



CCSBT-EC/1010/16

Relationship with Non-members

Purpose

To discuss the situation with countries that are not Cooperating Non-Members.

Discussion

As requested by the first meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group and noted by CCSBT 16, the Secretariat wrote to both the People's Republic of China and the United States of America in December 2009 to seek cooperation with the CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme.

The USA's response is provided at Attachment A. In brief the USA is working on transitioning to an electronic trade monitoring system during 2010 and will review its ability to respond to the CCSBT's request as part of that process. In the interim, the USA will continue to collect trade tracking and/or catch documents, issued by CCSBT, as have been collected historically by the USA for southern bluefin tuna.

No response has been received from the Secretariat's letter to China. The letter to China was sent to the Director of the Division of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries with a copy to the Chinese Embassy in Canberra. Electronic reminders were sent to the Director on 15 March 2010 and again on 12 August 2010.

JAN 29 2010



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Robert Kennedy
 Executive Secretary
 Commission for the Conservation of Southern
 Bluefin Tuna
 P.O. Box 37
 Deakin West, ACT 2600
 Australia

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Thank you for your letter regarding U.S. cooperation in the implementation of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) catch documentation scheme. As noted in your letter, the United States is cooperating with CCSBT's statistical document program.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, which implements these requirements on behalf of the United States, is transitioning to an electronic monitoring system, the International Trade Data System. We are undertaking the transition in response to numerous changes in trade tracking requirements adopted at various regional fisheries management organizations, as well as advances in technology. We will be working on this transition throughout 2010 and will review our ability to respond to the CCSBT's request as part of that process. Until the transition is completed, the United States will continue to collect trade tracking and/or catch documents, issued by CCSBT, as have been collected historically for southern bluefin tuna.

The United States considers the sustainable management of the world's fisheries to be a high priority and will provide additional detail concerning this issue as soon as possible.

Please circulate this letter to the members of the Commission for their consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Balsiger".

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
 Acting Assistant Administrator
 for Fisheries

