



CCSBT-EC/1010/04

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Overview

This report provides a summary of the main activities of the Secretariat since the 16th Annual Meeting in October 2009. The report also:

- Recommends that long-term observer status to Compliance Committee meetings be issued to HSI International; and
- Notes that the Secretariat is currently able to “administer” existing MCS measures without a Compliance Officer, but it does not have the capacity to conduct analyses of the MCS information. Hence, compliance benefits could be gained by appointment of a Compliance Officer.

Secretariat Staff and Office Management

The Secretariat’s staff comprised 4 full-time positions and 1 casual, part-time position during 2010. These were:

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

There have been no changes in the staff of the Secretariat since CCSBT 16. Work within the Secretariat is progressing efficiently. However, the Secretariat is currently working at capacity.

The audit of CCSBT’s Financial Statements for 2009 by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) was conducted according to schedule and circulated to Members. ANAO was able to issue an unqualified review report on the Commission’s special purpose financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2009.

Financial

An operating surplus in the general budget of about \$201,000 is estimated for 2010. A comparison between the approved 2010 budget and the estimated outcome is included in meeting document CCSBT-EC/1010/05.

A proposed budget for 2011 with indicative figures for 2012 has been prepared for the Extended Commission’s consideration, taking into account the recommendations of the ERSWG and the Extended Scientific Committee. The proposed budget is presented in meeting document CCSBT-EC/1010/06.

Organisation of CCSBT Meetings

The Secretariat organised and supported the following meetings during 2010:

2 nd Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group Meeting	14-16 April 2010
3 rd Management Procedure Technical Meeting	21-25 June 2010
Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) Meeting of the 15 th SC	4-10 September 2010
15 th Meeting of the Scientific Committee	11 September 2010
5 th Meeting of the Compliance Committee	9-10 October 2010
Extended Commission Meeting of CCSBT17	11-14 October 2010
17 th Annual Meeting of the Commission	15 October 2010

Translation of meeting reports into Japanese is up to date at the time of writing this report, with all pre-2010 meetings and the first two meetings of 2010 having been translated into Japanese and placed onto the CCSBT web site¹.

In addition to the formal meetings outlined above, the Secretariat organised two web discussions (during February and March 2010) to progress the work on the Management Procedure and the work of the CPUE Working Group. The meetings were chaired by Dr Ana Parma and Professor John Pope respectively from CCSBT's independent scientific advisory panel.

At CCSBT 16, the Extended Commission modified the rules of procedure to create the status of long-term observer for CCSBT Meetings. The new status helps to increase the transparency of the CCSBT and is much simpler to administer than the previous process of seeking case by case approvals for attendance at meetings. The list of observers approved at CCSBT 16 is shown below. The Secretariat recommends that the list be modified to provide long-term observer status for HSI to attend meetings of the Compliance Committee (HSI sought and has been granted approval to attend the 2010 meeting of the Compliance Committee).

List of observers provided with long-term observer status for CCSBT Meetings					
	Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group	Ecologically Related Species Working Group	Extended Scientific Committee	Compliance Committee	Extended Commission
States					
-					
IGOs					
ACAP		Yes	Yes		Yes
CCAMLR		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ICCAT		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IOTC		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
WCPFC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
NGOs					
Birdlife Int.		Yes			Yes
HSI Int.		Yes		Recommended by Secretariat	Yes
TRAFFIC Int.		Yes		Yes	Yes
WWF Aust.		Yes		Yes	Yes

CCSBT Website

The public side of the CCSBT website was updated to incorporate the results and decisions from the 2009 meetings after CCSBT 16. The web site continues to be an actively updated and used information tool for both CCSBT members and the general public. The Secretariat receives a considerable number of enquiries by e-mail in relation to the material included in

¹ The reports for 2010 are only on the private area of the web site because these are not yet publicly available.

the website. In addition, the private area of the website remains an important operational tool for the CCSBT. It is used extensively for data and document exchange.

CCSBT 16 agreed to a proposal from the Secretariat that the aging CCSBT web site be re-written to ensure that it remains compatible with new servers and browsers, to improve its functionality and to enable easier maintenance of the web site by the Secretariat. Technical development of the new web site is currently underway and is expected to be complete by November 2010 (possibly earlier). Once technical development is complete, the new web site will be populated with information from the existing web site and tested before it replaces the existing web site. This is expected to occur during the first quarter of 2011. In addition to improved compatibility and easier maintenance, the new web site will offer improved security, flexibility and navigation within the private area of the web site. However, when the new web site comes on-line, Members will need to re-apply for accounts to the private area because the Secretariat cannot transfer passwords between the old and new web sites.

Meetings of Other Organisations since CCSBT 16

The Database Manager participated at the 6th Meeting of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS) Steering Committee and the 23rd Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP) which was held in conjunction with the FIRMS meeting (Hobart, February 2010).

The Executive Secretary represented the Extended Commission at the following four joint tuna RFMO workshops. In addition, the Chair of the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) attended the first of these workshops, while the Deputy Executive Secretary attended the third workshop:

- Joint tuna RFMO meeting of experts to share best practices on the provision of scientific advice (Barcelona, May/ June, 2010).
- International workshop on improvement, harmonisation and compatibility of monitoring, control and surveillance measures, including monitoring catches from catching vessel to markets (Barcelona, June 2010).
- International workshop on tuna RFMO management of issues relating to bycatch (Brisbane, June 2010).
- International workshop on RFMO management of tuna fisheries (Brisbane, June/July 2010).

The ESC Chair gave a presentation on development of the CCSBT Management Procedure at the first workshop. At the request of the meeting organisers, the Executive Secretary provided presentations on the CCSBT CDS, CCSBT Bycatch assessment and mitigation, and Progress with Management of Fishing Capacity/Catch and Allocation within the CCSBT.

Participation in the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS)

The CCSBT is a partner in FAO's FIRMS system. During 2009/10, 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 16;
- Supplying agreed data to FIRMS; and
- Participating at the 6th meeting of the FIRMS Steering Committee as indicated above.

Integrated MCS Measures

Managing and implementing the CCSBT MCS measures has been a significant component of the Secretariat's work. Since CCSBT 16, this has included:-

- For the CDS:
 - Working with Members to implement the CDS, resolving issues and misunderstandings in relation to the operation of the CDS, and compiling recommendations for modifications to address CDS issues;
 - Developing the CDS database (a major undertaking that is still in progress);
 - Processing CDS data and validation details; and
 - Coordinating the purchase of centralised tags for use with the CDS.
- Managing the operation of the CCSBT transshipment resolution.
- Managing the CCSBT records of Authorised Fishing Vessels, Carrier Vessels and Farms.
- Developing a template for use with Compliance Action Plans.

It is important to note that the Secretariat does not have a Compliance Officer. The Secretariat is currently able to administer² these MCS measures without a Compliance Officer. However, the Extended Commission should be aware that without a Compliance Officer, the Secretariat does not have the capacity to conduct analyses of the MCS information, or even to be aware of possible trends in the information. Consequently, compliance benefits could be gained if the Extended Commission was able to fund appointment of a Compliance Officer. Such funds have NOT been included in the proposed budget for 2011.

Trade Information Scheme

The Secretariat continued its management of the Trade Information Scheme (TIS) because data for exports/imports in 2009 were not due for provision until 31 March 2010. Due to delays in receiving a large number of documents, covering the entire 2009 calendar year, and the number of documents with incomplete information, that are still being followed up by the Secretariat, six monthly reports have not yet been issued for TIS exports during 2009.

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 approximately one month before they were required to submit this information. On receiving the information, the Secretariat has loaded this information to the private area of the CCSBT web site. The secretariat notifies members of the updated information on the website at the time of the Monthly Catch Report emails.

² For the CDS, "administration" includes providing reminders regarding various requirements to Members and CNMs, processing the basic data (including managing validation details), implementing and operating a range of automated checks on the data, contacting Members and CNMs when automatic checks detect problems on individual forms or between forms, producing defined 6 monthly reports for the Extended Commission and provided other defined reports that might be required from the Extended Commission from time to time.

CCSBT Surface Tagging Program

Tag deployment ceased after the 2006/07 season and the Secretariat's involvement in this program now only relates only to tag recovery activity. As expected, the number of tags recovered from the surface fishery is now declining each year, but tag recoveries from long line fisheries should not decline at the same rate.

Database Developments and Annual Scientific Data Exchange

The CCSBT Data CD and associated documentation was updated and provided to Members in January 2010.

The Secretariat managed the 2010 scientific data exchange, which involved active exchange of data between Members and the Secretariat mainly between April 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.

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

Substantial database development work has been undertaken in relation to the Catch Documentation Scheme as reported under the heading of Integrated MCS Measures.

Global Vessel List

The Secretariat has been cooperating with the other tuna-RFMOs in the investigation of a unique vessel identifier (UVI) for use by the tuna RFMOs in conjunction with the global list of tuna vessels. However, progress has been slow because the method identified in 2009 to develop a UVI required the tuna RFMOs to collect additional information for vessels in their authorised vessel records and none of the tuna RFMOs have made progress in that area. An alternative method of developing a UVI has been identified and work will commence in early 2011³ with the aid of funding by ISSF.

ERS Education Pamphlets and Identification Guides

In order to implement the recommendation of ERSWG8, the Secretariat has been working with Members to determine changes required to CCSBT's ERS education pamphlets and Identification Guides. Agreement has been obtained on the main issues and work is about to commence on the actual updating of the pamphlets and guides.

Prepared by the Secretariat

³ Starting with a meeting of RFMO Data Managers to discuss technical issues with the exchange of information and assignment and management of UVIs.