



CCSBT-CC/1810/18

## **Update on CCSBT's Compliance Relationships with the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (IMCSN), the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN), (Inter-)Governmental Bodies and Other Organisations**

### **1. Introduction**

This paper updates Members on developments regarding its compliance relationships with the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (IMCSN), the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN), and RFBs<sup>1</sup>/ RFMOs<sup>2</sup>, including the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), as well as INTERPOL, the UK Government's Marine Management Organisation (MMO), the French government agency CROSS<sup>3</sup>, the government port authorities of Mauritius<sup>4</sup> and Singapore<sup>5</sup>, the South African-based observer coordinating agency CapFish and CSIRO<sup>6</sup>.

### **2. Relationship with the IMCSN**

The IMCSN is a non-profit and informal organisation, established to facilitate bilateral and multilateral co-operation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and associated activities. The CCSBT became a member of the IMCSN in November 2013.

### **3. Meeting of the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN)**

The CCSBT's Compliance Manager attended the second meeting of the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN) which was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands during late March 2018<sup>7</sup> and was hosted by the FFA. Officers responsible for compliance from all tuna RFMOs as well as from the NPFC<sup>8</sup> attended. The focus of this meeting was on data management and data reporting for compliance and therefore tRFMO Data Managers, including from the WCPFC's science provider (the SPC), also attended. The CCSBT's Compliance Manager was elected as the TCN Chairperson until the next meeting.

In the months immediately following its Honiara meeting, the TCN finalised its meeting report and also updated its 'living' Workplan which serves to guide its work until its next meeting.

A third meeting of the TCN involving officers responsible for compliance in tRFMOs and their Compliance Committee Chairs, is proposed to be held in Bangkok on 23 - 24 February

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<sup>1</sup> Regional Fisheries Bodies

<sup>2</sup> Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

<sup>3</sup> Centre Régional Opérationnel de Surveillance et de Sauvetage

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, Mauritius

<sup>5</sup> Fisheries & Port Management Department, Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore

<sup>6</sup> Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (Australia)

<sup>7</sup> A copy of the meeting report can be found at:

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/common\\_oceans/docs/TCN2ndWorkshopReport.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/common_oceans/docs/TCN2ndWorkshopReport.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> North Pacific Fisheries Commission

2019, immediately following and partially in conjunction with the IMCSN's 6<sup>th</sup> Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW). As in 2018, it is envisaged that the majority of the participation costs for this meeting will be funded by the Common Oceans Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Tuna Project via the IMCSN.

The TCN is currently supported by the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project<sup>9</sup> until June 2019 and is hosted within the IMCSN. New funding sources will need to be sought to continue operation of the TCN beyond this timeframe.

#### **4. Relationship with RFBs/RFMOs**

##### ***ICCAT and IOTC***

As well as having the opportunity to meet the ICCAT and IOTC Secretariat's compliance managers at the TCN in March 2017, the CCSBT has had regular routine interactions with both the ICCAT and IOTC Secretariat compliance personnel since CC12, primarily concerning the shared transshipment observer programme for transshipments at sea involving SBT.

Between July to September 2018 in particular, there has also been excellent cooperation with the IOTC Secretariat concerning potential illegal fishing activities involving SBT.

##### ***WCPFC and Associated Bodies***

A Transshipment Memorandum of Cooperation<sup>10</sup> (MoC) with WCPFC was signed by both the CCSBT and WCPFC Chairs during 2017.

The CCSBT Secretariat has continued working with the WCPFC Secretariat on identifying potential options to operationalise the Transshipment MoC. This work involved liaising with the WCPFC Compliance Manager during the margins of TCN and travelling to Brisbane in August 2018 to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Data Collection Committee (DCC). The DCC was organised by the FFA and the Pacific Community (SPC) and also attended by two Members of the WCPFC Secretariat and by personnel from the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO). In addition, the Compliance Manager met with a representative of MRAG Asia-Pacific while in Brisbane. Further information on this item is provided in paper CCSBT-CC/1810/17.

#### **5. INTERPOL**

The CCSBT's Compliance Manager visited INTERPOL's Singapore office in October 2017<sup>11</sup> and met with some of the team from the then 'Project Scale'. INTERPOL reciprocated by visiting CCSBT's office in August 2018 and brief discussions were held regarding how the two organisations might be able to cooperate and assist one another. INTERPOL has recently assisted the Secretariat with advice regarding an alleged illegal fishing situation involving SBT.

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<sup>9</sup> The ABNJ Tuna Project funded the majority of the participation costs for this meeting

<sup>10</sup> 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

<sup>11</sup> This visit was conducted on return from CCSBT 24 which was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

## **6. Government Port Authorities, CapFish and CSIRO**

During August 2018, while following up on reports of alleged transshipments of unreported SBT, the Secretariat contacted both the Mauritian and Singaporean governments' port authorities<sup>4,5</sup> to seek their cooperation to potentially organise a port inspection of the carrier vessel of concern.

The Secretariat received positive responses from both government agencies, but the vessel concerned eventually steamed to Singapore. The Secretariat wishes to acknowledge the excellent cooperation received from Singapore during this time, which included monitoring the vessel as it approached port and exploring options to organise a routine inspection. Unfortunately, the vessel was not in port long enough for a routine inspection to proceed.

The Secretariat also takes this opportunity to acknowledge the cooperation of CapFish (observer coordinators) as well as CSIRO in offering to make available DNA fixing and tissue sampling kits.

## **7. Blue Belt Programme, Marine Management Organisation (MMO), UK**

Over the past year, CCSBT's Compliance Manager has been in regular contact with compliance personnel from the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme (which is administered by the MMO) and supports delivery of the UK Government's commitment to enhance marine protection of marine environment across UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) including Ascension Island, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory and Pitcairn.

The Secretariat has been liaising with personnel from the Blue Belt Programme with regard to queries about 'dark vessels' allegedly fishing near known authorised vessels of the SBT fleet and close to (and potentially inside) the EEZ of Tristan da Cunha which could potentially be catching SBT.

**Prepared by the Secretariat**