



CCSBT-CC/1710/16

Transshipment Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the WCPFC

1. Introduction

During 2016, a Transshipment Memorandum of Cooperation¹ (MoC) was agreed by both the CCSBT and the WCPFC². The MoC provides for observed High Seas transshipments involving SBT to be carried out within the WCPFC Convention Area.

The MoC was signed by the WCPFC Chair on 18 April 2017 and then by the CCSBT Chair on 5 June 2017³, which was as soon as possible after the CCSBT Chair was nominated. A copy of the agreed and signed MoC is provided for reference at **Attachment A**.

The CCSBT Secretariat has commenced working with the WCPFC Secretariat on developing the systems and processes necessary to operationalise the Transshipment MoC. However, as this work is still in progress, the MoC cannot yet be implemented. Background information and a progress update with regard to implementation is provided below.

2. Background

During 2016 the CCSBT and WCPFC Secretariats worked collaboratively to prepare and agree on the text of a draft proposed Transshipment MoC. This draft was provided to the Twelfth Regular Session of the WCPFC's Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) in September 2016. TCC recommended it for consideration at WCPFC13 without amendment.

It was also provided to the Eleventh Meeting of the CCSBT's Compliance Committee (CC11) for its consideration. CC11 generally supported the MoC and agreed that this support was conditional on no subsequent amendments being made to the MoC by the WCPFC, and on the CCSBT's Extended Commission (EC) agreeing to a related change to paragraph 37 of the CCSBT's Transshipment Resolution. CCSBT's EC agreed the MoC and the associated change to paragraph 37 of the Transshipment Resolution. The WCPFC then also agreed the proposed MoC (without modification) on 9 December 2016.

3. Progress Update

Following CCSBT 23, the CCSBT and WCPFC Secretariats continued communication regarding the Transshipment MoC.

During February 2017, the CCSBT Secretariat provided the WCPFC Secretariat with a high-level summary of items that would likely need to be considered before implementation could occur, including observer training and deployment arrangements, reporting requirements, revision of any associated key documents, and potential associated costs. The WCPFC Secretariat then provided comments and feedback in relation to these items.

¹ Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on the Endorsement of WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Observers for Observing Transshipments of Southern Bluefin Tuna on the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area

² The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

³ 5 June 2017 is also the date the MoC came into effect

During the second half of 2017, and following a request from the WCPFC Secretariat, the CCSBT Secretariat produced a draft summary document identifying key data elements to be collected and/or reports to be produced by WCPFC ROP observers that are assigned/endorsed to observe High Seas transshipments involving SBT within the WCPFC Convention Area⁴. This information exchange will assist with discussions on whether there are any specific observer training materials that need to be developed prior to implementation of the MoC, and the extent to which specific observer training courses might need to be considered.

4. Next Steps

Following CCSBT 24, it will become a priority for the CCSBT Secretariat to continue working with the WCPFC Secretariat to establish the systems and processes necessary to implement the agreed MoC as soon as possible.

Prepared by the Secretariat

⁴ This item is relevant with respect to paragraph 4 of the MoC