



## South Africa's Annual Report to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission of the CCSBT

*(Revised at the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting: 16 October 2020)*

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.

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# **1 Summary of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Improvements**

## **1.1 Improvements achieved in the current fishing season**

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

As has been the case during the previous years, South Africa continues to maintain an enhanced Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) enforcement obligations. The South African National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) hereby register its commitment to do more than is required to meet its compliance obligations. These obligations include, although not limited to, sampling, monitoring, following up, investigations of contraventions, transshipment by vessels in port etc.

All the Fisheries Research and Fisheries Protection vessels of the DFFE were operational during the period under review and were utilised in patrols, conducting scientific research surveys and patrolling the South African coastline in order to ensure the sustainable utilisation of Marine Living Resources. Therefore, DFFE has been able to carry out the necessary vessels patrols to curb the Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing (IUU).

South Africa has three ports in which foreign fishing vessels may enter for the purpose of landing SBT, transshipment, repairs, bunkering, etc, and inspections are conducted both at sea and on ports. A total of 355 foreign fishing and 46 carrier/reefer vessels entered South Africa's Ports in 2020. There were 75 in-port inspections conducted. During the inspections, it was established that one (1) foreign fishing vessel contravened the South African Marine Living Resources Act, Act No. 18 of 1998 (the MLRA), as well as other domestic legislations. The vessel was fined.

Observer Coverage for the South African Large Pelagic Longline fishery increased slightly from 35.7% in the 2019/20 fishing season to 37.9% in the 2020/21 fishing season.

## **1.2 Future planned improvements**

There are no major planned improvements projects for the 2021/22 fishing season. It should however be noted that, South Africa has lost one of its Marine Scientist and a Resource Manager that were responsible matters relating to tuna and tuna like species. In addition, several Compliance Officers have also left. This has created a big vacuum and has subsequently impacted negatively with regards to the management of tuna and tuna like species, with regards to research and management related matters, submission of data and reports. The Department is in the process of filling all these vacant posts. These would have implications reporting requirements, vessel authorisations, CDS related matters.

In addition to above, South Africa is in the process of improving its Vessel Monitoring Systems, which will bring about a more stringent monitoring and surveillance regime by applying the most advanced VMS technologies.

The Border Management Authority (BMA) is being established. The BMA Bill was passed through the National Assembly and has been referred to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence. The BMA is the authority that will handle all matters involving South Africa's Ports of entry and it will address illegal activities in the border environment.

## 2 SBT Fishing and MCS

### 2.1 Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna

#### 2.1.1 Catch and allocation

Specify the Effective Catch Limit, carry-forward of quota, total available catch, and attributable catch for the three most recently completed fishing seasons in Table 1. All figures should be provided in tonnes.

**Table 1. Effective catch limit, carry-forward, total available catch, and attributable catch.**

A	B	C	D	E
Fishing Season	Effective Catch Limit <sup>1</sup> (tonnes)	Quota Carried Forward to this Fishing Season (tonnes)	Total Available Catch <sup>2</sup> (B+C) (tonnes)	Attributable catch <sup>3</sup> (tonnes)
(Feb 2018 – Jan 2019)	450	32.35	482.35	235.4
(Feb 2019 – Jan 2020)	450	84.6	507.6	173.4
(Feb 2020 – Feb 2021)	450	84.6	507.6	118.4

#### 2.1.2 Allowances and SBT mortality for each sector

Specify the allowances and SBT mortality for each sector during the three most recently completed fishing seasons in Table 2. If information on SBT mortality is not available for a particular sector, use the best estimates of catch. All figures to be provided in tonnes.

**Table 2. Allowances and SBT mortality for each sector.**

Sector	Commercial fishing operations whether primarily targeting SBT or not			
	Sector 1: (Domestic Longline Fleet)		Sector 2: (Charter Longline Fleet)	
Fishing season	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)
(Feb 2018 – Jan 2019)	388.39 t	219.2 t	46.61 t	13.7 t
(Feb 2019 – Jan 2020)	421 t	127 t	41.5 t	45.1 t
(Feb 2020 – Feb 2021)	462.6 t	116.8 t	0 t	0 t

<sup>1</sup> Effective catch limit is the Member's allocation plus any adjustments for agreed short term changes to the National Allocation. For example, see column 3 of Table 1 at paragraph 87 of the Report of CCSBT 24.

<sup>2</sup> Total available catch means a Member's Effective Catch Limit allocation for that quota year plus any amount of unfished allocation carried forward to that quota year.

<sup>3</sup> 'A Member or CNM's attributable catch against its national allocation is the total Southern Bluefin Tuna mortality resulting from fishing activities within its jurisdiction or control including, inter alia, mortality resulting from: commercial fishing operations whether primarily targeting SBT or not; releases and/or discards; recreational fishing; customary and/or traditional fishing; and artisanal fishing.'

Sector continued	Commercial fishing operations whether primarily targeting SBT or not		Recreational fishing		Customary and/or traditional fishing		Artisanal fishing	
	Sector 3: (Domestic Pole-line Fleet)		Sector 4:		Sector 5:		Sector 6:	
Fishing season	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)
(Feb 2018 – Jan 2019)	40 t	2.5 t	5 t	0 t				
(Feb 2019 – Jan 2020)	40 t	1.3 t	5 t	0 t				
(Feb 2020 – Feb 2021)	40 t	1.64 t	5 t	0 t				

### 2.1.3 SBT Catch (retained and non-retained)

For the three most recently completed fishing seasons, specify the weight (in tonnes) and number of SBT for each sector (e.g. commercial longline, commercial purse seine, commercial charter fleet, commercial domestic fleet, recreational fishing, customary and/or traditional fishing and artisanal fishing) in Table 3. Provide the best estimate if reported data is not available. Figures should be provided for both retained SBT and non-retained SBT. For all non-farming sectors, “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 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”.

**Table 3. SBT catch (retained and non-retained)**

Fishing Season	Retained and discarded SBT							
	Commercial sectors (all weights are in tonnes)							
	Sector 1 (Domestic Longline Fleet)		Sector 2 (Charter Longline Fleet)		Sector 3: (Domestic Pole-line Fleet)		Sector 4: Recreational sector	
	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT
(Feb 2018 – Jan 2019)	219.2 t (2685)	No discards of SBT reported by observers	13.7 t (167)	No discards of SBT reported by 100% observers	2.5t (27)	No reliable estimate	0 t	No reliable estimate
(Feb 2019 – Jan 2020)	127.2 t (1596)	No discards of SBT reported by observers	45.1 t (926)	No discards of SBT reported by 100% observers	1.3t (17)	No reliable estimate	0 t	No reliable estimate
(Feb 2020 – Feb 2021)	116.8 t (1357)	No discards of SBT reported by observers	N/A	N/A	1.64 t (25)	No reliable estimate	0 t	No reliable estimate

### 2.1.4 The number of vessels in each sector

Specify the fishing season and number of vessels that caught SBT in each sector during the three most recently completed fishing seasons in Table 4.

In cases where vessel numbers are not able to be provided, specify the best estimate.

**Table 4. Vessels by Sector**

Fishing season	Number of vessels			
	Commercial sectors		Sector 3: Recreational sector	Sector 4: Customary/artisanal sector
Sector 1 (Domestic Longline Fleet)	Sector 2 (Charter Longline Fleet)	Sector 3 (Domestic Tuna Pole-line Fleet)		
(Feb 2018 – Jan 2019)	19	3	5	
(Feb 2019 – Jan 2020)	16	3	5	
(Feb 2020 – Feb 2021)	17	N/A	6	

## 2.2 Monitoring catch of SBT

### 2.2.1 Daily logbooks

- i. If daily logbooks are not mandatory, specify the % of SBT fishing where daily logbooks were required.  
Mandatory.

- ii. Specify whether the effort and catch information collected complied with that specified in the “Characterisation of the SBT Catch” section of the CCSBT Scientific Research Plan (Attachment D of the SC5 report), including both retained and discarded catch. If not, describe the non-compliance.

Although provision is made for this type of information, it is seldom recorded and there is no way to verify the information. The only means of obtaining accurate information on this is through an observer programme, which is in place to collect information from part of the Large Pelagic Longline fishery.

### 2.2.2 Additional reporting methods (such as real time monitoring programs)

- 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) then, for each reporting method, specify if it was mandatory, and if not, specify the % of SBT fishing the reporting method covered.

Mandatory.

### 2.2.3 Scientific Observers

- i. Provide the percentage of the SBT catch and effort observed in the three most recently completed fishing seasons for each sector (e.g. longline, purse seine, commercial charter fleet, and domestic fleet) in Table 5. The unit of effort should be hooks for longline and sets for purse seine.

**Table 5. Observer coverage of SBT catch and effort**

Fishing season	Sector 1: Domestic Longline		Sector 2: Charter Longline		Sector 3: Domestic Pole-line	
	% effort obs.	% catch obs.	% effort obs.	% catch obs.		
(Feb 2018 – Jan 2019)	14.8%	11.9%	100%	100%	N/A	N/A
(Feb 2019 – Jan 2020)	12.6%	9.6%	100%	100%	N/A	N/A
(Feb 2020 – Feb 2021)	56.3%	21.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Only sets that caught SBT are included in terms of % observed

- ii. 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 Members.

The observer programme complies with the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards. There has been no exchange of observers between countries.

### 2.2.4 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

For the most recently completed fishing season for Member-flagged authorised carrier vessels and fishing vessels fishing for or taking SBT specify:

- i. Was a mandatory VMS that complies with CCSBT’s VMS resolution in operation?  
Mandatory and has been in operation since 1998. VMS complies with CCSBT’s VMS Resolutions.

- ii. If a mandatory VMS that complies with CCSBT's VMS resolution was not in operation, provide details of non-compliance and plans for further improvement.  
N/A.
- iii. The number of its flag 1) fishing vessels (FVs) and 2) carrier vessels (CVs) that were required to report to a National VMS system:-  
1) FVs: Twenty seven (27) domestic longline, forty eight (40) domestic pole-line vessels in 2020 were required to report to the Department's national VMS centre.  
2) CVs: N/A – South Africa does not have any registered CVs.
- iv. The number of its flag 1) fishing vessels (FVs) and 2) carrier vessels (CVs) that actually reported to a National VMS system:-  
1) FVs: Twenty seven (27) domestic longline, forty eight (40) domestic pole-line vessels reported to the Department's national VMS centre in 2020.  
2) CVs: N/A – South Africa does not have any registered CVs.
- v. Reasons for any non-compliance with VMS requirements and action taken by the Member.  
N/A.
- vi. 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. Procedures are in place in terms of permit conditions (Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line) that the vessel would have to follow in the event that the vessel experiences technical failure of the VMS while at sea.
- vii. 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.  
N/A.

### 2.2.5 At-sea inspections

Specify the coverage level of at sea inspections of SBT authorised fishing vessels by Member's patrol vessels during the most recently completed fishing season (e.g. the percentage of SBT trips inspected). South Africa has four offshore patrol vessels, they have been conducting inspections of tuna longline and pole-line vessels at sea. Fishery Compliance Officers conduct 100% inspections in all landing areas as well as random sea inspection on all domestic fishing vessels. There were 54 at-sea inspections that were conducted for SBT vessels in 2020.

### 2.2.6 Authorised vessel requirements

Report on the review of internal actions and measures taken in relation to the authorised vessel requirements provided at Appendix 1, including any punitive and sanction actions taken. The South African vessels authorised to fish for SBT fulfilled the requirements and responsibilities under the CCSBT Convention and its conservation management measures.

South Africa has taken measures to ensure that its authorised vessels comply with all relevant CCSBT conservation and management measures. To this end, before the start of tuna fishing season, a meeting is held between the Departmental Officials and Rights Holders, as well as relevant NGO's with interest in conservation, specifically to discuss permit conditions and adherence to applicable Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) Conservation Measures. Consequently, one of the conditions for issuance of a catch permit to Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Right Holders is adherence to the Conservation Measures and Resolutions adopted by the relevant RFMOs, CCSBT in this regard.

The regulations stipulate that a vessel shall not be permitted to fish, provided a valid catch permit has been applied for and issued. One of the requirements for issuance of such a permit is the submission of a valid vessel license and a valid vessel registration certificate issued by the South African Maritime



Safety Authority and these must at all times be stored at the Permit Holder’s registered place of business over the duration of the fishing season. The Permit Holder is further obliged at all times to have available a true certified copies on board the vessel utilised to harvest Large Pelagic species. Transshipment-at-sea is not allowed in any of the South African fisheries only in-port-transshipment is allowed with a strict set of conditions. Before a vessel can tranship in port, it is required to apply for and be issued with a valid transshipment permit

None of the South African vessels authorized to fish for SBT have been reported for IUU activities thus far. South Africa would like to affirm that any breach of the provisions of the Marine Living Resources Act, Regulations promulgated thereunder or permit conditions by the Permit Holder, or its employees (whether permanent, full-time or part-time), its contractors, agents or advisers and the skipper of the vessel, may result in the initiation of legal proceedings (which may include section 28 of the MLRA proceedings and or criminal proceedings).

In terms of South Africa’s regulations, only vessels authorized by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries and registered on CCSBT’s authorized vessel list are permitted to catch/land SBT. Any other vessels are not permitted to catch/land SBT.

**2.2.7 Monitoring of catch of SBT from other sectors (e.g. recreational, customary, etc)**

Provide details of monitoring methods used to monitor catches in other sectors.  
 Only commercialized sectors that are catching and landing SBT.  
 Data from the recreational fishery are scarce as there is no mandatory reporting of catches. There are a number of craft with the capacity to target SBT but thus far there is little indication of SBT catches.  
 Data from tuna-directed fishing competitions from 2000 onwards do not include any SBT.

**2.3 SBT Towing and transfer to and between farms (farms only)**

Not applicable to South Africa.

**2.4 SBT transshipment (in port and at sea)**

In accordance with the Resolution on Establishing a Program for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels, report:

- i. The quantities and percentage of SBT transhipped at sea and in port during the three most recently completed fishing seasons in Table 7.

**Table 6. SBT transshipment (in port and at sea)**

Fishing season	Kilograms of SBT transhipped at sea	Percentage of the annual SBT catch transhipped at sea	Kilograms of SBT transhipped in port	Percentage of the annual SBT catch transhipped in port
(Feb 2018 – Jan 2019)	N/A		13 700	5.8
(Feb 2019 – Jan 2020)	N/A		45 100	26
(Feb 2020 – Feb 2021)	N/A		0	

- ii. The list of the tuna longline fishing vessel with Freezing Capacity (LSTLVs) registered in the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List which have transhipped at sea and in port during the most recently completed fishing season.  
 Not applicable – South Africa does not have LSTLV registered in the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List.

- 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 most recently completed fishing season.  
 Not applicable – South Africa does not have LSTLV registered in the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List.

## 2.5 Port Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels/Carrier Vessels (FVs/CVs) with SBT/SBT Products on Board

For the three most recently completed **whole calendar years**, 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/ transhipment operations that were inspected, and the number of inspections where infringements of CCSBT’s measures were detected in Table 8.

**Table 7. Port inspections of foreign FVs and CVs with SBT/SBT products on board**

Calendar year	Foreign Flag	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations (that occurred)	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations Inspected	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations where an Infringement of CCSBT’s Measures was Detected
2018	Japan	23	23	0
	Taiwan	2	2	0
	Korea	1	1	0
2019	Japan	14	14	0
	Taiwan	1	1	0
	Korea	4	4	0
2020	Japan	16	16	0
	Korea	4	4	
	Taiwan	3	3	0
<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>		<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>0</b>

## 2.6 Monitoring of trade of SBT

For the most recently completed whole calendar year or fishing season:

- i. Record the calendar year/ fishing season.  
2020/2021 (Feb 2020 to Feb 2021).
- ii. Provide the percentage of landings of SBT that were inspected.  
There is 100% inspection and monitoring of SBT landings.
- iii. Provide the percentage of exports of SBT that were inspected.  
There is 100% inspection of SBT exports.
- iv. Provide the percentage of imports of SBT that were inspected.  
N/A – no imports of SBT in 2020.

## **2.7 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>4</sup> of the Resolution, and the level of compliance.

Landing Declaration Sheets are used together with submitted Catch Tagging Forms (CTFs) and Catch Monitoring Forms (CMF's) to assess quota uptake against each individual Rights Holder. Verification is undertaken following the initial validation undertaken during vessel landing. Electronic catch summaries or hard copies submitted by Fishing Skippers two weeks after landing are used to verify catch data.

Catch Monitoring Forms (CMFs) must be signed by a DFFE Official whose name appears on the Official List of CCSBT authorised validators. Verification by the DFFE Official entails cross-checking with fish details (Product Type; Date of harvest; Vessel Gear Code; Statistical Area of Capture; Fish weight (kg) and other information listed on the Catch Tagging Form. Landing declarations and Invoices, before the CMF can be signed. The CMF is then completed with details of either the intermediate or final product destination, dressed or 'flying weight' of the fish (Conversion Factor DRT) and then signed by the DFFE Official at the time of export.

## **3 Changes to sections in Annex 1**

If this is not the first year of completing Annex 1, list any sections of Annex 1 that have changed since the previous year.

N/A – no changes.

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<sup>4</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."

## Annex 1. Standing items: details of MCS arrangements used to monitor SBT catch in the fishery

### 1 Monitoring catch of SBT

Describe the system used for controlling the level of SBT catch. For ITQ and IQ systems, this should include details on how the catch is 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 is monitored for determining when to close the fishery. The description provided here should include any operational constraints on effort (both regulatory and voluntary).

In 2020, the Department allocated the SBT quota to two tuna fisheries in South Africa, the Large Pelagic Longline and the Tuna Pole-line sectors. South Africa notified CCSBT of its intention to carry forward unfished SBT allocation from the 2019/2020 fishing season, consequently, South Africa's SBT quota for the 2020/2021 fishing season was 507.6 t. Of this, the Large Pelagic Longline sector was allocated 462.6 t and this was equally divided amongst 60 Rights Holders. The Tuna Pole-line sector was allocated 40 tons and was equally divided only to those Rights Holders that had shown interest in catching the SBT, a total of 15 Rights Holders expressed interest in catching the SBT. 5 t was set aside for CCSBT's attributable catch.

A management provision is made for in the Permit Conditions that, if a Right Holder has not been actively fishing before or on 31 May 2020, its SBT allocation will be transferred to Right Holders that have been active in that season. This provision was applicable in the Large Pelagic Longline sector for 2020/2021 fishing season.

Complete the table below to provide details of methods used to monitor catching in the fishery. The quota in the Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line sectors is managed by monitoring electronic landing summaries as well as landing declarations submitted by Right Holders within two weeks after the vessel has landed. Furthermore, it is managed by monitoring observer reports submitted every five days while observers are at sea as well as Catch Monitoring and Catch Tagging Forms. Lastly, Rights Holders are also required to submit logbooks before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month in which the trip was undertaken. Through this real time monitoring system, when the Department becomes aware that quota is close being fulfilled, it notifies the operators. Once the quota is reached or becomes aware that it has been exceeded, it immediately responds to close the SBT fishery. When this occurs the vessels are required to release all SBT caught after this date and SBT should not be landed. This management provision was invoked in July of 2012, 2013 and in October 2015 and the fishery was closed.

There is 100% inspection and monitoring of all SBT landings.

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 1.1 of this Annex).

Monitoring Methods	Description
Daily log book	<p>Specify:</p> <p>i. Whether this was mandatory. Mandatory.</p> <p>ii. The level of detail recorded (shot by shot, daily aggregate etc):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Longline: Date, latitude, longitude, time of start and end set, number of hooks set, reason for set, float line length, branch line length, bait type, observer present (y/n), drift, light stick info, catch by species, weight and number, non-retained species in numbers.</li> <li>○ Tuna Pole: Date, latitude, longitude (1 x 1 degree), number of crew, gear (Pole, line), catch by species in weight.</li> </ul>

	<p>iii. <i>What information on ERS is recorded in logbooks:-</i> Bird/turtle mortality and releases of birds, turtles and sharks.</p> <p>iv. <i>Who are the logbooks submitted to<sup>5</sup>:-</i> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).</p> <p>v. <i>What is the timeframe and method<sup>6</sup> for submission:-</i> The pages in the logbook are perforated, which allows the original to be removed immediately after the fishing trip. The original log pages are generally submitted by hand to DFFE. In return, DFFE countersigns the logbook to indicate that the catch statistics have been submitted for a particular trip. Right holders are required through permit conditions to submit log books before the 15th of the following month in which the trip was undertaken.</p> <p>vi. <i>The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:-</i> Data capturing is checked by a second person to ensure that no typing errors occur when entering the data. The information from logbooks is only estimates and hence they are not used in quota control. Independent landing declarations verified by Fishery Control Officers and Fishery Monitors are used to compare against electronic landing summaries and Catch Monitoring Forms submitted by the fishing industry.</p> <p>vii. <i>Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-</i> Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998); The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA; General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2013; Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2015; The 2020/21 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions; Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit: (a) has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete; (b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit; (c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act; (d) is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or (e) fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.</p> <p>viii. <i>Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-</i></p>
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<sup>5</sup> If the reports are not to be submitted to the Member's or CNM's government fisheries authority, then also specify whether the information will later be sent to the fisheries authority, including how and when that occurs.

<sup>6</sup> In particular, whether the information is submitted electronically from the vessel.

<sup>7</sup> Including information on ERS, and comments on the effectiveness of the controls or monitoring tools and any plans for further improvement.

<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. Whether this is mandatory.</i> Mandatory.</li> <li><i>ii. The information that is recorded (including whether it relates to SBT or ERS):-</i> All caught and landed species including SBT.</li> <li><i>iii. Who the reports are submitted to and by whom (e.g. Vessel Master, the Fishing Company etc)<sup>5</sup>:-</i> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).</li> <li><i>iv. What is the timeframe and method<sup>6</sup> for submission:-</i> Within two weeks after landing.</li> <li><i>v. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:-</i> Compared with landing declarations verified by Fishery Control Officers/ Fishery Monitors and occasionally checked with logbooks and Catch Monitoring Forms submitted by the fishing industry.</li> <li><i>vi. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-</i> Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998); The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA; General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2013; Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2015; The 2020/21 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions; Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;</li> <li>(b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;</li> <li>(c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;</li> <li>(d) is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or</li> <li>(e) fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.</li> </ul> </li> <li><i>vii. Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-</i></li> </ul>
<p><i>Scientific Observers</i></p>	<p><i>Specify:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. The system used for comparisons between observer data and other catch monitoring data in order to verify the catch data:-</i> Observer data is routinely used to validate landing declarations, but the main purpose of the observer programme is to collect length frequency data and information on by-catch and incidental catch, and discards. The observer programme is also plays an important role to ensure compliance with bird mitigation measures and record any transgressions of permit conditions.</li> </ul>

	<p>ii. <i>What information on ERS is recorded by observers:-</i>  Observations of bird mitigation measures used.  Bird mortality by species.  Discards and releases by species.  Length frequencies.</p> <p>iii. <i>Who are the observer reports submitted to:-</i>  Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).</p> <p>iv. <i>Timeframe for submission of observer reports:-</i>  Within two weeks of the disembarking of the Observer. Observers are also debriefed by the accredited observer company and DFFE.</p> <p>v. <i>Other relevant information (including plans for further improvement – in particular to reach coverage of 10% of the effort):-</i>  Permit Conditions makes it mandatory for Right Holders to carry one or more scientific observers on board its vessel for a minimum of a single trip per quarter during the fishing season.</p>
VMS	<p>i. <i>For Member-flagged authorised carrier vessels and fishing vessels fishing for or taking SBT provide references to applicable legislation and penalties:-</i>  Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998);  The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;  General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2013;  Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2015;  The 2020/21 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions;  Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit:</p> <p>(a) has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;</p> <p>(b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;</p> <p>(c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;</p> <p>(d) is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or</p> <p>(e) fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.</p>
<i>Other (for example, use of electronic monitoring etc.)</i>	N/A

## 1.1 SBT Towing and transfer to and between farms (farms only)

Not applicable to South Africa.

## 1.2 SBT Transshipment (in port and at sea)

(a) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transshipments 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 transshipments of SBT are prohibited:-

All domestic tuna vessels may only tranship in ports, which have been designated as landing ports in accordance with the 2020/21 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line permit conditions. A permit to tranship is required for any transshipment and transshipment can only take place in the presence of a Fisheries Compliance Officer.

South African vessels are only permitted to tranship in South Africa.

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

South Africa ratified the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing in 2014. All vessels fishing in the South African fishery which wishes to tranship in port needs to apply for a transshipment permit. The application form makes provision for the applicant to provide all the relevant information such as vessel names, quantities by species to be transhipped and port where transshipment will take place. Only on the authority of a permit and subject to monitoring may the vessel tranship. There's 100% inspection of all in-port transshipments. Monitoring is mandatory.

iii. Information sharing with designated Port States:-

As a port state, South Africa requires flag states to acknowledge the quantity of SBT on board their vessels before the foreign fishing vessel is authorised to enter port South Africa's ports. Vessels fishing in the South African fishery have only landed or transhipped product in designated South African ports.

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

Fishery Control Officers/Fish Monitors (FCOs/FMs) are required to monitor every offload and transshipment for all vessels fishing in the South African Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line fisheries as well as foreign fishing vessels. Fish are sorted by species on deck before being weighed in order to determine the weight by species. The FCOs/FMs record the information and signs off a landing declaration form which the representative of the right holder is also required to sign.

v. Process for validating *Error! Bookmark not defined.* and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, Catch Tagging Form):-

Landing Declaration Sheets are used together with submitted Catch Tagging Forms (CTFs) and Catch Monitoring Forms (CMF's) to assess quota uptake against each individual Rights Holder. Verification are undertaken following the initial validation undertaken during vessel landing. Electronic catch summaries or hard copies submitted by Fishing Skippers two weeks after landing are used to verify catch data.

Catch Monitoring Forms (CMFs) must be signed by a DEFF Official whose name appears on the Official List of CCSBT authorised validators. Verification by the DEFF Official entails cross-checking with fish details (Product Type; Date of harvest; Vessel Gear Code; Statistical Area of Capture; Fish weight (kg) and other information listed on the Catch Tagging Form. Landing declarations and Invoices, before the CMF can be signed. The CMF is then completed with details of either the intermediate or final product destination, dressed or 'flying weight' of the fish (Conversion Factor DRT) and then signed by the DEFF Official at the time of export.



- vi. *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*  
 Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998);  
 The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;  
 General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2013;  
 Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2015;  
 The 2020/21 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions;  
 Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit:
- (a) has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;
  - (b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;
  - (c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;
  - (d) is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or
  - (e) fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.
- vii. *Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-*
- (b) *Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transshipments at sea. This should include details of:*  
 Not applicable - Transshipment at sea is not permitted under South African laws.

### **1.3 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 transshipment. Only information for landings/transshipments of SBT or SBT products that have NOT been previously landed or transhipped at port should be included in the table below.*

- (a) *Provide a list of designated ports into which foreign FVs/ CVs carrying SBT or SBT product may request entry:-*  
 Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth.
- (b) *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:-*  
 72 hours.

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

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

- (a) *Rules for designated ports of landing of SBT:-*  
 Landing ports in South Africa are documented in terms of the permit conditions. South African flagged vessels, operating in the tuna sectors are only permitted to offload their catches in South Africa's designated ports as stipulated in the permit conditions.
- (b) *Inspections required for landings of SBT.*  
 There is 100% inspection and monitoring of SBT landings.

- (c) *Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being landed as a different species:-*  
None currently, it should however be noted that South Africa will in not too distant future set up a genetic technology that would also be used for verification of SBT landed. Currently, all right holders and Fisheries Compliance Officers are given Species Identification Booklet to improve on the accuracy of identifying SBT.
- (d) *Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT landed:-*  
Fishery Control officers/ Fishery Monitors are required to monitor every offload of vessels fishing in the South African large pelagic longline and Tuna Pole-line fisheries. Fish are sorted by species on deck before being weighed in order to determine the weight by species. The FCOs/FMs record the information and signs off a landing declaration form which the representative of the right holder is also required to sign.
- (e) *Process for validating<sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup> and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, and depending on circumstances, Catch Tagging Form):-*  
Landing Declaration Sheets are used together with submitted Catch Tagging Forms (CTFs) and Catch Monitoring Forms (CMF's) to assess quota uptake against each individual Rights Holder. Verification are undertaken following the initial validation undertaken during vessel landing. Electronic catch summaries or hard copies submitted by Fishing Skippers two weeks after landing are used to verify catch data.
- Catch Monitoring Forms (CMFs) must be signed by a DEFF Official whose name appears on the Official List of CCSBT authorised validators. Verification by the DEFF Official entails cross-checking with fish details (Product Type; Date of harvest; Vessel Gear Code; Statistical Area of Capture; Fish weight (kg) and other information listed on the Catch Tagging Form. Landing declarations and Invoices, before the CMF can be signed. The CMF is then completed with details of either the intermediate or final product destination, dressed or 'flying weight' of the fish (Conversion Factor DRT) and then signed by the DEFF Official at the time of export.
- (f) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*  
Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998);  
The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;  
General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2013;  
Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2015;  
The 2020/21 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions;  
Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit:
- (a) has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;
  - (b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;
  - (c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;
  - (d) is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or
  - (e) fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.
- (g) *Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-*

## 1.5 Monitoring of trade of SBT

### 1.5.1 SBT Exports

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:

(a) *Inspections required for export of SBT -*

All SBT is inspected and monitored when a vessel offloads or tranships in port. There is insufficient capacity to monitor product at the points of export. Only through random sampling or through a tip off are consignments physically inspected at the airports.

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

None currently, it should however be noted that South Africa will in not too distant future set up a genetic technology that would also be used for verification of SBT landed. Currently, all right holders and Fisheries Compliance Officers are given Species Identification Booklet to improve on the accuracy of identifying SBT.

(c) *Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT exported:-*

The main system used to record the quantity of SBT exported are the CMFs. In addition, all marine products to be exported, require an export permit. In terms of the export permit conditions, the exporter has to provide prior notification to DFFE's compliance office of all consignments to be exported. Monthly summaries of export by species are also required to be electronically submitted by the exporter to DEFF.

(d) *Process for validating <sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</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):-*

Landing Declaration Sheets are used together with submitted Catch Tagging Forms (CTFs) and Catch Monitoring Forms (CMF's) to assess quota uptake against each individual Rights Holder. Verification are undertaken following the initial validation undertaken during vessel landing. Electronic catch summaries or hard copies submitted by Fishing Skippers two weeks after landing are used to verify catch data.

Catch Monitoring Forms (CMFs) must be signed by a DEFF Official whose name appears on the Official List of CCSBT authorised validators. Verification by the DEFF Official entails cross-checking with fish details (Product Type; Date of harvest; Vessel Gear Code; Statistical Area of Capture; Fish weight (kg) and other information listed on the Catch Tagging Form. Landing declarations and Invoices, before the CMF can be signed. The CMF is then completed with details of either the intermediate or final product destination, dressed or 'flying weight' of the fish (Conversion Factor DRT) and then signed by the DEFF Official at the time of export.

Lastly, it is an export permit condition that validated CDS documents accompany the consignments of all SBT for export.

(e) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*

Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998);

The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;

General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2013;

Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2015;

The 2020/21 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions;

Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit:

- (a) has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;
- (b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;
- (c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;
- (d) is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or
- (e) fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.

(f) *Other relevant information*<sup>7</sup>:-

## 1.5.2 SBT Imports

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

- (a) *Rules for designating specific ports for the import of SBT:-*  
There are no specific rules designating ports for the import of SBT. However, foreign vessels are limited in that they can use, only one of three ports, namely Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban. It is possible for SBT to be imported by air freight, but this is unlikely as South Africa is unable to pay the international market price for SBT.
- (b) *Inspections required for imports of SBT*  
There are no routine inspections in place for the importing of SBT. However, it is a requirement that an import be applied and be issued before any imports of fish fishery products can enter South Africa. CDS documents are also required in this regard as stipulated in the Import Permit Conditions.
- (c) *Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being imported as a different species:-*  
None currently, it should however be noted that South Africa will in not too distant future set up a genetic technology that would also be used for verification of SBT to be imported. National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), the government agency responsible for the administration of compulsory specifications and other technical regulations with the view to protect human health, safety, the environment and ensure fair trade in accordance with government policies and guidelines, is responsible for the random testing of fish and fisheries products being imported. In addition, all Importers and Fisheries Compliance Officers are given Species Identification Booklet to improve on the accuracy of identifying exports of SBT.
- (d) *Process for checking and collecting CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form and depending on circumstances, Re-export/Export after landing of domestic product Form):-*  
For import of any marine/fishery product, including SBT requires a valid import permit. The import permit conditions require that a validated CDS document be submitted to DAFF for all imported consignments of SBT.
- (e) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*  
Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998);  
The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;  
General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2013;  
Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2015;  
The 2020/21 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions;  
Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit:  
(a) has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;  
(b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;  
(c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;  
(d) is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or  
(e) fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.
- (f) *Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-*

### 1.5.3 SBT Markets

(a) Describe any activities targeted at points in the supply chain between landing and the market:-

South Africa is not generally regarded as a market state for SBT. Hence the questions below may not be relevant to South Africa.

(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):-

None.

(c) Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>

### 1.6 Other

Description of any other MCS systems of relevance.

## 2 Additional Reporting Requirements Ecologically Related Species

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

- i. 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:*  
The National Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries was published in August 2008 and implemented, with good results in reducing seabird mortality in the longline fishery. The plan is currently undergoing a review and an updated plan is in draft format.
  - *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks:*  
The National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-sharks) was published in November 2013. South Africa has taken numerous steps to conserve and manage sharks. Some notable actions have been: the protection status given to great white sharks; the termination of the Pelagic Shark Longline Fishery in favour of developing a large Pelagic Tuna Longline Fishery, where sharks are managed as by-catch; the banning of several CITES listed pelagic shark species (porbeagle, hammerheads, silky, oceanic white-tip, and threshers), manta and mobula rays in the Large Pelagic Longline fishery; the ban on the use of wire traces in the Large Pelagic Longline fishery, the introduction of shark by-catch limits; the appointment of a shark researcher; improved data collection, and stock assessments conducted for the two most important demersal shark species. The review of the NPOA is underway and should be concluded in 2021.
  - *FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations:*  
De-hooking and release procedures are included in the Large Pelagic Longline permit conditions. Turtles are not allowed to be landed.
- ii. Specify whether all current binding and recommendatory measures<sup>8</sup> aimed at the protection of ecologically related species<sup>9</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:*  
Since 2016, the DFFE has initiated a process aiming to achieve 20% observer coverage for the pelagic longline fleet as stipulated in the permit conditions. The required observer deployments are partially funded through the Common Oceans Projects and the remainder

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<sup>8</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>9</sup> Including seabirds, sea turtles and sharks.

at cost to industry. This is also to ensure meeting the 5% observer coverage and that all conservation and bycatch mitigation measures are complied with as specified by the IOTC.

- *WCPFC, when fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area:*  
Not applicable - South African operators do not fish in the WCPFC's Convention Area.
- *ICCAT, when fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*  
Since 2016, the DFFE has initiated a process aiming to achieve 20% observer coverage for the pelagic longline fleet as stipulated in the permit conditions. The required observer deployments are partially funded through the Common Oceans Projects and the remainder at cost to industry. This is also to ensure meeting the 5% observer coverage and that all conservation and bycatch mitigation measures are complied with as specified by the ICCAT.

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 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>10</sup>:  
The Ecologically Related Species (ERS) data was collected in 2020. However, it was not provided to the CCSBT in ERS annual report due to staff capacity issues. The Department is in a process of filling up the vacancies.
- *IOTC, for fishing within IOTC's Convention Area*:  
The ERS data on seabird, turtle and shark captures and release mortalities obtained from the observer are reported to the IOTC, together with observer size data for sharks.
- *WCPFC, for fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area*:  
Not applicable - South African operators do not fish in the WCPFC's Convention Area.
- *ICCAT, for fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area*:  
The ERS data on seabird, turtle and shark captures and release mortalities obtained from the observer are reported to the ICCAT, together with observer size data for sharks.

(b) *Mitigation – describe the current mitigation requirements:*

When fishing in South Africa's EEZ the start and completion of the line setting is conducted at night only; defined by the period between nautical dusk and nautical dawn. In addition to night setting, the vessel shall choose between using a bird-scaring line or using line weighting.

If a bird-scaring line is used as the second seabird bycatch mitigation measure, vessels shall have on board an approved bird-scaring line, which must be deployed before setting starts each night and may only be retrieved after setting ends. If line weighting is used as the second seabird bycatch mitigation measure, the branch lines (snoods) shall be properly weighted; 40 g or greater attached within 0.5 m of the hook (to minimize gear loss from shark bite-offs), or 60 g or greater attached within 1 m of the hook, or 80 g or greater attached within 2 m of the hook. The gear shall be configured with weights attached for port inspections if this measure is chosen by the vessel

Vessels may use 'hook shielding devices' (as approved by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels).

Vessels fishing on the high seas may set during daylight hours subject to the following conditions: 1) the vessel shall have an observer on board; 2) the vessel shall deploy two tori lines and; 3) the branch lines shall be weighted as specified in permit conditions.

The vessel is restricted to an initial seabird mortality limit of 25 birds per year irrespective of vessel replacements. Once this limit is reached the vessel is required to use additional mitigation measures. No further setting shall be permitted once this limit has been reached.

#### Sharks

In terms Permit Conditions, Large Pelagic Longline vessels are not allowed to use wire traces. The entire Large Pelagic Longline fleet is restricted to a Precautionary Upper Catch Limit of 2000 t. The following shark species are prohibited from being landed: hammerheads; porbeagle, silky; threshers, and; oceanic whitetip.

#### Sea Turtles

All sea turtles must be released, according procedures as prescribed in permit conditions.

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

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<sup>10</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.



- 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):*  
All Large Pelagic Longline vessels are subjected to port inspection in line with Port State Measures and as per attached Annexure 5 of the Large Pelagic Longline permit conditions. This port inspection is carried out by the Fishery Compliance Officers in conjunction with the Observers. This includes the Tori line measurements, checking the availability of the de-hooking devices as well as line cutters. In addition, Patrol vessels are from time to time tasked to randomly board the large pelagic longline vessels for the inspection of the above.
  
- ii. *Describe the type of information that is collected on mitigation measures as part of compliance programmes for SBT vessels:*  
Through section B and C of the attached Annexure 5 of the Large Pelagic Longline permit conditions, an Observer is required to confirm the deployment of Tori line every day as well as weighted lines.

## **Appendix 1. 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 anymore;
- 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.