered in 2011 in the context of MP adoption including the metarule process
2. Sound scientific basis for setting TAC	
<p>2.1 A management procedure is used to provide guidance on TAC setting</p> <p>Priority: High/Very High</p>	<p>(i) Task the Scientific Committee to review management procedure to ensure it will achieve rebuild targets and timeframes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review parameters and decision rules for candidate Management Procedures (MPs) to ensure they will contribute to meeting management objectives (2011) ▪ Develop candidate MPs and adopt preferred candidate (2011) <p>(ii) Use MP as input to setting global TAC (2011 onwards)</p> <p>(iii) Review of stock status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of stock and fishery indicators (annual) ▪ In depth stock assessment (every 3 years)
3. Quality and provision of scientific advice	
<p>3.1 Accurate verified data is provided to the Scientific Committee and Commission in a timely manner</p> <p>Priority: Very High</p>	<p>(i) Reinforce the role of the Compliance Committee so that the Commission can obtain accurate data on all fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See also goal 8 (monitoring, control and surveillance) <p>(ii) Adoption and implementation of common standard/procedure for scientific data verification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See also goal 8 (monitoring, control and surveillance) <p>(iii) Set rules for commercially confidential scientific data (e.g. operational catch and effort data)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set confidentiality rules and other relevant rules (i.e. usage, ownership) ▪ Agree on data provision rules that ensure Members report accurate and complete data on all sources of mortality for SBT. <p>(iv) Explore the possibility of developing a regional observer program (ROP), including commenting on the ROP proposed by Australia at CCSBT 17. If appropriate, develop an ROP to be applied to all the SBT fishing and farming</p>

	activities.
<p>3.2 Science process provides best available independent advice for management decisions</p> <p>Priority: Medium/High</p>	<p>(i) Maintain the independent chairs and advisory panel for the scientific process, but periodically review the number and skill sets of independent experts required</p> <p>(ii) Develop a CCSBT research plan including Member-funded, collaborative and CCSBT-funded projects (2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of CCSBT five year research plan ▪ Implement necessary scientific research by Commission and/or Members (e.g. CCSBT tagging program)
4. Ecologically related species	
<p>4.1 Risks to ecologically related species caused by fishing for SBT are identified and appropriately managed</p> <p>Priority: High/Medium</p>	<p>(i) Implement the Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on ERS of fishing for SBT, including collection and reporting of data on ERS (para 3), implementation of mitigation measures (para 2) and assessment of the risks caused by fishing for SBT (para 7) in each fishery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All Members implement the Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on ERS of Fishing for SBT ▪ Review the implementation of the Recommendation on ERS ▪ Agree on data provision requirements for ERS that ensure full reporting of bycatch and mitigation measures used in each fishery; this could occur through other RFMOs (e.g. WCPFC, IOTC) if they have appropriate protocols in place for ERS data reporting. ▪ Assess how well the mitigation measures adopted by other area-based RFMOs mitigate the risks caused by fishing ▪ Where necessary, identify and adopt additional mitigation measures to manage risk taking into account the coordination and harmonization with other RFMOs <p>(ii) Coordination and harmonization with area-based RFMOs, including on data reporting (see above)</p>
<p>4.2 Predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock are monitored</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p>	<p>(i) Instruct the ERSWG to monitor predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock and report its findings to the Commission</p>
5. Allocation	
<p>5.1 The global TAC is allocated amongst members, including new members, in accordance with Article 8(4) of the Convention</p> <p>Priority: Medium/high</p>	<p>(i) Implement existing decisions of the CCSBT that impact upon member allocations</p> <p>(ii) Establish principles for allocation to members, following Article 8(4) of the Convention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop options (based on Convention text) for long term allocation arrangements for all Members, including new members, and apply to TAC increases or decreases

6 Flexible management arrangements	
<p>6.1 The SBT resource is harvested efficiently, and members and cooperating non-members have incentives to comply with TACs</p> <p>Priority: Low/Medium</p>	<p>(i) In the longer term, implement flexible management arrangements such as quota trading and under and over fishing rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a framework to provide for underfishing and respond to low levels of overfishing (could be considered as part of the rules for a 3 year block quota under the MP) ▪ Develop a framework for quota trading between members and cooperating non-members; this might be contingent on stock size reaching an agreed level ▪ Decide on and implement framework
<p>6.2 SBT fishing capacity is commensurate with fishing opportunities</p> <p>Priority: Low/Medium</p>	<p>(i) Assess capacity in the fishery in relation to available catches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flag state/fishing entity self assessment of capacity with respect to national allocations ▪ Flag state/fishing entity to take corrective action if required ▪ Develop proposal for a CCSBT active vessel list to be managed by the Secretariat ▪ Assess threats to SBT from over capacity in other fleets ▪ International advocacy for capacity constraint/ management
<p>6.3 Members are able to optimise the value they obtain from harvesting SBT</p> <p>Priority: Low</p>	<p>(i) Analysis of maximum economic yield (MEY, which occurs at the catch or effort level that maximises profits for the fishery as a whole, while recognising the different harvest strategies of each member; in the context of current stock status this would be a long term goal)</p> <p>(ii) Evaluation of harvest strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluate alternative harvest strategies to optimise returns from the SBT stock including the adoption of maximum economic yield as the rebuilding reference point ▪ Distribute benefits of yield increases once stock is rebuilt

B. Goals concerning Operation and Administration of the Commission and Secretariat	
Goals	Strategies
7. Operation of the Commission	
<p>7.1 The Commission is running effectively and efficiently</p> <p>Priority: High</p>	<p>(i) Streamline Commission processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify ways to streamline Commission processes (including annual and subsidiary meetings) <p>(ii) Deepen the involvement of chairperson and vice-chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider appointing Chairperson and vice-chairperson for a period of two years with the opportunity for a further 2 years, but maintain the rotation of meeting venue <p>(iii) Coordinate services amongst regional fisheries management organisations (e.g. transshipment management, management of ERS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Instruct the Secretariat to identify opportunities for services to be coordinated amongst regional fisheries management organisations and to provide suggestions to the Commission <p>(iv) Undertake Commission performance reviews periodically to routinely assess opportunities for improvements, including both self-assessment and independent reviews</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agree on regular reviews of Commission performance (including timeframes, running and funding of the review, criteria (including any changes proposed through the joint tuna RFMO process), involvement of independent experts, and links between review outcomes and the CCSBT strategic plan)
<p>7.2 The Commission is running in an open and transparent manner</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p>	<p>(i) Clearly document the reasons for decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement a rule that the Commission must clearly document the rationale for decisions, including where they differ from the science advice provided to the Commission <p>(ii) Continue with open publication of Commission documents in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of CCSBT</p> <p>(iii) Continue to allow access to observers in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of CCSBT</p>
<p>7.3 Modern fisheries management standards (e.g. precautionary principle, ecosystem management) are incorporated into the Commission's decisions</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p>	<p>(i) Review Convention text (if member/s propose such negotiations) and/or incorporate through decisions of the Commission e.g. in adopting management procedure; measures to manage ERS (noting the latter option may be more efficient)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set parameters for the management procedure that ensure the precautionary principle is applied and ecosystem management is incorporated ▪ Task the SC with incorporating standards (precautionary, ecosystem) into its advice to the Commission ▪ Review decisions of the Commission to ensure standards are incorporated <p>(ii) Clarify the ongoing role of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG), including to ensure modern fisheries management standards are incorporated into the Commission's decision making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clearly define the on-going role of the SFMWG ▪ Include provision in the SFMWG's terms of reference for incorporating modern fisheries management standards into its advice to the Commission

C. Goals concerning participation and implementation by Members

Goals	Strategies
8. Monitoring, control, and surveillance	
<p>8.1 Integrated, targeted and cost-effective monitoring, control and surveillance measures are in place to ensure the Commission's goals are met</p> <p>Priority: High</p>	<p>(i) Implementation by Members of agreed MCS measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a checklist of the Commission's conservation and management measures and audit members against the checklist at the compliance committee to obtain accurate data on all fisheries (2009 onwards) ▪ Adopt standards and procedures to ensure data integrity (e.g. certain percentage of complete correct documentation accompanying landings and export/ domestic sales; certain percentage of inspection) (2009 or 2010 annual meeting) <p>(ii) Develop and implement an MCS strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess the necessity of additional MCS measures and/or improvement of agreed MCS measures to meet Commission objectives (e.g. eliminate unreported catch and have accurate verified data) (at 2010 annual meeting) ▪ Identify any gaps between MCS measures in place and any improvements or additional measures required ▪ Develop a plan for implementing any changes needed <p>(iii) Strengthen efforts by all Members and Cooperating Non-Members to ensure sufficient compliance at each stage of SBT fisheries, from catch grounds to markets, including transshipment, farming and trade (from 2011 and onwards)</p> <p>(iv) Monitoring of any expansion of SBT markets, including through reviewing SBT trade data (2011 onwards)</p> <p>(v) Adoption an implementation of data confidentiality rules to facilitate the exchange of compliance data</p> <p>(vi) Consider appointment of a dedicated compliance officer to the staff of the Secretariat or an alternative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conduct analyses of MCS data submitted to the Secretariat, and report, on an annual basis, trends in MCS data • To assess the effectiveness of existing MCS measures based on data submitted to the Secretariat • To manage and monitor the CCSBT's compliance initiatives

9. Members' obligations	
<p>9.1 All Members comply with rules of CCSBT</p> <p>Priority: High</p>	<p>(i) Routinely audit members' implementation, enforcement, and compliance with conservation and management measures and international obligations as they relate to CCSBT (e.g. UN Fishstocks Agreement)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See above (8.1) <p>(ii) Establish fair, transparent and non-discriminatory procedures for penalties (e.g. payback of overcatch, quota reduction) and incentives to promote compliance</p>
10. Supporting developing countries	
<p>10.1 Developing country members and cooperating non-members are able to comply with the Commission's management measures and other requirements</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p>	<p>(i) Develop programme to assist developing countries with Commission requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with developing country members and cooperating non-members to identify areas where assistance would be beneficial to ensure they meet obligations under Commission decisions ▪ Identify ways in which assistance may be provided (e.g. up-skilling, secondments, workshops etc) ▪ Develop and implement a programme to assist developing countries with Commission requirements
11. Participation in the CCSBT	
<p>11.1 Ensure that all states and Regional Economic Integration Organisations (REIOs) and entities catching SBT are engaged in the cooperative management of SBT.</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p>	<p>(i) Develop mechanisms for extending CCSBT Membership to REIOs, including consideration of membership to the Extended Commission.</p> <p>(ii) Define processes for those seeking cooperating non-member or membership status to the CCSBT.</p>
<p>11.2 Encourage the cooperation of port and market States with CCSBT's objectives and management arrangements</p> <p>Priority: High</p>	<p>(i) Establish a process for identifying non-member States that have, or are likely to become, important port States or market states for SBT, and seek the cooperation of such States with the implementation of CCSBT management measures.</p>

3. Action plan

(Items underway in 2010 are marked with “⇒”. Items completed by 2010 are marked with “✓”)

Priority			Short term		Medium term		Long term
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
A) MANAGEMENT OF SBT							
1	Re-building SBT						
1.1(i&ii)	Adopt a target (B_{MSY}) and an interim rebuilding target reference point (20% of SSB_0) (✓), with timeframe & desired probabilities (⇒)	Very High	⇒				
1.1(iii)	Set limits below which stock size should not be allowed to fall (✓), and strategies for managing if limits are breached (⇒)	Very High	⇒				
2	Sound scientific basis for setting TAC						
2.1(i)	Review parameters & decision rules for candidate management procedures (MPs) to ensure they will contribute to meeting management objectives	High	⇒				
2.1(i)	Develop candidate MPs & adopt preferred candidate	High	⇒				
2.1(ii)	Use MP as input to setting global TAC	Very High					
2.1(iii)	Review of stock and fishery indicators (annual)	Very High					
2.1(iii)	In depth stock assessment (every 3 years)	Very High					

3	Quality & provision of scientific advice		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
3.1(i)	Reinforce the role of the Compliance Committee so that the Commission can obtain accurate data on all fisheries	Very High	✓				
3.1(ii)	Adoption & implementation of common standard/procedure for scientific data verification	Very High					
3.1(iii)	Set confidentiality rules & other relevant rules for commercially confidential scientific data	Very High	✓				
3.1(iii)	Agree on data provision rules that ensure members report accurate & complete data on all sources of mortality for SBT	Very High	⇒				
3.1(iv)	Explore the possibility of developing an ROP, and if appropriate, develop a program for all SBT fisheries	High					
3.2(i)	Maintain the independent chairs & advisory panel for the scientific process, but periodically review the number & skill sets of independent experts (as required)	Medium	⇒				
3.2(ii)	Develop a CCSBT research plan	High					
3.2(ii)	Implementation of CCSBT 5 year research plan	High					
3.2(ii)	Implement necessary scientific research by Commission and/or members	Medium	⇒				

4	Ecologically related species		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
4.1(i)	All members implement the Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on ERS of Fishing for SBT	High	⇒				
4.1(i)	Review the implementation of the Recommendations on ERS	Medium	⇒				
4.1(i)	Agree on and implement data provision requirements for ERS that ensure full reporting of bycatch & mitigation measures used in each fishery	High					
4.1(i)	Assess how well the mitigation measures adopted by other area-based RFMOs mitigate the risks caused by fishing	Medium					
4.1(i)	Identify & adopt additional mitigation measures to manage risk taking into account the coordination & harmonization with other RFMOs (where necessary)	Medium					
4.1(ii)	Coordination & harmonization with area-based RFMOs, including on data reporting	Medium	⇒				
4.2(i)	Instruct the ERSWG to monitor predator & prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock & report its findings to the Commission	Medium					
5	Allocation						
5.1(i)	Implement existing decisions of the CCSBT that impact upon member allocations	Medium	✓				
5.1(ii)	Establish principles for allocation to members	Medium					
5.1(ii)	Develop options for long term allocation arrangements for all members including new Members, and apply to TAC increases or decreases	Medium					

6	Flexible management arrangements		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
6.1(i)	Develop a framework to provide for underfishing and respond to low levels of overfishing	Low	⇒				
6.1(i)	Develop a framework for quota trading between members & cooperating non-members	Low					
6.1(i)	Decide on and implement framework	Low					
6.2(i)	Flag state/fishing entity self assessment of capacity with respect to national allocations	Low					
6.2(i)	Flag state/fishing entity to take corrective action (if required)	Low					
6.2(i)	Develop proposal for CCSBT active vessel list to be managed by the Secretariat	Low	✓				
6.2(i)	Assess threats to SBT from over-capacity in other fleets	Low					
6.2(i)	International advocacy for capacity constraint/management	Low					
6.3(i)	Analysis of MEY	Low					
6.3(ii)	Evaluate alternative harvest strategies to optimise returns from the SBT stock including the adoption of MEY as the rebuilding reference point	Low					
6.3(ii)	Distribute benefits of yield increases once stock is rebuilt						

B) OPERATION & ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMISSION & SECRETARIAT							
7	Operation of the Commission		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
7.1(i)	Identify ways to streamline Commission processes	High	✓				
7.1(ii)	Consider appointing Chairperson & Vice-chairperson for a period of 2 years with the opportunity for a further 2 years, but maintain the rotation of meeting venue	High	✓				
7.1(iii)	Instruct the Secretariat to identify opportunities for services to be coordinated amongst RFMOs & to provide suggestions to the Commission	High					
7.1(iv)	Agree on regular reviews of Commission performance (every 5 years)	High					
7.2(i)	Implement a rule that the Commission must clearly document the rationale for decisions, including where they differ from the science advice provided to the Commission	Medium	✓				
7.2(ii)	Continue with open publication of Commission documents in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of CCSBT	Medium	⇒				
7.2(iii)	Continue to allow access to observers in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of CCSBT	Medium	⇒				
7.3(i)	Set parameters for the management procedure that ensure the precautionary approach is applied & ecosystem management is incorporated	Medium	⇒				

7.3(i)	Task the SC with incorporating modern fisheries management standards into its advice to the Commission	Medium	✓				
7.3(i)	Review decisions of the Commission to ensure modern fisheries management standards are incorporated into the Commission's decisions	Medium					
7.3(ii)	Clearly define the ongoing role of the SFMWG	Medium					
7.3(ii)	Include provision of the SFMWG's terms of reference for incorporating modern fisheries management standards into its advice to the Commission	Medium					
C) PARTICIPATION & IMPLEMENTATION BY MEMBERS							
8	Monitoring, control & surveillance		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
8.1(i)	Develop a checklist of the Commission's conservation & management measures	High	✓				
8.1(i)	Audit members against the checklist at the Compliance Committee to obtain accurate data on all fisheries	High	⇒				
8.1(i)	Adopt standards & procedures to ensure data integrity	High	⇒				
8.1(ii)	Assess the necessity of additional MCS measures and/or improvement of agreed MCS measures to meet Commission objectives	High	⇒				
8.1(ii)	Identify any gaps between MCS measures in place and any improvements or additional measures required	High	⇒				
8.1(ii)	Develop a plan for implementing any changes needed	High	⇒				

			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
8.1(ii)	Implement identified MCS measures	High	⇒				
8.1 (iii)	Strengthen efforts by all members and cooperating non-members to ensure sufficient compliance at each stage of SBT fisheries, from catch grounds to markets, including transshipment, farming and trade	High					
8.1 (iv)	Monitoring of any expansion of SBT markets, including through reviewing SBT trade data	High					
8.1 (v)	Adoption and implementation of data confidentiality rules to facilitate the exchange of compliance data	High					
8.1 (vi)	Consider appointment of a dedicated compliance officer to the Secretariat	High					
9	Members' obligations						
9.1(i)	Audit members' implementation, enforcement & compliance with conservation & management measures and international obligations as they relate to CCSBT (link 8.1(i))	High	⇒				
9.1(ii)	Establish fair, transparent & non-discriminatory procedures for penalties & incentives to promote compliance	High					

10	Supporting developing countries		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
10.1(i)	Work with developing country members & cooperating non-members to identify areas where assistance would be beneficial to ensure they meet obligations under Commission decisions	Medium	⇒				
10.1(i)	Identify ways in which assistance may be provided	Medium	⇒				
10.1(i)	Develop & implement a programme to assist developing countries with Commission requirements	Medium					
11	Participation in the CCSBT						
11.1	Ensure that all states and Regional Economic Integration Organisations (REIOs) and entities catching SBT are engaged in the cooperative management of SBT	Medium		Consider Membership to EC		Consider Membership to Commission	
11.2	Establish a process for identifying non-member States that have, or are likely to become, important port States or market states for SBT, and seek the cooperation of such States with the implementation of CCSBT management measures.	High					