

Provisional Agenda
Twelfth meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group
21 - 24 March 2017
Wellington, New Zealand

1. Opening

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda

1.2 Adoption of Document List

Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs) will be asked to assign documents to specific agenda items when they provide the documents to the Secretariat.

1.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs

Members will be asked to nominate rapporteurs for agenda item 4 and parts of item 5. In addition, presenters of papers will be asked to provide a brief paragraph for papers they have presented (excluding annual reports) for inclusion in the report of the meeting.

2. Annual reports

Members and CNMs will prepare and provide annual reports to the ERSWG in accordance with the [agreed template which was revised in March 2015](#) to add 5 additional columns of information to Table 1 of the template. Reports are expected to contain all information specified in the template. It will be assumed that reports have been read by participants prior to the meeting, so this agenda item will be reserved for questions of clarification regarding the reports.

2.1 Members

2.2 Cooperating Non-Members

3. Reports of meetings and/or outcomes of other organisations relevant to the ERS Working Group

All organisations with long terms observer status for CCSBT ERSWG meetings (see http://www.ccsbt.org/site/observers_attendance.php) will be invited to attend and to present a report to the meeting. Members and CNMs may also present relevant reports from organisations not present at the ERSWG meeting. The Chair will report on the outcome of the December 2016 Joint Tuna RFMO Ecosystems Based Fisheries Management meeting and any activities of the Joint Bycatch Technical Working Group. In cases where information from other organisations is relevant to specific later agenda items, the detailed information should be presented at the later specific agenda items instead of here.

4. Review of progress with the work program from ERSWG 11

5. Information and advice on ERS

*This is the key agenda item to progress the assessment of the risks to ERS posed by fishing for SBT, and the identification of any additional measures that might be needed for the mitigation of these risks. **Members, CNMs and observers are requested to develop and submit papers in advance of the meeting on the following agenda items.** Specific requests from CCSBT 23 and ERSWG 11 for work to be conducted by ERSWG 12 are provided in annotations under the relevant sub agenda items.*

5.1 Seabirds

5.1.1 Information on stock status

In accordance with standing instructions, the Secretariat will request ACAP and Birdlife International to provide updated information on the seabirds likely to be caught by SBT fisheries, including population status summaries and reviews of mitigations measures.

5.1.2 Ecological risk assessment

The ERSWG 11 workplan specified that New Zealand and ACAP, with contributions from other Members, would update the seabird ERA findings for ERSWG 12. CCSBT 23 also requested that ERSWG 12 consider a global spatial seabird risk assessment.

5.1.3 Estimates of ERS mortality and associated uncertainty

The ERSWG 11 workplan tasked New Zealand and ACAP to prepare an overview of potential methods for calculating bycatch rates and extrapolating these to total numbers of seabirds killed.

5.1.4 Assessment and advice on mitigation measures

The ERSWG 11 workplan tasked Members to develop criteria for the definition of “high risk areas” for seabirds and use them to identify such areas. In addition, CCSBT 23 directed the ERSWG, at its 2017 meeting, to specifically examine seabird bycatch mitigation measures currently in place in the ‘spatially-based’ RFMOs and the best available information on the distribution and population status of seabirds and provide advice to ESC22 and EC24 on whether these mitigation measures should be strengthened, and if they should be strengthened, how they should be strengthened.

5.1.5 Seabird species identification

CCSBT 23 requested that ERSWG 12 discuss ways to improve seabird species identification.

5.2 Sharks

5.2.1 Information on stock status

In addition to information to be provided by Members on shark stock status, CCSBT 23 requested that the ERSWG review progress of the porbeagle shark assessment being led and coordinated by the shark component of the ABNJ Tuna Project.

5.2.2 Ecological risk assessment

The ERSWG 11 workplan encouraged Members to develop papers on ERA for sharks caught in SBT fisheries. Furthermore, CCSBT 23 requested that the ERSWG review any risk assessment work undertaken by other RFMOs which might highlight priority shark species for which CCSBT fisheries may have an impact.

5.2.3 Estimates of ERS mortality and associated uncertainty

5.2.4 Approaches to reduce mortality on sharks

CCSBT 23 requested that the ERSWG consider approaches to reduce mortality on sharks, in particular unwanted shark catches.

5.3 Other ERS

Members and observers are encouraged to present information concerning the impacts of fishing for SBT on ERS such as sea turtles and marine mammals etc. The Secretariat will provide the meeting with any relevant new information from the IOSEA Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA-Turtles).

5.4 Trophic interactions

CCSBT 23 requested that the ERSWG consider the following two matters.

5.4.1 Review of available data on SBT prey for both wild and farming SBT

5.4.2 Discuss information on pelagic food webs

6. ERS Data

This agenda item is for discussion of data requirements to monitor the impact of fishing for SBT on ERS and to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures. This agenda item is also intended to cover initiatives that could lead to improvements in data.

6.1 ERSWG Data Exchange

As agreed at ERSWG 10, The Secretariat will provide summaries from the last ERSWG Data Exchange in advance of the meeting. This agenda item also provides an opportunity to consider any changes in relation to the data exchange process and information.

- 6.2 **CCSBT fishing effort data**
The ERSWG 11 workplan recommended that the Secretariat prepare a description of the availability and resolution of SBT fishing effort data including the assumptions used in raising that data and options for improving the quality of such effort data.
- 6.3 **Observer data**
- 6.3.1 **Life status codes for seabirds and sharks**
The ERSWG 11 workplan recommended that advice on life status codes for seabirds and sharks be provided at ERSWG 12 for inclusion in the Scientific Observer Program Standards.
- 6.3.2 **Guidance for observers on seabird related tasks**
The ERSWG 11 workplan recommended that for ERSWG 12, Members provide more detailed guidance on priorities for seabird-related tasks including the appropriate allocation of observer time and standard methods for counting the numbers of seabirds around vessels.
- 6.4 **Oceanographic conditions that characterise SBT fishing grounds**
The ERSWG 11 workplan tasked Members with providing a synthesis of information on the oceanographic conditions that characterise SBT fishing grounds.
7. **Education and public relations activities**
Education and public relation activities conducted by Members should be covered under agenda item 2, so they should not need to be discussed here. This agenda item is intended for discussion of any new activities that should be conducted by the CCSBT to enhance mitigation and/or data collection in relation to ERS.
8. **Compliance information**
- 8.1 **Monitoring usage of bycatch mitigation measures**
ERSWG 11 requested that the Compliance Committee (CC) collate information from Members on the types of information collected on bycatch mitigation measures under compliance programs for SBT vessels (e.g. port inspections and other monitoring and surveillance programs). In response to this request, CC 10 added a section on “Monitoring usage of bycatch mitigation measures” to the annual reporting template for the Compliance Committee and Extended Commission. The first information for this section was provided to CC 11 and the Secretariat will compile this for provision to ERSWG 12. The ERSWG will be invited to comment on the usefulness of this information and provide suggestions for improvement.
- 8.2 **Minimum Performance Requirements (MPRs)**
In accordance with the Compliance Committee’s Compliance Action Plan, during 2017 the Secretariat will review and prepare draft updated MPRs as appropriate for the:
- *Scientific Observer Program Standards; and*
 - *CCSBT Measures relating to ERS.*
- A copy of these draft updated MPRs will be provided to the ERSWG for its information and comment.*
9. **Future work program**
As part of this agenda item, the ERSWG will review new action items that need to be added to the ERSWG workplan. In addition, CCSBT 23 requested that ERSWG 12 develop a multi-year strategy in relation to seabirds that identifies research, monitoring needs, and actions to reduce uncertainty and associated risks.
10. **Other business**
11. **Referral of ERS matters for consideration by CCSBT subsidiary bodies**
This agenda item is for matters that the ERSWG considers should be specifically referred to other subsidiary bodies of the CCSBT.

12. Recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission

13. Conclusion

13.1. Adoption of meeting report

13.2. Recommendation of timing of next meeting

13.3. Close of meeting