

**Provisional Agenda
Eighth Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group**

1. Opening
 - 1.1. Election of the Chair
 - 1.2. Adoption of the Agenda

Meeting arrangements will also be discussed at this time.
 - 1.3. Appointment of Rapporteurs
2. Annual Reports

Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Non-Members (if relevant) will prepare and provide annual reports to the ERSWG in the agreed format (see Attachment 4 of the ERSWG7 report - below). 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
 - 2.3. Non-Members
 - 2.4. Summary of mitigation measures and implementation of IPOAs

It is proposed that during the meeting, the Secretariat use the above reports to prepare and report a tabulated summary of Member and Cooperating Non-Member mitigation measures and NPOAs using the same categories as in the annual report. The ERSWG may then consider the global level of mitigation and where appropriate, make recommendations for changes.
3. Review of Relevant International Instruments

Implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds and IPOA-Sharks by Members is covered under agenda item 2, so they will not be raised again here. This agenda item will be reserved for discussion of other international instruments that Members consider important to the work of the ERSWG.
4. Reports of meetings of other organisations relevant to the ERS Working Group

Prior to the ERSWG meeting, the Executive Secretary will write to IOTC, ICCAT, WCPFC, CCAMLR and ACAP and seek copies of reports from relevant meetings of those organisation together with a summary of any matters that those organisations wish to bring to the attention of the ERSWG. The ERSWG will note such reports and discuss relevant issues raised in the reports.
5. Provide information and advice on issues relating to species associated with southern bluefin tuna (SBT) (ecologically related species), with specific reference to:
 - 5.1. Species (both fish and non-fish) which may be affected by SBT fisheries operations:

It is intended that this agenda sub-item be the main focus of ERSWG8's work. This area of the CCSBT's performance received substantial criticism from the CCSBT Performance Review and CCSBT15 noted that this was a significant issue that the CCSBT needed to resolve (paragraph 42, Report of CCSBT15). To address this issue, CCSBT15 agreed to a non-binding recommendation to mitigate the impact on ERS of fishing for SBT. Paragraphs 3 and 7 of that recommendation state that:

“3. Members and Cooperating Non-Members will collect and report data on ecologically related species to the Extended Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies as appropriate, including the Ecologically Related Species Working Group. ...”

“7. The Extended Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies as appropriate will undertake an assessment of the risks to ecologically related species posed by fishing for southern bluefin tuna. The Extended Commission will consider how these risks are mitigated by

the adoption of measures described at section 2, and will consider whether any additional measures to mitigate risk are required.”

The ERSWG will commence to address these issues under this agenda sub-item. It is expected that this ERSWG will commence the necessary work and provide initial estimates, and then provide a work plan and recommendations for progressing the work.

5.1.1. Synthesis of available data to provide initial estimates of total ERS mortality by year and species (or species group).

It is proposed that each Member and Cooperating Non-Member prepares and circulates a single paper for the ERSWG meeting that reports, for its SBT fishing operations, the actual and observed effort (e.g. hooks for longline or sets for purse seine) and the number of observed mortalities of each ERS species by year, ocean, latitude group and gear¹. For sharks, log book information could be provided in addition to observer information. The papers should also estimate and report the scaled up number of mortalities by year and ERS species. Confidence limits of the scaled up estimates should be provided where possible.

The ERSWG will discuss the papers and attempt to provide initial global ERS mortality estimates by combining the scaled estimates from the different papers. An important part of this work will also be to identify whether there are any significant gaps in the information that prevent initial estimates from being made.

5.1.2. Discussion and recommendation of analyses to be conducted in future to obtain improved estimates of ERS mortality and estimates of uncertainty.

The estimates to be produced at 5.1.1 will be initial estimates only. Discussion is necessary to determine the type of analyses that should be conducted in future in order to adequately assess the risks to ERS posed by fishing for SBT. Once future analyses methods are agreed, the ERSWG should consider any data collection and data sharing arrangements (including with IOTC and WCPFC) that need to be implemented to support those analyses.

5.1.3. Update on mitigation research and priorities

A description of the mitigation measures research currently underway should have been provided at agenda item 2, so such descriptions won't be repeated here. This section will focus on providing updates of the outcomes of mitigation research that is currently underway or recently concluded. The mitigation measures research table from ERSWG6 (Attachment 10) will also be updated. It is proposed that each Member update this table in relation to its own activities and provide the updates to the Secretariat prior to the meeting so that a single revised table can be developed and distributed at the start of the meeting. The discussion should end with a consideration of ERSWG priorities for mitigation research.

5.2. Predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock

This agenda sub-item is part of the ERSWG's Terms of Reference and is included in the agenda to enable new information in this area to be reported to the ERSWG. Japan proposes to update attachment 9 of the ERSWG 6 report, which is SBT stomach content sample locations. Unless time permits otherwise, it is expected that discussion of this item will be limited.

6. Education and public relations activities

Education and public relation activities conducted by Members are covered under agenda item 2, so they won't 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.

¹ The details to be reported in the papers (e.g. 5 versus 10 degree latitude group versus) can be refined through intersessional discussion between participants.

7. Future work program

7.1. Inter-sessional work program

Development of the inter-sessional work program will include reviewing the ERSWG Operational Framework from ERSWG6 (Attachment 11) and incorporating relevant parts from that framework into the work program.

7.2. Agenda for next meeting

8. Recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission

It is expected that the ERSWG will provide the Extended Commission with qualified initial advice on the risks to different ERS of SBT fishing. Depending on the estimated levels of these risks or trends and the outcomes of mitigation research, the ERSWG may also make recommendations concerning the need and approaches to reduce the risks. It is also expected that the ERSWG will make recommendations to the Extended Commission in relation to its future work program and in relation to data collection and sharing arrangements to support that program.

9. Other business

10. Conclusion

10.1. Adoption of meeting report

10.2. Recommendation of timing of next meeting

10.3. Close of meeting