

**Australia 2018**

**Annual Report to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission**

*(Revised as agreed at CC12 following CCSBT 24)*

*If there are multiple SBT fisheries, with different rules and procedures applying to the different fisheries, it may be easier to complete this template separately for each fishery. Alternatively, please ensure that the information for each fishery is clearly differentiated within the single template.*

*This template sometimes seeks information on a quota year basis. Those Members/CNMs that have not specified a quota year to the CCSBT (i.e. the EU), should provide the information on a calendar year basis. Within this template, the quota year (or calendar year for those without a quota year) is referred to as the “fishing season”. Unless otherwise specified, information should be provided for the most recently completed fishing season. Members and CNMs are encouraged to also provide preliminary information for the current fishing season where the fishing for that season is complete or close to complete.*

**Table of Contents**

I. Summary of MCS Improvements.....	2
(1) Improvements achieved in the current fishing season.....	2
(2) Future planned improvements .....	2
(3) Implementation of the common CCSBT definition for the “Attributable SBT Catch” .....	2
II. SBT Fishing and MCS Arrangements.....	3
(1) Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna.....	3
(2) SBT Towing and transfer to and between farms (farms only) .....	8
(3) SBT Transshipment (in port and at sea).....	12
(4) Port Inspections of Foreign FVs/CVs with SBT/ SBT Products on Board .....	13
(5) Landings of Domestic Product (from both fishing vessels and farms).....	14
(6) SBT Exports.....	15
(7) SBT Imports .....	17
(8) SBT Markets .....	18
(9) Other .....	18
III. Additional Reporting Requirements.....	19
(1) Coverage and Type of CDS Audit undertaken .....	19
(2) Ecologically Related Species.....	19
(3) Historical SBT Catch (retained and non-retained) .....	25
Attachment A - Report of CCSBT 21 .....	27
Attachment B - CCSBT Authorised Vessel Resolution.....	28
Appendix 1 – Systematic verification of catch Farm Sector .....	26
Appendix 2 – Systematic verification of catch Longline Sector.....	26

## I. Summary of MCS Improvements

### **(1) Improvements achieved in the current fishing season**

*Provide details of MCS improvements achieved for the current fishing season.*

During the reporting period, Australia achieved the following:

- monitored and addressed prioritised risks in relation to commercial vessels for 2017 to 2019 as identified by Australia's National Compliance and Enforcement Program;
- ongoing utilisation of on-board camera technology (electronic monitoring) in longline tuna fisheries to validate logbook reporting;
- ongoing assessment of the viability of stereo video technology for use in the farm sector;
- ongoing implementation of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSM Agreement);
- consistent with the MOU between CCSBT and WCPFC, sharing information on suspected unregulated fishing of SBT in the WCPFC area of competence.

### **(2) Future planned improvements**

*Describe any MCS improvements that are being planned for future fishing seasons and the expected implementation date for such improvements.*

Australia is progressing the implementation of electronic log book reporting across a number of its fisheries. Electronic log book reporting will be mandatory for all operators in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) from 1 January 2019.

### **(3) Implementation of the common CCSBT definition for the “Attributable SBT Catch”**

*CCSBT 21 agreed on a common definition of the Attributable SBT Catch. Further, it agreed to implement this common definition as soon as practicable, but not later than the 2018 quota year. Members should report on progress on the action points for implementing the Attributable SBT catch as specified in Table 1 at paragraph 53 of the CCSBT 21 report (provided here as Attachment A).*

Australia is not aware of SBT catch in Australia that could be characterised as customary, traditional or artisanal fishing for SBT at this time. This report provides information on Australia's commercial catch of SBT.

At CCSBT24, Australia advised that it would set aside an amount of 250t annually to account for recreational catch. Australia noted that it would also settle agreements with relevant states on resource sharing and management, implement a program to educate recreational fishers on SBT and fish handling practices, and commence a national survey of recreational catch in 2018.

During 2018 a contract to undertake the recreational fishing survey has been signed and the survey will commence in December 2018. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with relevant states is being developed that will form the basis of recreational fishing management arrangements for SBT. A recreational fisher communication and education program—‘Tuna Champions’—commenced in July 2018.

## II. SBT Fishing and MCS Arrangements

### **(1) Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna**

(a) Specify the number of vessels that caught SBT in each sector (e.g. authorised commercial longline, authorised commercial purse seine, authorised commercial charter fleet, authorised domestic fleet) during the previous 3 fishing seasons.

Fishing Season (e.g. 2011/12)	Sector 1 (Farm sector)	Sector 2 (Longline sector)	Sector 3 (Minorline sector)
	Number of vessels	Number of vessels	Number of vessels
2014/15	5	20	2
2015/16	6	19	6
2016/2017	6	16	6

(b) Specify the historic national SBT allocation, together with any carry-forward of unfished allocation and the total SBT catch counted against the national allocation (Attributable Catch) during the 3 previous fishing seasons. All figures should be provided in tonnes. Some CCSBT Members use slightly different definitions for the catch that is counted against the allocation, so in the space below the table, clearly define the catch that has been counted against the national allocation:-

Fishing Season (e.g. 2011/12)	National SBT allocation (t) (excluding carry-forward)	Unfished allocation carried forward to this fishing season (t)	SBT catch counted against the national allocation (t)					
			Sector 1 (Farm sector)		Sector 2 (Longline sector)		Sector 3 (Minorline sector)	
			Domestic allocation	Actual Catch Against Allocation	Domestic allocation	Actual Catch Against Allocation	Domestic allocation	Actual Catch Against Allocation
2012/13	4,713			4,198		341		-
2013/14	5,193	118		5,029		380		10
2014/15	5,665			4,947		571		1
2015/16	5,665	37.7		4,896		733		4
2016/17	5,665	31.6		4,683		649		1.6

1. Australia's national SBT allocation is not divided into domestic allocations per sector.
2. The TAC for the 2014–15 fishing season was reduced by 108 t to account for overcatch of this amount in the 2013–14 season.

(c) Describe the system used for controlling the level of SBT catch. For ITQ and IQ systems, this should include details on how the catch was allocated to individual companies and/or vessels. For competitive catch systems this should include details of the process for authorising vessels to catch SBT and how the fishery was monitored for determining when to close the fishery. The description provided here should include any operational constraints on effort (both regulatory and voluntary):-

Australia's Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery (SBTF) is managed through output controls in the form of Individually Transferable Quotas (ITQs) allocated as Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs) under the SBT Plan. Each year, following the annual meeting of the CCSBT, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Commission, as the legislative authority, determines a national Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the Australian domestic SBTF. Under Australia's SBT Management Plan, the TAC must not exceed Australia's allocation as determined by the CCSBT. Operators are entitled to a share of this TAC based on their SFR holdings. SFRs are tradable throughout the fishing season. This TAC applies to the catch of SBT by all commercial methods and is tradable between sectors.

The AFMA Commission determined the TAC for the SBTF for the 2016/17 season as follows:

- 1 December 2016 to 30 November 2017 – 5,665 tonnes.

The value (TAC share) of the SFRs each year takes account of any under-catch or over-catch by the Australian industry in the previous fishing season, subject to the Resolution on Limited Carry-forward of Unfished Annual Total Allowable Catch of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

(d) Provide details of the methods used to monitor catching in the fishery by completing the table below. Details should also be provided of monitoring conducted of fishing vessels when steaming away from the fishing grounds (this does not include towing vessels that are reported in Section 2).

Monitoring Methods	Description
<p><i>Additional reporting methods (such as real time monitoring programs)</i></p>	<p><i>If multiple reporting methods exists (e.g. daily, weekly and/or month SBT catch reporting, reporting of tags and SBT measurements, reporting of ERS interactions etc), create a separate row of in this table for each method. Then, for each method, specify:</i></p> <p><i>i. Whether this was mandatory. If not, specify the % of SBT fishing that was covered:-</i></p> <p>In addition to mandatory logbooks, SFR holders in the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF are also required to complete and provide further mandatory documentation including the following Catch Disposal Records (CDRs) and CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) forms:</p> <p><b><u>Farm sector</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Farm Catch Disposal Record Purse Seine Boat (SBT02) – for purse seine boats;</i></li> <li>• <i>Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Farm Catch Disposal Record (SBT04B) – for farms;</i></li> <li>• <i>Southern Bluefin Tuna Purse seine and pole daily log (TPB03);</i></li> <li>• <i>CCSBT Catch Tagging Form (CTAU02A);</i></li> <li>• <i>CCSBT Farm Stocking Form (FSAU02);</i></li> <li>• <i>CCSBT Farm Transfer Form (FTAU02);</i></li> <li>• <i>CCSBT Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C);</i></li> <li>• <i>CCSBT Re-Export/Export After Landing of Domestic Product (REAU02).</i></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Longline sector</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Commonwealth Pelagic Fisheries Catch Disposal Record (PT02B);</i></li> <li>• <i>CCSBT Catch Tagging Form (CTAU02A);</i></li> <li>• <i>CCSBT Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C);</i></li> <li>• <i>CCSBT Re-Export/Export After Landing of Domestic Product (REAU02).</i></li> </ul> <p>Further information on this documentation is provided in Sections 2 and 5. Schematics detailing the systematic verification of catch data for SBT and Ecologically Related Species (ERS) for each sector (farm and longline) are provided at Appendices 1 and 2.</p> <p><i>ii. The information that was recorded (including whether it relates to SBT or ERS):-</i> The information collected relates to SBT. Further details are provided in Sections 2 and 5.</p> <p><i>iii. Who the reports were submitted to and by whom (e.g. Vessel Master, the Fishing Company etc):-</i> Reports are submitted by SFR holders directly to AFMA.</p> <p><i>iv. What was the timeframe and method for submission:-</i> <u>Reports are submitted to AFMA using email, facsimile or surface mail.</u></p> <p><b><u>Farm sector</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBT02 – must be submitted within 24 hours of tow commencing;</li> <li>• SBT04B – must be submitted within 24 hours of completion of all parts of the form;</li> <li>• CTAU02A – must be submitted within three business days of the final harvest;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSAU02 – must be submitted within three business days of form being completed;</li> <li>• FTAU02 – must be submitted within three business days of final fish;</li> <li>• CMAU02C – must be submitted within three business days of fish being harvested/landed;</li> <li>• REAU02 – must be submitted within three business days of fish being re-exported.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Longline sector</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PT02B – must be submitted within three business days of fish being unloaded;</li> <li>• CTAU02A – must be submitted within three business days of fish being unloaded;</li> <li>• CMAU02C – must be submitted within three business days of fish being unloaded;</li> <li>• REAU02 – must be submitted within three business days of fish being re-exported</li> </ul> <p>v. <i>The type of checking and verification that was routinely conducted for this information:-</i></p> <p><b><u>Farm Sector</u></b></p> <p>At the end of each fishing season, all farming companies are audited by AFMA. Further information on these audits is provided in Section 2.</p> <p><b><u>Longline Sector</u></b></p> <p>At the end of each fishing season, all Commonwealth fish receivers/processors that have received SBT are audited by AFMA. Further information on these audits is provided in Section 5. Schematics detailing the systematic verification of catch data for SBT and ERS for each sector (farm and longline) are provided at Appendices 1 and 2.</p> <p>vi. <i>Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-</i> As with logbooks above, the same offences and penalties apply with respect to CDRs and CCSBT CDS documents under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i> (FM Act).</p> <p>vii. <i>Other relevant information:</i></p>																																
Scientific Observers	<p><i>Specify:</i></p> <p>i. <i>The percentage of the SBT catch and effort observed and the total number of days that observers were actually deployed for in the three previous seasons for each sector (e.g. longline, purse seine, commercial charter fleet, domestic fleet). The unit of effort should be hooks, sets and tows for longline, purse seine and towing respectively:-</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="440 1653 1353 1921"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Fishing Season <i>(e.g. 2011/12)</i></th> <th colspan="2"><b>Sector 1 (Farm sector)</b></th> <th rowspan="2">Obs. days deployed</th> <th colspan="2"><b>Sector 2 (Longline sector)</b></th> <th rowspan="2">Obs. days deployed</th> </tr> <tr> <th>% effort obs.</th> <th>% catch obs.</th> <th>% effort obs.</th> <th>% catch obs.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>9.1</td> <td>19.9</td> <td>38*</td> <td>5.9</td> <td>6.5</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/16****</td> <td>18.9</td> <td>20.2</td> <td>55*</td> <td>14.7**</td> <td>15.8**</td> <td>N/A***</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>18.3</td> <td>16.8</td> <td>56*</td> <td>11.3</td> <td>10.4</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* Total days deployed on vessel. Days deployed on which fishing activity was observed was 17, 15 and 11 in the respective years. * *From 1 July 2015 AFMA introduced electronic monitoring (EM) across the ETBF and WTBF fleets; figures derived from EM data.</p>	Fishing Season <i>(e.g. 2011/12)</i>	<b>Sector 1 (Farm sector)</b>		Obs. days deployed	<b>Sector 2 (Longline sector)</b>		Obs. days deployed	% effort obs.	% catch obs.	% effort obs.	% catch obs.	2014/15	9.1	19.9	38*	5.9	6.5	30	2015/16****	18.9	20.2	55*	14.7**	15.8**	N/A***	2016/17	18.3	16.8	56*	11.3	10.4	N/A
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\*\*\*EM provides the potential to monitor 100% of all fishing activities on a vessel. An audit is performed on 10% of the recorded footage, on all vessels, to ensure daily catch reporting (logbooks) is accurate.

\*\*\*\* Note that the data for the farm sector in the 2016/17 season was previously reported for the 2015/16 season in error. This has now been rectified.

#### **Farm sector**

The scientific observer coverage target is 10% of purse seine operations. Australia also endeavours to observe 10% of the tow operations each season. This target is communicated to SFR holders each year in the SBTF farm sector pre-season briefing guide.

#### **Longline sector**

To mitigate potential interactions with SBT while targeting other tuna species in the ETBF, AFMA annually implements a restricted access area (Core Zone) where longline fishing operations are most likely to interact with SBT. Longline operators are required to hold SBT quota in order to operate in the designated zone.

The location and timing of the Core Zone is determined by analysing the available information from a variety of sources including sea surface temperatures, landings data, scientific observer and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data and industry advice.

In the WTBF area, AFMA ensures that longline boats operating in waters east of longitude 129°E are required to have a minimum SBT quota holding of 2000kg.

In mid-2015 AFMA introduced compulsory electronic monitoring (EM) into the ETBF and WTBF fleets. The EM program uses a series of on boat systems, comprising cameras sensors and recorders, ancillary monitoring (port sampling) and data analysis to provide monitoring and observation of fishing activity. EM provides the potential to monitor 100% of fishing activities on each vessel and is used to verify catch data, ensure mitigation measures are employed and record any non-target species interaction. An audit is performed on 10% of the recorded footage to ensure daily catch reporting (logbooks) is accurate.

*ii. The system used for comparisons between observer data and other catch monitoring data in order to verify the catch data:-*

Scientific observers are briefed before each trip and debriefed by AFMA following each trip. Issues identified in these briefings and in observer reports are analysed by AFMA on a case by case basis and may be investigated if necessary.

For longline vessels an audit process is undertaken using EM footage to verify the accuracy of catch data.

*iii. Excluding the coverage, specify whether the observer program complied with the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards. If not, describe the non-compliance. Also indicate whether there was any exchange of observers between countries:-*

The AFMA Observer Program complies with the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards. The AFMA Observer Program has previously used

	<p>scientific observers from other countries however no exchanges have taken place in recent seasons.</p> <p><i>iv. What information on ERS was recorded by observers:-</i> Observer and EM reports include details of daily fishing operations, the mitigation measures employed and any non-target species interactions. In terms of ERS interactions, the number (and weight where appropriate) of each species caught is recorded for each shot observed as well as the life status (alive, dead, injured) and whether it was retained or discarded.</p> <p><i>v. Who were the observer reports submitted to:-</i> Observer reports are submitted to AFMA.</p> <p><i>vi. Timeframe for submission of observer reports:-</i> Observer reports are submitted at the completion of each fishing trip. Data from observer reports is provided to the CCSBT Secretariat by the Australian Government Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES).</p> <p><i>vii. Other relevant information (including plans for further improvement – in particular to reach coverage of 10% of the effort):-</i> Australia has implemented compulsory EM in the ETBF and WTBF and has committed to the future use of EM in these and other fisheries.</p>
<p><i>VMS</i></p> <p><i>The items of “ii” are required in association with the Resolution on establishing the CCSBT Vessel Monitoring System</i></p>	<p><i>Specify:</i></p> <p><i>i. Whether a mandatory VMS for SBT vessels that complies with CCSBT’s VMS resolution was in operation. If not, provide details of non-compliance and plans for further improvement:-</i> Since 1 July 2007, all boats operating in Australia’s Commonwealth fisheries must be fitted with an operational VMS. This includes all boats authorised to take SBT under the SBT Plan, boats that provide support to SBT farming operations (e.g. tow boats) as well as all boats fishing on the high seas under the competence of a regional fisheries management body to which Australia is a party.</p> <p>All vessels that were authorised to fish for SBT and that fished on the high seas were compliant with VMS requirements (no Australian vessels caught SBT on the high seas during this period).</p> <p><i>ii. For the most recently completed fishing season, specify:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The number of its flag vessels on the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List that were required to report to a National VMS system:- 54</i></li> <li>• <i>The number of its flag vessels on the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List that actually reported to a National VMS system:- 54</i></li> <li>• <i>Reasons for any non-compliance with VMS requirements and action taken by the Member:-</i> Not Applicable -All vessels that were authorised to fish for SBT and that fished on the high seas were compliant with VMS requirements.</li> <li>• <i>In the event of a technical failure of a vessel’s VMS, the vessel’s geographical position (latitude and longitude) at the time of failure and the length of time the VMS was inactive should be reported:-</i> Not Applicable</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The procedures used for manual reporting in the event of a VMS failure (e.g. “manual position reporting on a 4 hourly basis”):-</i> In the event that a VMS stops reporting, AFMA contacts the boat’s master and instructs them to manually report their position on a four hourly basis for the duration of the trip. Once a boat returns to port, AFMA requires that the VMS be operational before the boat is allowed to return to sea.</li> <li>• <i>A description of any investigations initiated in accordance with paragraph 3(b) of the CCSBT VMS resolution including progress to date and any actions taken:-</i></li> </ul> <p>Nil</p> <p><i>iii. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-</i> Regulation 9D of the <i>Fisheries Management Regulations 1992</i> (FM Regulations) lists the maximum penalty to be applied in the event of an offence.</p>
<i>At-Sea Inspections</i>	<p><i>Specify:</i></p> <p><i>i. The coverage level of at sea inspections (e.g. % of SBT trips inspected):-</i> Australian fisheries officers conduct inspections of landings at key SBT ports, as well as at sea boardings and inspections of boats taking SBT in the longline and farm sectors.</p> <p>In 2016/17 Australian fisheries officers conducted 17 inspections of SBT/ETBF boats, 16 inspections at sea and 1 inspection in port.</p> <p><i>ii. Other relevant information:-</i> - AFMA conducts a biennial risk assessment process to determine those prioritised areas that require targeted compliance and enforcement activity. This risk assessment process is conducted across major Commonwealth fisheries, including the SBT fishery. Importantly AFMA adopts a structured approach to monitor existing and emerging risks that may require mitigation strategies during this two year period.</p>
<i>Other (use of masthead cameras etc.)</i>	<p>Compulsory EM has been introduced into the ETBF and WTBF fleets. EM provides the potential to monitor 100% of fishing activities on each vessel and is used to verify catch data, ensure mitigation measures are employed and record any non-target species interaction. An audit is performed on 10% of the recorded footage to ensure daily catch reporting (logbooks) is accurate.</p>

*(e) Report on the review of internal actions and measures taken in relation to the authorised vessel requirements provided at Attachment B, including any punitive and sanction actions taken.*

Not Applicable

## **(2) SBT Towing and transfer to and between farms (farms only)**

*(b) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring towing of SBT from the fishing ground to the farming area. This should include details of:*

- i. Observation required for towing of SBT (include % coverage):-*
- ii. Under the SBT Plan, SFR holders must carry a scientific observer on a nominated boat if instructed by AFMA. The scientific observer coverage target is 10% of purse seine operations and 10% of towing operations. This is communicated to SFR holders each year in the SBT farm sector pre-season briefing guide.*

*iii. Monitoring systems for recording losses of SBT (in particular, SBT mortality):-*  
SFR holders are required to progressively record SBT mortalities as follows:

- during catching – in the TPB03 logbook;
- when transferring to a tow boat – in the SBT02 CDR;
- during the tow to a farm – in the SBT03B logbook;
- following final count into farm – in the SBT04B CDR.

(c) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transferring of SBT from tow cages into farms. This should include details of:

i. *Inspection/Observation required for transfer of SBT (include % coverage):-*

AFMA (or its agent) observes and verifies the count and weight estimate for 100% of transfers from tow pontoons into farms. SFR holders are required to record details of each transfer in the SBT04B logbook.

ii. *Monitoring system used for recording the quantity of SBT transferred:-*

SFR holders who capture SBT for farming purposes using purse seine must record daily catch activity in an approved TPB03 logbook. Details to be recorded include date of fishing, search details (including the use of a spotter plane), fishing location, and estimated weight of SBT per shot and, if transferring to a tow pontoon, the carrier boat name and date and weight of transfer. Any interactions with ERS must also be reported. Copies of TPB03 must be forwarded to AFMA on a monthly basis.

On transfer to a tow pontoon, catcher boats must also complete the SBT02 CDR. This form is designed to meet the requirement that operators provide a catch estimate at the start of the tow operation. This form must be faxed to AFMA within 24 hours of the carrier boat commencing the operation to tow the catch to a farm. Information provided must include

- the name of the SFR holder;
- purse seine boat name;
- date and time of last transfer to a tow pontoon;
- tow boat name, pontoon identification;
- estimated total weight of fish transferred to that pontoon; and
- estimated weight of mortalities during each catch and transfer.

AFMA uses this catch estimate to deduct quota from an operator's holdings at the time the estimate is provided, to later be replaced by the estimate obtained from the average weight sample and verified count in the SBT04B CDR.

Tow boats must complete details in the SBT03B logbook. Information to be collected in this book includes details of the permit holder and boat, transfer details including name of purse seine boat, estimate of weight of SBT and a reference to the SBT02 book used and page number, a record of mortalities for each day of the tow operation, and details of transfer of pontoon to another tow boat or to a SBT fish receiver. This form must be updated daily commencing on the day of the first transfer of fish to the tow pontoon or on the day that the permit holder accepts responsibility for towing the tow pontoon from another boat. Separate SBT03B forms must be completed for each tow pontoon if a boat is towing more than one pontoon.

If the tow pontoon is transferred to another carrier boat, AFMA must be notified within 24 hours of the transfer. A separate SBT03B form must be completed by each carrier boat. If the tow pontoon returns immediately to the farm pontoon(s) or when the tow pontoon reaches the farm pontoon(s), the SBT03B form(s) must be completed and forwarded to an AFMA official or agent acting on AFMA's behalf before the transfer of fish into the farm pontoon(s) commences.

A verified count of SBT transferred from each tow pontoon into a farm must be conducted by AFMA or a government contractor (the agent) acting on AFMA's behalf. A weight estimate is obtained for each transfer by sampling at least 100 live fish of 10 kg or greater then multiplying the average weight by the verified number of fish in the transfer. The methods by which the verified count and weight estimate must be conducted are described in Clause 22B of the SBT Plan. The details of the average weight sample and verified count must be recorded in the SBT04B CDR.

The SBT04B CDR is used to determine the number of fish to be deducted from quota. The following information must be recorded by an AFMA official or agent acting on AFMA's behalf: details of the catcher boat, tow boat and tow pontoon identification number (obtained from the SBT02 CDR), a reference to the SBT02 book and page number, mortalities during pursuing, transfer to tow pontoon and tow operations (obtained from the SBT02 CDR), average weight sample from the tow pontoon (obtained through the above counting method), and count of fish transferred from tow pontoon to farm. The number of fish taken from the tow pontoon to obtain the sample of fish of 10 kg or greater must also be recorded. The AFMA official (or agent acting on AFMA's behalf) who carried out the sampling procedure must be identified on the SBT04B CDR. The form must be forwarded to AFMA as soon as it is completed.

The CMAU02C form must accompany all transshipments, landings of domestic products, exports, imports and re-exports of SBT. This form must be completed on catch or harvest of SBT (Catch/Harvest Section), at the point of transshipment or export (Intermediate Product Destination Section), and on receivership of SBT product at its final destination (Final Product Destination Section). AFMA authorises competent authorities to validate and verify CMAU02C forms.

The CTAU02A form must be completed and submitted to AFMA when completing the associated CMAU02B form. Details include the boat or farm name, boat or farm registration number, unique document number of the associated CMAU02C form, CCSBT tag number, weight, fork length, gear code (if applicable), CCSBT statistical area of catch, and month of harvest.

With respect to the REAU02 form, it must be specified whether product is being re-exported or exported after landing of domestic product and whether the document accompanies a full shipment or partial shipment. The form details the port of export, any applicable catch tagging form document numbers, a description of fish from previous CCSBT CDS forms, a description of the fish being exported, the export destination, and final point of importation. AFMA authorises competent authorities to validate and verify REAU02 forms.

AFMA submits FSAU02 and FTAU02 forms to CCSBT. AFMA validates all FSAU02 forms.

*iii. Plans to allow adoption of the stereo video systems for ongoing monitoring:-*

Australia advised at CCSBT20 that it would implement stereo video technology when it is cost-effective and does not pose an excessive regulatory and financial burden on industry, such as through the development of an automated solution.

*(d) For "b" and "c" above, describe the process used for completing, validating<sup>1</sup> and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Farm Stocking Form, Farm Transfer Form):-*

Copies of all documents issued and received by Australia are compiled in an electronic database. This is an effective auditing mechanism which allows AFMA to analyse, identify discrepancies, reconcile and report all CCSBT CDS documents submitted by Australia. These documents are provided to the CCSBT Secretariat on a quarterly basis. All documents required to be submitted by SFR holders in the SBTF are legislative instruments and include the requirements of the CCSBT CDS. These documents are specified in the conditions placed on SFRs.

Further, at the end of each fishing season AFMA conducts an audit of all farming companies. The level 1 audit includes the following:

- monthly breakdowns of receipt and sale of SBT including mortalities;
- verified counts of SBT conducted during transfer from tow pontoons into farms;
- CCSBT CDS figures and domestic sales; and

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<sup>1</sup> Including the class of person who conducts this work (e.g. government official, authorised third party)

- mortalities recorded by the SBT fish receiver.

Each season selected farming companies and wild caught fish receivers also undergo a level 2 audit, aiming to capture in excess of 10% of all commercially landed SBT. This audit includes a full assessment conducted by AFMA officers who review company records which may include spread-sheets, feed boat logs, dive logs, sales and export documentation, including CDS documentation. SFR holders must retain original copies of each CDR and CCSBT CDS documents for five years from the date of completion to meet audit requirements. As part of the level 2 audit, two AFMA officers independently recount all video/DVD recorded by AFMA's agent during the verified count of SBT transferred into those farms included in the audit. The 2015/16 season level 2 audits accounted for approximately 35.1% of SBT received by fish receivers in that season. The 2016/17 season audits are yet to be completed and will account for in excess of 15% of SBT received by fish receivers.

AFMA fisheries officers also conduct targeted compliance operations inspecting fishing boats at sea and in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export establishments. These operations are in addition to AFMA's general program of deterrence across all Commonwealth fisheries. Any incidents of non-compliance are subject to investigation consistent with the Australian Government Investigations Standards.

AFMA has developed a CCSBT CDS handbook for SFR holders in the SBTf, describing the procedures that must be followed to comply with the CDS including the mandatory tagging of whole fish.

Compliance with the CCSBT CDS is monitored in accordance with AFMA's National Compliance and Enforcement Policy. SFR holders must retain original copies of each CDR and CCSBT CDS document for five years from the date of completion to meet audit requirements.

*(e) Other relevant information*

Australia has submitted a list of authorised SBT farms to the CCSBT Secretariat, as required. Australia notifies the Executive Secretary of any addition to, deletion from or modification required to the CCSBT Record of Authorised Farms as soon as this information becomes available. Through its domestic implementation of the CCSBT CDS, Australia has taken measures to not permit landings of domestic product, exports, imports and/or re-exports of SBT into and from farms which are not registered on the CCSBT Record of Authorised Farms.

### **(3) SBT Transhipment (in port and at sea)**

*(a) In accordance with the Resolution on Establishing a Program for Transhipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels, report:*

i. *The quantities of SBT transhipped at sea and in port during the previous fishing season:-*

<b>Fishing Season</b> <i>(e.g. 2011/12)</i>	<b>Percentage of the annual SBT catch transhipped at sea</b>	<b>Percentage of the annual SBT catch transhipped in port</b>
2016/17	NIL	NIL

ii. *The list of the LSTLVs registered in the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List which have transhipped at sea and in port during the previous fishing season:-*

During the reporting period, Australian-flagged boats did not tranship or receive SBT to/from large scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs) with freezing capacity. AFMA has not authorised any Australian-flagged boats to receive at sea transhipments from LSTLVs.

iii. *A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received at-sea transhipments from their LSTLVs during the previous fishing season:-*

N/A

*(b) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transhipments in port. This should include details of:*

i. *Flag State rules for and names of:*

- *designated foreign ports where SBT may be transhipped, and*
- *foreign ports where in-port transhipments of SBT are prohibited:-*

During the reporting period, all SBT product from the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF were landed in Australian ports. Further, Regulation 9I of the FM Regulations requires that all fish must be landed to an AFMA authorised SBT fish receiver. Should an operator of an Australian-flagged boat seek to land Australian SBT product at a foreign port, Australia will notify the CCSBT Executive Secretary of the nominated port.

Australia will notify the Executive Secretary if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that Australian-flagged boats not on the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List are engaged in commercial fishing for and/or transhipment of SBT.

ii. *Flag State inspection requirements for in-port transhipments of SBT (include % coverage):-*

N/A

iii. *Information sharing with designated Port States:-*

In the event that a foreign fishing vessel seeks access to an Australian port to unload or tranship SBT, Australia must issue a port permit (except in cases of force majeure). In addition, landing of fish and fish products by foreign vessels is prohibited unless written approval is given by the Australian Government Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, through the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Information on any inspection or other action that is undertaken is shared with relevant States in accordance with Australian Government legislation, recognising that Australia has ratified the *FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*.

iv. *Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT transhipped:-*

N/A

v. *Process for validating<sup>1</sup> and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, Catch Tagging Form):-*

N/A

vi. *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*

Section 95(5) of the FM Act lists the maximum penalty to be applied in the event of an offence.

vii. *Other relevant information:-*

Nil

(c) *Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transhipments at sea. This should include details of:*

i. *The rules and processes for authorising transhipments of SBT at sea and methods (in addition to the presence of CCSBT transhipment observers) for checking and verifying the quantities of SBT transhipped:-*

Under the SBT Plan, SFR holders must not tranship SBT that is not alive to a boat unless the transhipment is monitored by an officer appointed under the FM Act and acting under direction by AFMA. SBT must not be transhipped to a boat unless the boat is being used by a person who is, or is acting for, the holder of a fishing permit (or foreign fishing licence if applicable) for the SBT that authorises receipt of the transhipped tuna.

ii. *Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT transhipped:-*

N/A

iii. *Process for collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, Catch Tagging Form):-*

N/A

iv. *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*

Section 95(5) of the FM Act lists the maximum penalty to be applied in the event of an offence.

v. *Other relevant information*

Nil

#### **(4) Port Inspections of Foreign FVs/CVs with SBT/SBT Products on Board**

*This section provides for reporting with respect to the CCSBT's Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port. It should be filled out by Port State Members that have authorised foreign Fishing Vessels/Carrier Vessels carrying SBT or SBT products to enter their designated ports for the purpose of landing and/or transhipment. Only information for landings/transhipments of SBT or SBT products that have NOT been previously landed or transhipped at port should be included in the table below.*

i. *Provide a list of designated ports into which foreign FVs/ CVs carrying SBT or SBT product may request entry:-*

Australia allows foreign fishing vessels into its ports and the landing of catch from such vessels only with explicit approval. Applications for port access are considered consistent with AFMA's client service charter.

Australia expects to publicise a list of all designated ports in the near term as part of its implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement.

ii. *Provide the minimum number of hours of notice required for foreign FVs/CVs carrying SBT or SBT product to request authorisation to enter these designated ports:*

Permits are issued on a case by case basis. AFMA's client service charter states that it has up to 7 days to consider an application.

iii. *For the most recent whole calendar year, provide information about the number of landing/transhipment operations that foreign FVs/CVs carrying SBT or SBT product made in port, the*

number of those landing/ transshipment operations that were inspected, and the number of inspections where infringements of CCSBT's measures were detected:-

Calendar Year	Foreign Flag	No. of Landing/ Transshipment Operations (that occurred)	No. of Landing/ Transshipment Operations Inspected	No. of Landing/ Transshipment Operations where an Infringement of CCSBT's Measures was Detected
2017	N/A	NIL	NIL	NIL
	TOTAL NUMBER			

**(5) Landings of Domestic Product (from both fishing vessels and farms)**

(a) Specify the approximate percentage of the annual SBT catch that was landed as domestic product.

During the reporting period, 100% of SBT product from the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF was landed as domestic product in Australian ports.

(b) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring domestic landings of SBT. This should include details of:

i. Rules for designated ports of landing of SBT:-

SBT product from the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF can be landed in any Australian port. Boats are monitored through VMS and may be inspected upon arrival in port.

ii. Inspections required for landings of SBT (including % coverage):-

Australian fisheries officers monitor SBT landings at key ports, as well as undertake at sea inspections of boats taking SBT in the longline and purse seine fisheries. In 2016/17 Australian fisheries officers conducted 17 inspections of SBT/ETBF boats, 16 inspections at sea and 1 inspections in port.

iii. Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being landed as a different species:-

Australia is not a range State for Pacific bluefin tuna which is the species most commonly mistaken for SBT. All bluefin tuna caught in the ETBF or WTBF are deemed as Southern Bluefin Tuna unless the SFR holder proves otherwise through genetic testing or exports the fish to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market and it is deemed to be a Pacific Bluefin Tuna on the sales documentation.

iv. Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT landed:-

The below information relates to the longline sector. Please refer to Section 2 and Appendix 1 for details on the landings of domestic product from the farm sector.

SFR holders who capture SBT for non-farming purposes using pelagic longline, purse seine or pole must record daily catch activity in an AL06, PS01A or TPB01 logbook, respectively. Details to be recorded include date of fishing, fishing location and estimates of weight of SBT discarded/retained. Any interactions with ERS must also be recorded.

The PT02B CDR is for recording pelagic species including SBT and Pacific Bluefin Tuna taken for non-farming purposes. A separate PT02B CDR form must be completed each time a boat disposes of SBT or NBT. Relevant details in the PT02B CDR must be completed before the fish are taken onto the premises of a SBT fish receiver. Where catch is disposed of to multiple locations or buyers, separate PT02B forms must be completed for each consignment. A consignment is defined as fish taken from a single unloading and sent to a single receiver. A copy of the PT02B form must be forwarded to AFMA within three days of unloading.

As with the farm sector, the longline sector is also required to complete and submit CMAU02C, CTAU02A and REAU02 forms. For further details, refer to Section 2.

- v. *Process for validating<sup>1</sup> and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, and depending on circumstances, Catch Tagging Form):-*

As with the farm sector, copies of all documents issued and received by Australia are provided to the CCSBT. Further, at the end of each fishing season AFMA conducts a level 1 audit of all SFR holders that have caught SBT. AFMA fisheries officers also conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea, in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export establishments. For further details, refer to Section 2.

As provided previously (Section 2), AFMA has developed a CCSBT CDS handbook for SFR holders in the SBTF including the longline sector, describing the procedures that must be followed to comply with the CCSBT CDS. Compliance with the CCSBT CDS and other obligations is monitored in accordance with AFMA’s National Compliance and Enforcement Policy. SFR holders must retain original copies of each CDR and CCSBT CDS document for five years from the date of completion to meet audit requirements. A schematic detailing the systematic verification of catch data for SBT and ERS for the longline sector is provided at Appendix 2.

- vi. *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*

Please refer to Section 1(d) for details on applicable legislation and penalties relating to logbooks, CDRs and CCSBT CDS documents.

- vii. *Other relevant information:-*

Nil

## **(6) SBT Exports**

(a)

i. *Specify the quantity of the domestic catch that was exported and provide an estimate of the total quantity of the domestic SBT catch (weight in tonnes to 1 decimal place) that was retained within the country/fishing entity (i.e. the quantity can be estimated by subtracting the total export from domestic catch) during each of the last 3 full calendar years to each country/fishing entity. All weights provided in this table should be net weights, not whole weights.*

Calendar Year <sup>2</sup>	Estimate of retained within the country/fishing entity (Domestic catch-Export)	SBT Exported to										
		CANADA	CHINA	BRUNEI	THAILAND	HONG KONG	JAPAN	SOUTH KOREA	MALAYSIA	NEW ZEALAND	SINGAPORE	USA
2014/15	86.6	.5	99.5	0	0	2.7	8645	51.8	0.007	0.1	0.08	.5
2015/16	124.1	0	5.9	0	0	3.6	9073.5	0.11	0.02	0.15	0.07	31.3
2016/17	169.4	0	240.2	.34	.05	.78	7647.6	316.4	0	.11	.09	12.6

ii. *Specify the quantity of imported catch that was re-exported*

<sup>2</sup> “Calendar year” refers to the calendar year of the (re-)export date

Calendar Year <sup>2</sup>	SBT Re-exported to							
	Country / Fishing Entity 1	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
2016/17	NIL							

(b) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring exports of SBT (including of landings directly from the vessel to the foreign importing port). This should include details of:

i. Inspections required for export of SBT (including % coverage):-

To export SBT and other fish products from Australia for consumption, all processing establishments (land based and boats) require registration with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. All fish and fish products that are exported from Australia are prescribed goods and all registered establishments must meet the requirements of the Export Control Act, Export Control (Prescribed Goods General) Orders and the Export Control (Fish & Fish Products Orders) 2005 in order to export these goods. Registered establishments and boats are audited by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources food auditors to ensure compliance with the above legislation. The number of audits annually is linked to the level of risk and performance of the establishment to meet the appropriate legislation.

ii. Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being exported as a different species:-

Australia is not a range State for Pacific Bluefin Tuna which is the species most commonly mistaken for SBT. All Bluefin Tuna caught in the ETBF or WTBF are deemed as Southern Bluefin Tuna unless the operator obtains genetic testing or exports the fish to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market and it is deemed to be a Pacific Bluefin Tuna on the sales documentation.

iii. Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT exported:-

The CMAU02C form must accompany all transshipments, landings of domestic products, exports, imports and re-exports of SBT. The CTAU02A form must be completed and submitted when completing the associated CMAU02C form. In addition the REAU02 form must specify whether product is being re-exported or exported after landing of domestic product and whether the document accompanies a full shipment or partial shipment. The form details port of export, any applicable catch tagging form document numbers, a description of fish from previous CCSBT CDS documents, a description of the fish being exported, the export destination and final point of importation. For further details, refer to Section 2.

iv. Process for validating<sup>1</sup> and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form and depending on circumstances, Catch Tagging Form or Re-export/Export after landing of domestic product Form):-

Detail of the process for collecting and validating the relevant CCSBT CDS documents is provided in Sections 2 and 5.

v. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-

Please refer to Section 1 for details on applicable legislation and penalties relating to CCSBT CDS documents.

vi. Other relevant information:-

Nil

## **(7) SBT Imports**

(a) Specify the total quantity of SBT (weight in tonnes to 1 decimal place) imported during each of the last 3 full calendar years from each country/fishing entity. All weights provided in this table should be net weights, not whole weights.

Calendar Year <sup>2</sup>	SBT Imported from	
	NEW ZEALAND	
2014/15	2.6	
2015/16	12.7	
2016/17	3.4	

(b) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring imports of SBT. This should include details of:

i. Rules for designating specific ports for the import of SBT:-

SBT product can be landed in any Australian port by Australian fishing boats but must be landed to a registered fish receiver. Foreign fishing boats wishing to enter an Australian port must have a port permit issued by AFMA however landing of fish and fish products is prohibited unless written approval is given by the Australian Government Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, through the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

ii. Inspections required for imports of SBT (including % coverage):-

Australia typically import small amounts (less than five tonnes) of SBT annually, although this may fluctuate according to market conditions. The importation of some products is, by law, subject to certain biosecurity conditions. Australia's biosecurity policy is based on risk assessment and management of the potential introduction of exotic pests or diseases.

iii. Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being imported as a different species:-

Australia is not a range State for Pacific Bluefin Tuna which is the species most commonly mistaken for SBT. All Bluefin Tuna caught in the ETBF or WTBF are deemed as Southern Bluefin Tuna unless the operator obtains genetic testing or export the fish to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market and it is deemed Pacific Bluefin Tuna.

iv. Process for checking and collecting CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form and depending on circumstances, Re-export/Export after landing of domestic product Form):-

The appropriate CCSBT Catch Monitoring and Re-Export/Export After Landing of Domestic Product Forms are required to be forwarded onto AFMA by the receiver of any SBT import consignment.

v. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-

Please refer to Section 1 for details on applicable legislation and penalties relating to CCSBT CDS documents.

vi. Other relevant information:-

Nil

## **(8) SBT Markets**

*(a) Describe any activities targeted at points in the supply chain between landing and the market:-*  
As previously provided (Sections 2 and 5), AFMA fisheries officers conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea and in port, and they also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export establishments.

*(b) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring of SBT at markets (e.g. voluntary or mandatory requirements for certain documentation and/or presence of tags, and monitoring or audit of compliance with such requirements):-*

CCSBT CDS documents are required to accompany all movements of SBT both domestically and internationally from capture to first point of sale.

*(c) Other relevant information*

Nil

## **(9) Other**

*Description of any other MCS systems of relevance.*

Nil

### **III. Additional Reporting Requirements**

#### **(1) Coverage and Type of CDS Audit undertaken**

*As per paragraph 5.9 of the CDS Resolution, specify details on the level of coverage and type of audit undertaken, in accordance with 5.8<sup>3</sup> of the Resolution, and the level of compliance.*

Copies of all documents issued and received are provided to the CCSBT on a quarterly basis to be compiled in an electronic database. This is an effective auditing mechanism which allows AFMA to analyse, identify discrepancies, reconcile and report all CCSBT CDS documents submitted by Australia. In conjunction with this process, AFMA commenced audits of fish tagging in accordance with the CCSBT CDS in the 2010/11 financial year. At the end of each fishing season AFMA conducts a level 1 audit of all SFR holders that have caught SBT.

The level 1 audit includes the following:

- monthly breakdowns of receipt and sale of SBT including mortalities;
- verified counts of SBT conducted during transfer from tow pontoons into farms;
- CCSBT CDS figures and domestic sales; and
- mortalities recorded by the SBT fish receiver.

Each season selected farming companies and wild caught fish receivers also undergo a level 2 audit, aiming to capture approximately 10% of all commercially landed SBT. This audit includes a full assessment conducted by AFMA officers who review company records which may include spreadsheets, feed boat logs, dive logs, sales and export documentation, including CDS documentation. SFR holders must retain original copies of each CDR and CCSBT CDS documents for five years from the date of completion to meet audit requirements. As described in Section 2(d) the 2015/2016 season level 2 audits accounted for approximately 35.1% of SBT received by fish receivers in that season. The 2016/2017 season audits are yet to be completed and will account for in excess of 15% of SBT received by fish receivers.

In addition, compliance with the CCSBT CDS is monitored in accordance with AFMA's National Compliance and Enforcement Policy. AFMA conducts a biennial risk assessment process to determine those prioritised areas that require targeted compliance and enforcement activity. This risk assessment process is conducted across major Commonwealth Fisheries, such as the SBT fishery. As a result Australian fisheries officers conducted targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea, in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export establishments. The inspection process includes the inspection of relevant documentation such as CDS documents. As provided previously (Section 1d), in 2016/17 Australian fisheries officers conducted 17 inspections of SBT/ETBF boats, 16 inspections at sea and 1 inspection in port.

#### **(2) Ecologically Related Species**

*(a) Reporting requirements in relation to implementation of the 2008 ERS Recommendation:*

- Specify whether each of the following plans/guidelines have been implemented, and if not, specify the action that has been taken towards implementing each of these plans/guidelines:-*
  - *International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries:*

Australia has endorsed the International Plan of Action (IPOA) - Seabirds, and has put in place the Threat Abatement Plan 2014 for the Incidental Catch (or bycatch) of Seabirds

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<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 5.8 of the CDS Resolution specifies that "Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall undertake an appropriate level of audit, including inspections of vessels, landings, and where possible markets, to the extent necessary to validate the information contained in the CDS documentation."

During Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations (2014 TAP). The 2014 TAP is a legislative instrument that directs mandatory seabird bycatch management measures, and applies to all longline fisheries managed by the Australian Government. The 2014 TAP is Australia's key measure for mitigating the impact of longline fisheries on seabird populations, and is consistent with the IPOA-Seabirds. The 2014 TAP replaced the previous 2006 TAP.

A National Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (NPOA-Seabirds) is also being developed by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. The NPOA-Seabirds will outline a series of actions that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of seabird mortalities within Australian longline fisheries and provides a clear direction for the collection of information on seabird interactions.

As a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and WCPFC, which have adopted the following measures for the conservation and management of seabirds, Australia is compliant with the following measures adopted by these Commissions:

- The WCPFC adopted:
  - CMM 2017-06 Conservation and Management Measure for Mitigating Impacts of Fishing on Seabirds.
- The IOTC has adopted:
  - Resolution 12/06 On reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries.

For more information on mitigation measures refer to section 2c below.

- *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks:*

Australia first adopted a National Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) in 2004. The NPOA-Sharks has since been reviewed and the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2012 (Shark-plan 2) was released in July 2012. Shark-plan 2 focuses on a range of issues for action, including five high priority issues. These five issues relate to species identification; data collection and research, stock assessments, and management performance. The Australian Government is currently finalising a review of Shark-plan 2, which will be released in late 2018. Legislation of some Australian States and the Commonwealth provides for the listing and protection of threatened shark species. Currently there are nine shark species that are protected in Australian waters.

As a member of the IOTC and WCPFC, which have adopted the following measures for the conservation and management of sharks, Australia is compliant with the following measures adopted by these Commissions:

- The WCPFC adopted:
  - CMM 2010-07 Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks
  - CMM 2011-04 Conservation and Management Measure for Oceanic Whitetip Shark
  - CMM 2012-04 Conservation and Management Measure on the Protection of Whale Sharks from Purse Seine Operations
  - CMM 2013-08 Conservation and Management for Silky Sharks entered into force on the 1 July 2014.
  - CMM 2014-05 Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks
- The IOTC has adopted:

- Resolution 12/09 on the Conservation of Thresher Sharks (Family *Alopiidae*) caught in association with fishers in the IOTC area of competence.
- Resolution 13/05 on the Conservation of Whale Sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) caught in association with purse seine fishers in the IOTC area of competence.
- Resolution 13/06 on a scientific and management framework on the Conservation of Shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries, which targets the conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks.
- Resolution 17/05 On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by the IOTC.

For more information on mitigation measures refer to section 2c below.

- *FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations:*

Interactions between sea turtles and Australian pelagic longline fisheries are rare. Australia considers that current sea turtle bycatch management and mitigation measures in place in its pelagic longline fisheries, principally the ETBF and WTBF fulfil Australia's obligations with FAO-Sea turtles.

Australia is also compliant with IOTC Resolution 12/04: On the Conservation of Marine Turtles and WCPFC CMM 2008-03: Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles. Additionally the Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia was developed by the Department of the Environment and Energy and adopted in July 2003. The primary objective of the plan is to reduce the detrimental impacts on Australian populations of sea turtles and promote their recovery in the wild.

For more information on mitigation measures refer to section 2c below.

- ii. *Specify whether all current binding and recommendatory measures<sup>4</sup> aimed at the protection of ecologically related species<sup>5</sup> from fishing of the following tuna RFMOs are being complied with. If not, specify which measures are not being complied with and the progress that is being made towards compliance:-*

- *IOTC, when fishing within IOTC's Convention Area:*
- *WCPFC, when fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area:*

*ICCAT, when fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*

As provided previously (Section 2a), Australia complies with all current binding and nonbinding measures adopted by IOTC and WCPFC aimed at the protection of ERS (including seabirds, sharks and sea turtles) from fishing.

Australia collects data on ERS and reports these on an annual basis to the scientific committees of IOTC, WCPFC and CCSBT. Australia's national reports to meetings of the scientific committees of IOTC and WCPFC provide full details on Australia's efforts to mitigate the impact of fishing for SBT on ERS. Australia's report to the ERSWG also presents this information for all Australian fisheries in which SBT is targeted or interacted with.

- iii. *Specify whether data is being collected and reported on ecologically related species in accordance with the requirements of the following tuna RFMOs. If data are not being*

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<sup>4</sup> *Relevant measures of these RFMOs can be found at: [http://www.ccsbt.org/site/bycatch\\_mitigation.php](http://www.ccsbt.org/site/bycatch_mitigation.php).*

<sup>5</sup> *Including seabirds, sea turtles and sharks.*

collected and reported in accordance with these requirements, specify which measures are not being complied with and the progress that is being made towards compliance:-

- CCSBT<sup>6</sup>:
- IOTC, for fishing within IOTC's Convention Area:
- WCPFC, for fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area:
- ICCAT, for fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:

Australia does not fish in the ICCAT area.

Australia collects data on ERS and reports these on an annual basis to CCSBT and its subsidiary bodies (including the Compliance Committee on an annual basis, and the Ecologically Related Species Working Group when the working group meets).

Australia's national reports to meetings of the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group provides full details on Australia's efforts to mitigate the impact of fishing for SBT on ERS.

Australia endeavours to comply with all IOTC and WCPFC data requirements. In one case, for the IOTC, Australia, along with many other Contracting Parties, was found non-compliant for data relating to 'size frequency data for sharks'. The IOTC has requested the IOTC Scientific Committee to identify possible means to improve the submission of complete, accurate data for sharks. Australia acknowledges it is unable to fully meet the requirement for reporting size frequency of sharks (Resolution 17/05). Sharks are not a target species in Australia's tuna fisheries and Australia has a very low catch of sharks in these fisheries (many species cannot be landed and all live sharks must be released. Many are cut off the line and not landed, to maximise post release survival). As such, Australia is currently unable to meet the relevant sampling coverage owing to our current sampling requirement in the WTBF.

(b) Specify the number of observed ERS interactions including mortalities, and describe the methods of scaling used to produce estimates of total mortality (information should be provided by species – including the scientific name – wherever possible<sup>7</sup>):

	<b>Sector 1</b> (purse seine)		<b>Sector 2</b> (longline)	
<b>Most Recent Calendar Year (2017)</b>				
Total number of hooks (shots for PS)	111		455,818	
Percentage of hooks (shots) observed	18.0%		11.3%	
	<i>Total number of observed interactions/mortality</i>			
	<i>Interactions</i>	<i>Mortality</i>	<i>Interactions</i>	<i>Mortality</i>
Seabirds	0	0	2	2
Sharks	0	0	863	40
Sea Turtles	0	0	1	0
<b>Previous Calendar Year (2016)</b>				
Total number of hooks (shots for PS)	133		432,716	
Percentage of hooks (shots) observed	18.8		12.0	
	<i>Total number of observed interactions/mortality</i>			
	<i>Interactions</i>	<i>Mortality</i>	<i>Interactions</i>	<i>Mortality</i>
Seabirds	0	0	0	0
Sharks	0	0	163	18
Sea Turtles	0	0	0	0

(c) Mitigation – describe the current mitigation requirements:

<sup>6</sup> Current CCSBT requirements are those in the Scientific Observer Program Standards and those necessary for completing the template for the annual report to the ERSWG.

<sup>7</sup> Where species specific information is available, insert additional line(s) for each species below the relevant Seabird, Sharks, and/or Sea Turtles sub headings.

## **Seabird mitigation requirements**

As provided previously (Part III Section 2a), Australia has put in place the Threat Abatement Plan 2014 for the Incidental Catch (or bycatch) of Seabirds during Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations (2014 TAP). The 2014 TAP is a legislative instrument that directs mandatory seabird bycatch management measures, and applies to all longline fisheries managed by the Australian Government. The 2014 TAP is Australia's key national measure for mitigating the impact of longline fisheries on seabird populations, and is consistent with the IPOA Seabirds.

The following mitigation measures are prescribed for Australian longline boats under the 2014 TAP:

At all times the holder must ensure:

- a. The boat nominated to this concession carries on board one or more assembled tori lines. Each tori line must be constructed and used in accordance with the following specifications:
  - i. must be a minimum of 100 metres in length;
  - ii. must be deployed from a position on board the boat and utilise a drogue so that it remains above the water surface for a minimum of 90 metres from the stern of the boat;
  - iii. must have streamers attached to it with a maximum interval between the streamers of 3.5 metres;
  - iv. in addition to part i. a) above, all streamers must be maintained to ensure their lengths are as close to the water surface as possible;
- b. The boat nominated to this concession carries on board a minimum of either:
  - i. 1,000 weighted swivels each weighing at least 60 grams; or
  - ii. 1,000 weights each of at least 40 grams;
- c. When fishing south of the parallel of latitude 25 degrees South:
  - i. non-frozen baits are attached to the hooks; and
  - ii. prior to longlines entering the water he/she deploys a separate tori line at each point at which hooks enter the water. All tori lines must comply with part (a) above; and
  - iii. longlines are weighted with either a minimum of:
    - a. 60 gram swivels at a distance of no more than 3.5 metres from each hook; or
    - b. 98 gram swivels at a distance of no more than 4 metres from each hook; or
    - c. 40 gram weights immediately adjacent to the hook with dead non-frozen baits attached to the hooks.
  - d. The boat nominated to this concession carries on board a minimum of one dehooking device, the purpose of which is to enable hooks embedded in bycatch species to be removed with minimum damage to the fish. The device must be constructed and used in accordance with the following specifications:
    - i. The device must enable the hook to be secured and the barb shielded so that the barb does not re-engage with the fish while the hook is being removed;
    - ii. The device must be blunt with all edges rounded;
    - iii. Where more than one size of hook is to be carried, a dehooking device (or devices) must be carried that can be used with all hooks on the boat; and
    - iv. The shaft of the device must be a minimum of 1.5 metres in length.
  - e. The boat nominated to this concession carries on board a minimum of one line cutting device. The line cutting device must be constructed and used in accordance with the following specifications:
    - i. The device must be constructed to allow the line to be cut as close to the hook as possible;

- ii. The blade of the device must be enclosed in a blunt rounded (arcshaped) cover with the hook exposed on the inside of the arc;
- iii. The shaft of the device must be a minimum of 1.5 metres in length.

### **Shark mitigation requirements**

Australia is fully compliant with the IOTC and WCPFC conservation and management measures outlined in Part III Section 2(a) i.

The following mitigation measures are prescribed for concession holders of Australian longline boats:

- a ban on the use of wire leaders;
- must not take more sharks than the number of tuna and billfish quota species taken per trip to a maximum limit of 20 sharks per trip, excluding school shark, gummy shark, elephant fish (*Callorhynchidae*), chimaerids (*Chimaeridae* and *Rhinochimaeridae*) and sawshark which are quota managed species. This limit does not apply to great white sharks and grey nurse sharks, which are no-take TEP species;
- prohibited from carrying, retaining, or landing all shark dorsal, pectoral and caudal, fins that are not attached to their carcass;
- prohibited from carrying, retaining and landing livers obtained from sharks unless the individual carcasses from which the livers were obtained are also landed;
- prohibited from retaining oceanic white tip sharks and silky sharks.

### **Turtle mitigation requirements**

As provided previously (Part III Section 2a), Australia is also compliant with IOTC Resolution 12/04: On the Conservation of Marine Turtles and WCPFC CMM 2008-03: Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles. The concession holder must use large circle hooks if less than 268 hooks per bubble are set. It is also compulsory to carry line cutters and de-hookers. In addition, a video 'Crossing the line: sea turtle handling guidelines for the longline fishing industry' has been produced by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation to help the Australian longline fishing industry minimise its impact on sea turtle populations. It shows how to use de-hooking devices on deck and on turtles still in the water, how to safely bring turtles aboard and handle them on deck, how to help comatose turtles recover and how to release them back into the water. Similarly, AFMA conducted port visits in 2011 in the ETBF to provide de-hookers to all boats with instructions on how to use them and on safe handling of sea turtles. Interactions with the purse seine fishery are negligible and there has been no need to develop mitigation measures for this sector.

Australia continues to support research on mitigation measures to reduce interactions with ERS including methods to increase line sink rates; new tori line designs; weighting regimes and underwater bait setting regimes. Australia reports the status and results of this research to the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group.

*(d) Monitoring usage of bycatch mitigation measures:*

- i. *Describe the methods being used to monitor compliance with bycatch mitigation measures (e.g. types of port inspections conducted and other monitoring and surveillance programs used to monitor compliance). Include details of the level of coverage (e.g. proportion of vessels inspected each year):*

Australia uses a number of methods to monitor compliance, including compliance with bycatch mitigation measures. These methods include electronic monitoring, observer reports, vessel monitoring system, aerial surveillance, at sea inspections and port inspections.

As provided previously (Section 1d), in 2016/17 Australian fisheries officers conducted 17 inspections of SBT/ETBF boats, 16 inspections at sea and 1 inspection in port.

ii. Describe the type of information that is collected on mitigation measures as part of compliance programmes for SBT vessels:

The information collected on mitigation measures includes;

- whether bycatch mitigation, such as tori lines, is being carried on board the vessel,
- whether bycatch mitigation has been deployed appropriately
- whether the bycatch mitigation complies with specifications.

### **(3) Historical SBT Catch (retained and non-retained)**

Specify the best estimate (weight and number as available) of the historical fishing amounts of SBT for each sector (e.g. commercial longline, commercial purse seine, commercial charter fleet, domestic fleet, recreational) in the table below. The table should include the most recently completed fishing season. Figures should be provided for both retained SBT and non-retained SBT. For longline and recreational, "Retained SBT" includes SBT retained on vessel and "Non-Retained SBT" includes those returned to the water. For farming, "Retained SBT" includes SBT stocked to farming cages and "Non-Retained SBT" includes towing mortalities. If possible, provide both the weight in tonnes and the number of individuals in square brackets (e.g. [250]) for each sector. Table cells should not be left empty. If the value is zero, enter "0". It is recognised that for some sectors, the information requested in this table may not yet be available. Therefore, if the value is unknown, enter "?". However, estimates are preferred over unknown entries. Cells containing estimates with a high degree of uncertainty should be shaded in light grey. A description of any estimation methods should be provided below the table.

Fishing Season (e.g. 2011/12)	Retained and Non-Retained SBT							
	Sector 1 (Farm Sector)		Sector 2 (Longline Sector)		Sector 3 (Minorline Sector)		Sector 4 (Recreational)	
	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT <sup>a</sup>	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-retained SBT
2016/17	4683	NA	649	[2873]	1.6	NA	Unknown	Unknown
2015/16	4896	NA	733	[1629]	4	NA	Unknown	Unknown
2014/15	4947	NA	571	[878]	1	NA	Unknown	Unknown
2013/14	5029	NA	380	[399]	10	NA	150.1 <sup>b</sup>	[5834] <sup>b</sup>
2012/13	4198	NA	341	[1200]	0	0	75.8 <sup>c</sup>	[1035] <sup>c</sup>
2011/12	4485	NA	58	[274]	0	0	Unknown	Unknown
2010/11	3872	NA	85	[210]	0	0	240 <sup>d</sup>	[6900] <sup>d</sup>
2009/10	3931	NA	161	[1668]	0	0	Unknown	Unknown
2008/09	5015	NA	213	[1755]	0	0	Unknown	Unknown
2007/08	5211	NA	23	[331]	0	0	43.1 <sup>d</sup>	Unknown
2006/07	5230	NA	4	[88]	0	0	Unknown	Unknown
2005/06	5302	NA	6	[5]	0	0	Unknown	Unknown
2004/05	5214	NA	35	[116]	0	0	Unknown	Unknown
2003/04	4874	NA	247	[353]	0	0	Unknown	Unknown
2002/03	5375	NA	17	[629]	0	0	Unknown	Unknown

Fishing Season (e.g. 2011/12)	Retained and Non-Retained SBT							
	Sector 1 (Farm Sector)		Sector 2 (Longline Sector)		Sector 3 (Minorline Sector)		Sector 4 (Recreational)	
	Retained SBT	Non- Retained SBT <sup>a</sup>	Retained SBT	Non- Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non- Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non- retained SBT
2001/02	5234	NA	29	[409]	0	0	Unknown	Unknown
2000/01	5162	NA	38	[1732]	0	0	Unknown	Unknown
1999/00	5130	NA	127	Unknown	0	0	Unknown	Unknown
1998/99	4991	NA	216	Unknown	28	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1997/98	3488	NA	664	Unknown	916	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1996/97	2498	NA	472	Unknown	2000	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1995/96	3362	NA	351	Unknown	1447	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1994/95	1954	NA	1563	Unknown	908	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1993/94	1294	NA	2745	Unknown	621	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1992/93	722	NA	3085	Unknown	716	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1991/92	138	NA	2240	Unknown	1629	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1990/91	0	NA	1151	Unknown	2588	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1989/90	0	NA	406	Unknown	4199	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1988/89	0	NA	685	Unknown	4872	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

a Non-retained SBT in the farm sector as included in Australia's reported catch (i.e. retained catch); noted as 'NA' for not applicable.

b Estimates from a 2012 survey conducted in Tasmania (Tracey et al. 2013).

c Estimates from a 2011 survey conducted in Victoria from March to July (Green et al. 2012).

d Estimates from surveys in 2007–08 for Tasmania and South Australia (Forbes et al. 2009, Jones et al. 2009).

## Report of CCSBT 21

53. The action points shown in Table 1 were agreed by Members, noting that within the table, “External” refers to non-Member catches, while “Internal” relates to Members’ attributable catches.

**Table 1:** Action points in relation to implementing the Attributable SBT Catch.

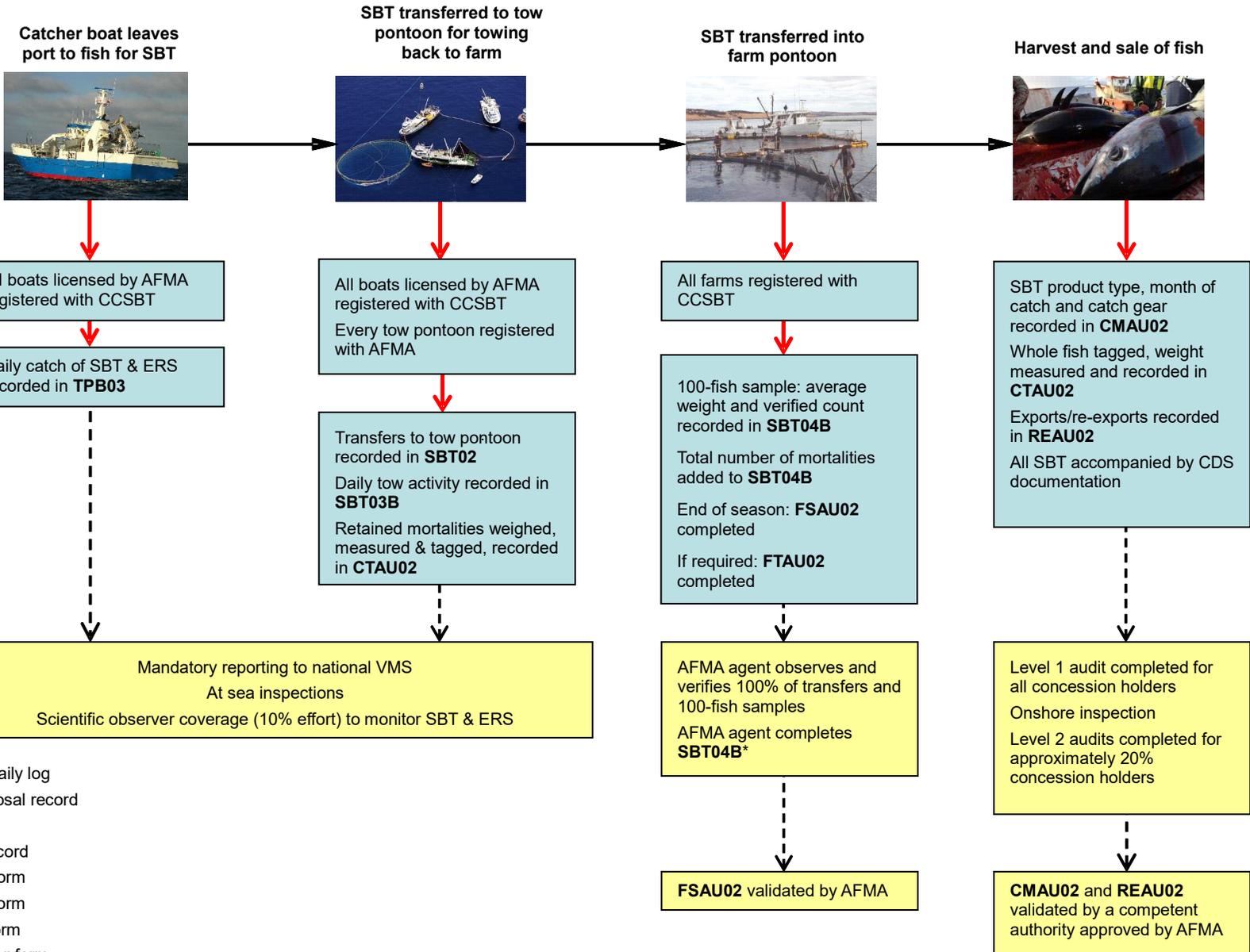
	<b>External</b>	<b>Internal</b>	<b>ESC work schedule</b>
<b>2015</b>	The EC initiates discussion on the principles and process for taking account of non-member catch in the 2018-20 TAC period. The ESC, CC and Members to undertake analyses to provide estimates of non-member catch. Commission market analyses on significant markets to contribute to estimating non-member catch.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Individual Member research on applicable sources of mortality and report back to ESC and CC for discussion and review.</li> <li>2. Members shall endeavour to set allowances to commence for 2016-17 quota years for all sources of attributable mortality based on best estimates and notify other Members by CCSBT22. If Members can't they will notify CCSBT22 and explain why they are unable to and set a date by which they can set the allowance.</li> <li>3. The EC initiate discussion and agreement to a process for dealing with attributable catch within the next quota block (2018-20).</li> </ol>	Collation of information on unreported mortalities and categorising this information in accordance with OM “fleets” (ESC19 Report).
<b>2016</b>	The ESC, CC and Members continue analyses to provide estimates of non-member catch. The EC decides on the adjustment to take account of non-member catch in the 2018-20 TAC period.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The EC if necessary continue discussion so as to agree on a process for dealing with attributable catch within the next quota block (2018-20).</li> <li>2. Individual Members continue research on applicable sources of mortality and report back to the ESC and CC for discussion and review.</li> </ol>	ESC scheduled to run MP to recommend TAC for 2018-2020.
<b>2017</b>	The ESC, CC and Members continue analyses to provide estimates of non-member catch.	Individual Members continue research on applicable sources of mortality & report back to the ESC and CC for discussion review.	ESC scheduled to conduct full stock assessment and the first formal review of MP.
<b>2018</b>		Full implementation of the common definition of attributable catch.	

**CCSBT Authorised Vessel Resolution**

The flag Members and Co-operating Non-members of the vessels on the record shall:

- a) authorize their FVs to fish for SBT only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the CCSBT Convention and its conservation and management measures;
- b) take necessary measures to ensure that their FVs comply with all the relevant CCSBT conservation and management measures;
- c) take necessary measures to ensure that their FVs on the CCSBT Record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish and/or tranship;
- d) affirm that if those vessels have record of IUU fishing activities, the owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that they will not conduct such activities any more;
- e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their FVs on the CCSBT Record are not engaged in or associated with fishing activities for SBT conducted by FVs not entered into the CCSBT Record;
- f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the FVs on the CCSBT Record are citizens or legal entities within the flag Members and Co-operating Non-members so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.

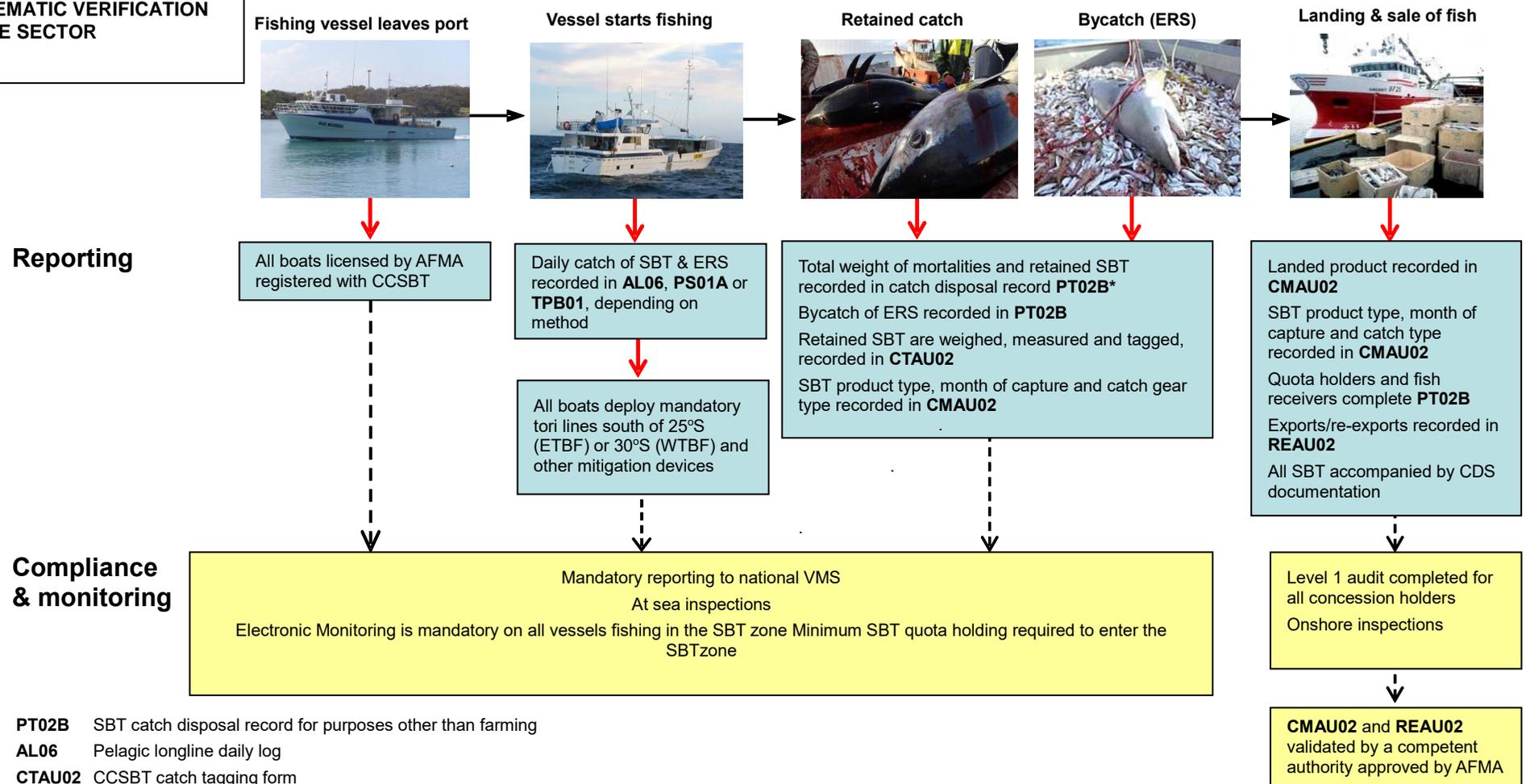
**APPENDIX 1 – SYSTEMATIC VERIFICATION OF CATCH FARM SECTOR**



- TPB03** Purse seine and pole daily log
- SBT02** Purse seine catch disposal record
- SBT03B** Farm transit log
- SBT04B** Farm catch disposal record
- CTAU02** CCSBT catch tagging form
- FSAU02** CCSBT farm stocking form
- FTAU02** CCSBT farm transfer form
- CMAU02** CCSBT catch monitoring form
- REAU02** CCSBT form for re-export/export after landing domestic product

\* Total kg of SBT landed (including mortalities) recorded in **SBT04B** deducted from quota

**APPENDIX 2 – SYSTEMATIC VERIFICATION OF CATCH LONGLINE SECTOR**



- PT02B** SBT catch disposal record for purposes other than farming
- AL06** Pelagic longline daily log
- CTAU02** CCSBT catch tagging form
- CMAU02** CCSBT catch monitoring form
- REAU02** CCSBT form for re-export/export after landing of domestic product
- PS01A** Purse seine daily log for purposes other than farming
- TPB01** Pole daily log for purposes other than farming

\*Total kg of SBT landed (including mortalities) recorded in **PT02B** deducted from quota.