



CCSBT-EC/1710/13

## Cooperating Non-members

### Purpose

To discuss the on-going status of Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs).

### Existing Cooperating Non-Members

The CCSBT has one Cooperating Non-Member, which is the Philippines. The Resolution establishing the status of Cooperating Non-Membership requires annual confirmation of that status after the Extended Commission (EC) has evaluated the performance of CNMs against commitments given to the Extended Commission.

The Philippines has been complying with the CCSBT's monthly catch reporting requirements and through this process, the Philippines has reported that it did not catch SBT in 2015, 2016, or so far (January to June) in 2017.

When setting the allocation of the SBT Total Allowable Catch for 2018 to 2020, CCSBT 23 set the Philippines' allocation to zero. This decision was made taking into account the lack of SBT catches by the Philippines during 2015 and 2016, the non-attendance of the Philippines at meetings of the CCSBT from 2014 to 2016, and the absence of national reports from the Philippines to any CCSBT meetings during 2016.

CCSBT 23 considered the performance of the Philippines and agreed that:

- *The CNM status of the Philippines be confirmed subject to the below conditions;*
- *The Executive Secretary write and send a strongly worded letter to the Philippines requesting that it demonstrate its commitment to cooperate as a CCSBT CNM by undertaking actions such as responding to the Executive Secretary's letter, providing reports as required, and attending meetings;*
- *The Executive Secretary's letter will specify a date by which the Philippines needs to respond, and outline that if no response is received by that date, then CCSBT Members will review the Philippines' CNM status intersessionally (by Circular) and subsequently advise the Philippines of their decision with respect to this status.*

The Executive Secretary's letter referred to above is provided at **Attachment A**. The Philippines' response was not received by the due date, so the CCSBT conducted an intersessional decision making process on whether to continue the Philippines' CNM status. The outcome of that consideration and the subsequent communication of this to the Philippines is provided in the letter to the Philippines at **Attachment B**.

A response was received from the Philippines on 31 July 2017 in a letter from the Philippines dated 7 July 2017. This letter is provided at **Attachment C**. In its letter, the Philippines acknowledges that it has not been actively participating in the work of the Commission in the past years, but that it is committed to continue to cooperate and participate in the future activities of the Commission such as attending meetings and submitting required annual reports.

Annual assessments of compliance with CCSBT management measures are conducted by the Compliance Committee. Consequently, for information concerning any current significant issues of non-compliance by CNMs, the EC is referred to the report of the 2017 annual meeting of the Compliance Committee, which is being held immediately before the annual meeting of the EC. In the interim, Attachments A and B of paper CCSBT-CC/1710/04 provide information concerning the compliance of both Members and CNMs with CCSBT measures (particularly reporting requirements and the TAC).

The Extended Commission is invited to consider the ongoing Cooperating Non-Member status of the Philippines.

Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna



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21 November 2016

Atty. Asis G. Perez  
Director  
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
PCA Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City  
Philippines, 1101

Dear Atty. Perez,

The Annual meeting of the Extended Commission of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) was held from 10 to 13 October 2016.

At its annual meeting, the CCSBT set the global total allowable catch (TAC) of southern bluefin tuna (SBT) and the allocation of the TAC for the 2018 to 2020 fishing years.

I wish to advise you that the allocation of the SBT TAC to the Philippines for 2018 to 2020 has been set to zero by the CCSBT. In deciding on the allocation to the Philippines, the CCSBT took into account the lack of SBT catches by the Philippines during 2015 and 2016, the non-attendance of the Philippines at meetings of the CCSBT from 2014 to 2016, and the absence of national reports from the Philippines to any CCSBT meetings during 2016.

In addition, the Compliance Committee noted with dissatisfaction that the Philippines did not submit a national report to its meeting, and the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) has again requested that the Philippines provide national reports to annual meetings of the ESC in the future.

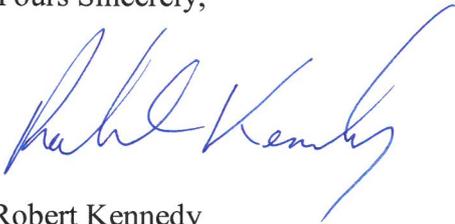
Despite the above, the CCSBT has agreed to continue the Philippines' allocation of 45 tonnes of SBT for the 2017 calendar year and to continue the Cooperating Non-Member status of the Philippines providing that the Philippines:

1. reaffirms its commitment to cooperate as a CCSBT Cooperating Non-Member as outlined in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the CCSBT's Resolution to Establish the Status of Cooperating Non-Member of the Extended Commission and the Extended Scientific Committee (attached);
2. demonstrates this commitment by providing national reports to meetings as required and attending meetings of the CCSBT (in particular the Compliance Committee and Extended Commission meetings); and
3. responds to this letter by 31 December 2016, confirming the Philippines' agreement to points "1" and "2" above.

If the CCSBT Secretariat has not received the response mentioned in point “3” above by 31 December 2016, the CCSBT Members will review the Philippines Cooperating Non-Member status intersessionally and subsequently advise the Philippines of the CCSBT’s decision with respect to this status.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance in relation to CCSBT matters.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Robert Kennedy  
Executive Secretary

Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなみまぐろ保存委員会

14 March 2017

Commodore Eduardo B. Gongona  
Director  
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)  
Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Building,  
Department of Agriculture  
Elliptical Road, Diliman  
Quezon City  
Philippines

Dear Commodore Gongona,

I refer to my letter to the Director of BFAR dated 21 November 2016 (attached). I have not received a response to that letter. Consequently, the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) has considered the Philippines' Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status to the CCSBT in the absence of a response.

Following this consideration, the CCSBT has agreed to continue the Cooperating Non-Member status of the Philippines for 2017 and to maintain the Philippines's allocation of the global southern bluefin total allowable catch at 45 tonnes for 2017. In making this decision, it was noted that:

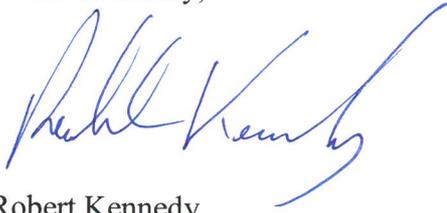
- The Philippines continues to provide monthly catch reports to the CCSBT Secretariat; and
- According to its monthly catch reports, the Philippines has not been catching SBT since September 2014.

However, I would like to inform you that some CCSBT Members are concerned that the current level of engagement by the Philippines is not consistent with its status as a Cooperating Non-Member of the CCSBT and that I expect the Philippines' status as a Cooperating Non-Member will come under close scrutiny at the CCSBT's annual meeting in October 2017. Consequently, if the Philippines wishes to continue its Cooperating Non-Members status to the CCSBT, I request that the Philippines:

- Participate at the Annual meeting of the CCSBT's Compliance Committee and Extended Commission in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 5-7 October 2017 and 9-12 October 2017 respectively; and
- Provide a national report to the annual meeting of the Extended Scientific Committee and the annual meetings of the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance in relation to CCSBT matters.

Yours Sincerely,



Robert Kennedy  
Executive Secretary



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES**  
*PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City*  
Tel No. 929-9597  
Fax No. 929-8074

July 7, 2017

**Prof. Dr. Indra Jaya**  
Commission Chairperson  
Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science  
Bogor Agricultural University  
Indonesia

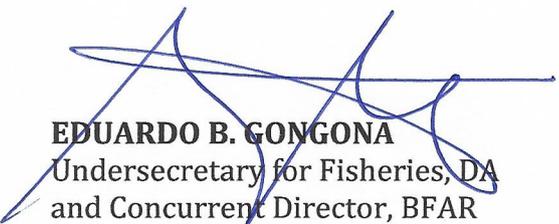
Attention: Mr. Robert Kennedy  
Executive Secretary  
Email: [rkennedy@ccsbt.org](mailto:rkennedy@ccsbt.org)

Dear Prof. Dr. Indra Jaya,

Philippines is thankful to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) for considering our Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status and maintaining our allocation for Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) at 45 tonnes for 2017. Philippines do acknowledge that we have not been actively participating in the work of the Commission in the past years. But we are committed to continue to cooperate and participate in the future activities of the Commission such as attending annual meetings and submitting required annual reports.

Please also note that Philippines has not been actively operating and has not been catching Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) since September 2014.

Sincerely,

  
**EDUARDO B. GONGONA**  
Undersecretary for Fisheries, DA  
and Concurrent Director, BFAR