



CCSBT-EC/1610/04

Report from the Secretariat

Overview

This report provides a summary of the main activities of the Secretariat since the Twenty Second Annual Meeting in October 2015.

Officials of the CCSBT

The following official positions in the CCSBT were nominated, appointed or held during 2016.

Officer	Name	Date nominated / appointed
Chair – Commission	<i>Indonesia – to be advised</i>	
Chair – Extended Commission	Mr Hong-Yen Huang	31 December 2015
Vice Chair - Commission	Mr Shingo Ota	19 August 2016
Vice Chair – Extended Commission	<i>Indonesia – to be advised</i>	
Chair - Compliance Committee	Mr Frank Meere	16 October 2015* ¹
Chair –SC/ESC	Dr John Annala	7 May 2007* ²
Chair - ERSWG	Mr Alexander Morison	22 February 2011* ³

*¹ The CC Chair's current contract expires on 16 October 2017. Two additional two-year appointments may be made.

*² The SC/ESC Chair's current contract expires on 10 May 2017. There is no limit to the number of reappointments for this position.

*³ The ERSWG Chair is appointed for a term of at least two ERSWG meetings with the possibility of extension. There is one ERSWG meeting remaining in the Chair's current appointment, this being ERSWG 12.

Secretariat Staff and Office Management

The Secretariat's staff comprised 5 full-time positions and 1 casual, part-time position during 2015. These were:

- Executive Secretary
- Deputy Executive Secretary
- Database Manager
- Compliance Manager
- Office Administrator (1 position, but shared by two people)
- Data Entry Officer (casual, part-time)

The Executive Secretary's current contract expires on 30 October 2017. The Commission should consider whether it wishes to renew the current Executive Secretary's contract or whether to commence the process of recruiting a new Executive Secretary. There is no limit to the number of reappointments for this position. Appointment and re-appointment of the Executive Secretary is a task of the Commission, not the Extended Commission. However, the CCSBT's "Resolution to Establish an Extended Commission and an Extended Scientific Committee" require that:

“Any decision of the Commission that affects the operation of the Extended Commission or the rights, obligations or status of any individual Member within the Extended Commission should not be taken without prior due deliberation of that issue by the Extended Commission”

Consequently, the Extended Commission needs to deliberate on this matter before a decision is taken by the Commission

There have been no changes in the Secretariat’s staff since CCSBT 22. However, an intern, funded by Korea, worked in the Secretariat from December 2014 to August 2016 for training and development purposes.

Financial

The preparation of CCSBT’s Financial Statements for 2015 was conducted according to schedule. The Financial Statements were reviewed by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) and distributed to Members in Circular #2016/016. The outcomes of ANAO’s review were positive and no items of concern were identified.

A draft revised budget for 2016 and a draft budget for 2017, including indicative budgets for 2018 and 2019 have been prepared for the Extended Commission’s (EC’s) consideration and are presented in meeting documents CCSBT-EC/1610/05 and CCSBT-EC/1610/06.

Organisation of CCSBT Meetings and intersessional discussion following meetings

The Secretariat organised, or is in the process of organising, the following CCSBT meetings since CCSBT 22:

Fourth Meeting of the Compliance Committee Working Group	5-7 April 2016
Seventh Meeting of the Operating Model and Management Procedure Technical Group	3-4 September 2016
Twenty First Meeting of the Scientific Committee, incorporating the Extended Scientific Committee	5-10 September 2016
Eleventh Meeting of the Compliance Committee	6-8 October 2016
Twenty Third Annual Meeting of the Commission, incorporating the Extended Commission	10-13 October 2016

In addition to the above formal meetings, the Secretariat organised and hosted a CPUE webinar on 29 June 2016.

Translation of the 2015 meeting reports into Japanese has been completed and the translated reports have been placed onto the CCSBT web site. Bound versions of the reports for 2015 meetings have been completed and distributed.

Organisation of meeting venues for 2017 is underway, with quotes obtained and tentative bookings made for meetings at the following venues and dates (the tentative dates shown below were agreed intersessionally and notified to Members in Circulars #2016/018 and #2016/030):

Meeting	City & Venue	Tentative booking date
ERSWG 12	Te Papa, Wellington, New Zealand	Tue. 21 – Fri. 24 Mar. 2017
OMMP 8	Royal Ambarukmo Hotel, Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Sat. 26 – Sun. 27 Aug. 2017
SC/ESC 22		Mon. 28 Aug. – Sat. 2 Sep. 2017
CC 12		Thu. 5 – Sat. 7 Oct. 2017
CCSBT 24		Mon. 9 – Thu. 12 Oct. 2017

Attendance at meetings of other organisations since CCSBT 22

Secretariat staff attended the following meetings of other organisations during 2016:

- Fifth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop of the International MCS Network: 7-11 March, Auckland, New Zealand (Compliance Manager).
- FFA's 19th MCS Working Group Meeting: 14-18 March, Auckland, New Zealand (Compliance Manager).
- Second Regional Information Management System Workshop: 19, 21 March, Auckland, New Zealand (Database Manager).
- WCPO Tuna Fisheries Informal Technical Meeting: 22 March 2016, Auckland, New Zealand (Database Manager).
- Third Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project¹: 6-8 July, FAO, Rome, Italy (Executive Secretary).
- Sixth meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariat's Network: 9 July, FAO, Rome, Italy (Executive Secretary).
- Thirty-second Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI): 11-15 July, FAO, Rome, Italy (Executive Secretary).
- Other short meetings and side events alongside COFI, including: the Kobe Steering Committee meeting, the International MCS Network Business meeting, and a meeting of the Tuna RFMO Executive Secretaries: FAO, Rome, Italy (Executive Secretary).
- Informal technical introduction to SPC's TUFMAN 2 database: 9-12 August, SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia (Database Manager).

Proposed Attendance at meetings of other organisations between CCSBT 23 and CCSBT 24

It is proposed that:

- The Executive Secretary participate at:
 - the Project Steering Committee meeting for the ABNJ tuna project. Participation at this meeting will be funded by the ABNJ tuna project; and
 - a meeting of the Kobe Process Steering Committee (the date and location of which has yet to be specified).
- The Compliance Manager attend a meeting of the IMCS sub-network for tuna RFMOs. The meeting is expected to be held in Madrid during January 2017, with some of the participation costs being funded by the ABNJ tuna project via the IMCS network; and
- Depending on outcomes of the evaluation of the TUFMAN 2 platform for the Secretariat's database redevelopment (see Database Developments later in this report), the Database Manager work with SPC on this platform for 5 days in Noumea.

If suitable opportunities arise, it is intended that the Compliance Manager and/or Database Manager participate in inter-Secretariat technical discussions with CCAMLR and possibly WCPFC.

¹ Project on Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation.

Outsourced Projects

The Secretariat has contracted the following projects for the CCSBT to be conducted during 2016:

- Quality Assurance Reviews of Korea and New Zealand (with SAI Global)
- China Market Analysis (with TRAFFIC and CSIRO)
- Scientific Aerial Survey (with CSIRO)
- Gene Tagging Pilot Study (with CSIRO)
- Close-kin tissue sampling and processing (with CSIRO)
- Ageing of Indonesian SBT Otoliths (with CSIRO)

CCSBT Circulars

Circulars are used to issue requests and to distribute information to Members/CNMs. A summary list of circulars is maintained on the private area of the web site for easy reference by Members. The summary list contains the circular number, date, subject(s), whether a response is required, the due date for a response and the outcome (or a reference to the location of the outcome). The list of circulars gives an indication of the add-hoc and “once-off” intersessional activities of the Secretariat and EC. Fifty four Circulars were issued between CCSBT 22 and 21 August 2016.

CCSBT Web site

The web site continues to be an actively updated and actively used information tool for both CCSBT members and the general public. The public side of the CCSBT website was updated immediately after CCSBT 22 to incorporate the results and decisions from the 2015 meetings of the CCSBT.

As described in Circular #2015/064, the upgrade of the CCSBT web site from its outdated proprietary Content Management System (CMS) to the “Drupal” open-source CMS was completed in December 2015. The upgrade was successful and only a few small teething problems have occurred with the new site.

Participation in the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS)

The CCSBT is a partner in FAO’s FIRMS system. During 2015/16, the Secretariat met the CCSBT’s obligations to FIRMS by:

- Updating the CCSBT fact sheet for southern bluefin tuna by incorporating the ESC’s latest stock status report together with relevant decisions from CCSBT 22; and
- Supplying agreed data to FIRMS.

Integrated MCS Measures

Managing and implementing the CCSBT MCS measures continues to be a significant component of the Secretariat’s work. Since CCSBT 22, this has included:-

- For the CDS:
 - Running CDS data reconciliations, and following up on errors and missing information and forms;
 - Continuing development and modification of the CDS database and software;
 - Processing CDS validation details;
 - Producing 6 monthly and annual CDS reports; and

- Coordinating the purchase of centralised tags for use with the CDS.
- Continuing the subscription to the Global Trade Atlas database and monitoring trade of SBT as recorded on that database.
- Managing the operation of the CCSBT transshipment resolution.
- Managing the CCSBT records of Authorised Fishing Vessels, Carrier Vessels and Farms.
- Managing initial quota allocations and final catch by vessel/company data and associated access permissions.
- Checking for any submissions in relation to the new CCSBT IUU Vessel List Resolution.
- Preparing new and revised draft Compliance Measures and associated Resolutions.
- Producing reports for the Compliance Committee.

CCSBT Catch Reporting (excluding scientific data exchange)

Monthly Catch Reports

The Secretariat has continued to compile these statistics and has loaded them to the private area of the CCSBT web site on a monthly basis, providing email notification to members when updates occur.

Reporting of Initial Quota Allocations and Final Catches by Vessel/Company

The Secretariat has provided reminders to each Member before they were required to submit this information. On receiving the information, the Secretariat has loaded this information to a special section of the private area of the CCSBT web site. This information is only available to those who have applied for and been granted access to this information in accordance with the Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data compiled by the CCSBT.

CCSBT Surface Tagging Program

Tag deployment ceased after the 2006/07 season and the Secretariat's involvement in this program now relates only to tag recovery activity. Between 51 and 70 SBT were recaptured each year from 2013 to 2015. The number recaptured during 2016 is 9 SBT as at 16 August 2016. The number of recaptured tags is expected to decline each year.

Database Developments and Annual Scientific Data Exchange

The CCSBT Data CD and associated documentation was updated and provided to Members in January 2016. An interim update of the Data CD containing information from the 2016 Data Exchange was also placed on the private area of the CCSBT website in June 2016.

The Secretariat managed the 2016 scientific data exchange, which involved active exchange of data between Members and the Secretariat mainly between March and mid-June. The Secretariat conducted substantial post-processing of the data to produce derived datasets that were required as part of the data exchange.

The fourth annual ERSWG Data Exchange occurred during 2016. All Members submitted ERS data with the exception of Indonesia and the European Union. However, the European Union had no SBT catch and therefore had no relevant data to submit for the ERSWG Data Exchange which is defined as being for "shots/sets where SBT was either targeted or caught". No ERS data were provided by the only CNM, the Philippines.

At the time of finalising this report, the database was up to date for all data received.

The Secretariat's databases are in need of an upgrade as some of the systems are now quite old and may soon become incompatible with new operating systems. The Database Manager is investigating options for developing the new database. At present, the approach used by the Pacific Community (SPC) with its "TUFMAN 2" database appears to offer the most promise for a robust and cost-effective solution. An MoU has been signed with the SPC to allow the Secretariat to use SPC's TUFMAN 2 code free of charge for evaluation purposes, with the eventual goal that the CCSBT Secretariat and SPC would cooperate on the future development of TUFMAN 2 for both organisations' mutual benefit.

Global Vessel List

The global vessel list of the tuna RFMOs (Consolidated List of Authorised Vessels, or CLAV) has continued to be updated on a daily basis.

The CLAV is available at <http://clav.iotc.org/browser>. A web page has also been established in the Authorised Vessel and Farms section of the CCSBT web site to provide easy access to the CLAV.