



CCSBT-EC/1610/16

Activities with Other Organisations

Purpose

To receive reports from meetings of other RFMOs and agree on the CCSBT observers to attend meetings of other RFMOs during 2017, to consider a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with WCPFC¹ and to determine CCSBT participation at the joint tuna RFMO meeting on Ecosystems Based Fisheries Management (EBFM).

(1) CCSBT Observers at non-CCSBT meetings

CCSBT Members act as the CCSBT observer at RFMO meetings of interest (e.g. tuna RFMOs and CCAMLR²), and the observing Member provides a report back to the CCSBT on matters of relevance in order to improve coordination with other RFMO's. The following Members were nominated at CCSBT 22 to observe the next series of RFMO's annual meetings:

- Korea to observe meetings of WCPFC;
- Australia to observe meetings of CCAMLR;
- Indonesia to observe meetings of IOTC³;
- Japan to observe meetings of ICCAT⁴; and
- Taiwan to observe meetings of IATTC⁵.

These CCSBT observers may have matters of relevance to report back to the CCSBT.

The EC should confirm which Members will act as CCSBT observers to the next series of RFMO annual meetings.

It should be noted that CCAMLR has already invited the CCSBT to participate as an observer at its Thirty-fifth annual meetings of the Commission and Scientific Committee, from 17 to 28 October 2016. After CCSBT 23, the Secretariat will advise CCAMLR of the CCSBT observer that will attend CCAMLR.

¹ Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

² Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

³ Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

⁴ International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

⁵ Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

(2) Consideration of a draft Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on exchange of data with the WCPFC

A proposed MoC on the exchange and release of data between the WCPFC and the CCSBT was distributed by the Secretariat in CCSBT Circular #2016/015. Responses by Members were generally supportive of the MoC (see CCSBT Circular #2016/028). However, the MoC had not been discussed previously at CCSBT meetings, so the European Union requested that the MoC be discussed at CCSBT 23. The draft MoC, including changes proposed by Australia and New Zealand is provided at **Attachment A**.

The MoC was developed by the WCPFC and CCSBT Secretariats to facilitate the exchange of certain data that are not in the public arena. The MoC only permits exchanged data to be used to serve the purposes of WCPFC and CCSBT Conventions and requires that confidentiality must be maintained by the receivers of the data.

The proposed MoC:

- Currently facilitates the exchange of aggregated catch and effort data only. These are the same catch and effort data that are publicly available from both Commissions with the exception that for data exchanged through the MoC, it would not be necessary to remove strata that contain less than 3 vessels, which is currently done by both Commissions for the publicly available catch and effort data.
- Is supported by Goal 3.1 of the CCSBT's updated Strategic Plan, which seeks to ensure that: *"Accurate verified data is provided to the Scientific Committee and Commission in a timely manner"*. In particular, strategy (ii) towards achieving this goal is to: *"Review rules for commercially confidential scientific data to encourage sharing of these data in order to harmonise activities with other RFMOs and improve the functioning of the Commission."*
- Would have been beneficial to obtain aggregated catch effort data from WCPFC for conducting the estimation of non-Member SBT catches requested by the Extended Commission. Without the MoC, the Members scientists that conducted these analyses had to use the publicly available data, which was missing information from strata with less than three vessels. This may have resulted in an underestimate of non-cooperating non-Member fishing effort in these analyses.

The Extended Commission is invited to consider the proposed MoC.

The Extended Commission may also wish to consider whether a similar MoC should be developed with ICCAT, noting that ICCAT has similar confidentiality provisions with respect to strata containing less than three vessels.

(3) Attendance at the joint meeting of tuna RFMOs on the Implementation of Ecosystems Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)

CCSBT Circulars #2016/006 and 009 advised of the plans to hold a joint meeting of tuna RFMOs on the implementation of Ecosystems Based Fisheries Management to be held in Rome in late 2016. Funding is available through the FAO Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project to provide financial support for two participants from each tuna RFMO. The initial letter from the co-Chair of ICCAT's Standing Committee on Ecosystems proposing the meeting, together with the draft annotated agenda for this meeting is provided at **Attachment B**.

Members provided in-principle support for the CCSBT to attend this first tuna RFMO EBFM meeting and that the CCSBT participants should be scientists (e.g. the ERSWG and ESC Chairs or other relevant scientists).

The EBFM meeting is scheduled to be held for three days during the week of 12-16 December 2016. In addition, plans are underway to hold a joint tuna RFMO Technical Bycatch Working Group (TBWG) meeting, also in Rome, on the day(s) immediately before or after the EBFM meeting. If the TBWG meeting proceeds, it would be advantageous if one of the CCSBT EBFM participants was a scientist or Chair of the ERSWG.

The Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) noted that the ESC Chair (Dr John Annala) would be attending the EBFM meeting for the WCPFC as the Chair of the WCPFC's Ecosystem and Bycatch Mitigation Theme. The ESC further noted that the European Union's representative at the ESC would be attending the EBFM meeting as the Chair of IOTC's Scientific Committee.

The ESC recommended that the ESC Chair and the Chair of the CCSBT's Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG), Mr Alexander Morison, represent the CCSBT at the EBFM. It was further recommended that the ESC Chair provide feedback to the CCSBT on outcomes from the meeting and that the ERSWG Chair provide a report back to the ERSWG meeting being held in March 2017

The Extended Commission is invited to decide on the CCSBT participants to attend the joint tuna RFMO EBFM and TBWG meetings.

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION (MOC) ON THE EXCHANGE AND
RELEASE OF DATA**

between

**THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL
PACIFIC OCEAN**

and

THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA

*as at **xxxxxxx** 2016*

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC) and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (hereafter CCSBT):

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the Memorandum of Understanding of August 2009 between the WCPFC and the CCSBT agreed to exchange data and scientific information on an annual basis; and

NOW THEREFORE the WCPFC and CCSBT confirm the following conditions for the exchange and release of data from fisheries which capture highly migratory fish species:

1. CONDITIONS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF DATA

- (a) Both Commissions exchange equivalent data, specified at Clause 2, on a reciprocal basis, and maintain the data in a manner consistent with the security standards established by each Commission.
- (b) Data may be provided to the Members, Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs) and Service Providers of each Commission, but shall not be released or distributed further and shall be kept confidential by the Commissions and their Members, CNMs and Service Providers.
- (c) This MOC applies only to the data specified at clause 2 and does not permit the exchange between Commissions of any other data.
- (d) The data exchanged under this MOC shall be used only for the purposes of the Conventions of the WCPFC and the CCSBT.
- (e) The area of mutual interest under this cooperation is the WCPFC Convention Area, south of 20°S.
- (f) Data are to be exchanged on [at least] an annual basis from the date of signature of this MOC.
- (g) Outputs developed (such as scientific meeting papers) using the data exchanged under this MOC are to be exchanged on [at least] an annual basis from the date of signature of this MOC.

2. AGGREGATED DATA TO BE EXCHANGED

The following aggregated catch and effort data is to be exchanged on a reciprocal basis between Commissions:

- (a) Data for long line gear aggregated by flag State by 5° latitude and by 5° longitude by month with no minimum number of vessels; and
- (b) Data for surface gear (including purse seine) aggregated by flag State by 5° latitude and by 5° degree longitude by month with no minimum number of vessels.

3. OTHERS

- (a) This cooperation on the exchange and release of data may be modified at any time by mutual consent, acknowledging the need to obtain endorsement from respective RFMO member countries.
- (b) Either Commission may end this cooperation on the exchange of data by giving six months' notice of intention to terminate to the other Commission.

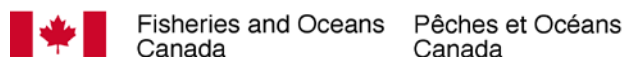
Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna:

.....
Chair, WCPFC

.....
Chair, CCSBT

Date:

Date:



Dear Colleagues,

February 1, 2016

As the current co-Chair of ICCAT's Standing Committee on Ecosystems, it is my pleasure to contact you on a matter of common interest to the tuna RFMOs.

There is an increasing interest among t-RFMOs to implement some form of ecosystem based fisheries management (EBFM) strategy. In theory, a more holistic approach to fisheries management should provide for healthier marine ecosystems but implementing such a comprehensive management strategy appears daunting and beyond the capability of any single group. How do we operationalize these strategies? Will a form of single species management suffice? What additional administrative demands are required? Is there a single framework that will serve everyone?

Although the concept of an ecosystem based approach to fisheries management has had a long history, there are relatively few examples of it being implemented. Where they exist, the approaches differ. Similarly, each t-RFMO may have a different perspective on what this management strategy means to them and possibly different ideas on a way forward. In an attempt to advance the exchange of ideas on the implementation of ecosystem based fisheries management within each t-RFMO, the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics has agreed to extend an invitation to relevant experts from other RFMOs to share experiences, look for commonalities and discuss specific strategies for operationalizing the approach.

The FAO Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project has offered to support joint meetings. Funding will support at least two meetings with the first to be held in 2016 at FAO headquarters in Rome. A draft agenda for the initial meeting is attached and we invite you to review its content and offer your suggestions. You will note that the discussions are to be kept at a very basic level as is appropriate for the first step. It will also be desirable to keep the group relatively small and consequently request suggestions on possible participants. There is financial support for two participants per t-RFMO to attend plus a limited number of technical experts. In order to facilitate the planning, we would appreciate your agreement in principle to attend the first dialogue, ideas on participants and edits to the agenda before the end of February.

Regards,

Alex Hanke

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"The one who says it cannot be done should never interrupt the one doing it." – G.B. Shaw (attributed)

"If you think you can or think you can't, you are right." - Henry Ford (attributed)

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2016 ANNOTATED AGENDA OF THE JOINT MEETING OF t-RFMOs ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EBFM

(Rome, xx-xx Month, 2016)

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements.
2. Review of RFMO EBFM experiences.
Each group will be asked to provide a presentation that describes the actions that have been taken and future plan for implementing an ecosystem based fisheries management framework. The presentation should attempt to address the following questions. What is the understanding of the EAFM in your organization? Who is responsible for developing the EBFM approach? Has a subcommittee been tasked with the responsibility? In what way does your strategic plan support the implementation of EBFM? Describe the role that scientists, managers, the Commission and other stakeholders play in developing the EBFM approach? What are the dimensions of the framework, their components and required steps for implementation? Have management objectives been defined with respect to the components of your framework? What steps have you taken to operationalize your conceptual management objectives? How will the EBFM framework be used within your organization? What are the impediments to developing and implementing the framework?
3. Discuss the merits of each organizations approach and the problems they have encountered.
In a roundtable discussion the group will summarize the problems that were identified and discuss? offer plausible solutions. The problem areas can be broadly categorized into a) Communication b) Institutional/Organizational c) Data d) Capacity/Knowledge and e) Leadership.
4. Identify opportunities to collaborate.
Determine how the 5 organizations might work together to advance the implementation of an EBFM framework.
5. Discuss next steps.
Develop a work plan which would facilitate the implementation of the EBFM approach among the 5 tuna RFMOs. Set a future meeting time and location.
6. Other matters.