



CCSBT-EC/0910/04

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Overview

This report provides a summary of the main activities of the Secretariat since the 15th Annual Meeting in October 2008.

The report also suggests three changes in the operation of the CCSBT for consideration by the Extended Commission, these being:

- Creation of a list approved observers for CCSBT meetings to both increase efficiency of CCSBT administration and improve transparency;
- For future meetings of the CCSBT and its subsidiary bodies to be paperless in order to reduce both wastage and costs; and
- Updating and upgrading the CCSBT web site 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.

Secretariat Staff and Office Management

The Secretariat's staff comprised 4 full-time positions and 1 casual, part-time position during 2009. 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 significant changes in the staff of the Secretariat since CCSBT 15. These were:

- The temporary Executive Secretary, Mr Brian Macdonald, finished his duties at the end of October 2008 and was replaced by Mr Robert Kennedy on the same date.
- The Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr Kiichiro Miyazawa finished his term in June 2009 and was replaced by Mr Shinichi Suzuki in the same month.
- Mr Kennedy's promotion to Executive Secretary created a vacancy in the Database Manager position. Mr Simon Morgan was appointed to this position and commenced part-time in December 2008, with his full-time duties commencing in January 2009.

The new staff have adapted well to their new positions and work within the Secretariat is progressing efficiently. However, the Secretariat is currently working at capacity.

The audit of CCSBT's Financial Statements for 2008 by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) was conducted according to schedule and circulated to Members. Overall, the audit outcome was good and the ANAO noted a significant improvement in the general operations of the Commission during 2008.

Financial

An operating surplus in the general budget of about \$181,000 is estimated for 2009. A comparison between the approved 2009 budget and the estimated outcome is included in meeting document CCSBT-EC/0910/05.

A proposed budget for 2010 with indicative figures for 2011 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/0910/06.

Organisation of CCSBT Meetings

The Secretariat organised and supported the following meetings during 2009:

Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group Meeting	15-17 April 2009
Operating Model and Management Procedure Technical Meeting	13-17 July 2009
8 th Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG)	1-3 September 2009
Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) Meeting of the 14 th SC	5-11 September 2009
3 rd Meeting of the Compliance Committee	18-19 October 2009
Extended Commission Meeting of CCSBT16	20-23 October 2009

In addition to the formal meetings outlined above, the Secretariat organised:

- Two web discussions (during February and May 2009), Chaired by Professor John Pope from CCSBT's independent scientific advisory panel, to progress the work of the CPUE Working Group.
- A briefing to Indonesia (during April 2009) on the CCSBT Operating Model & Management Procedure, run by Dr Ana Parma from CCSBT's independent scientific advisory panel.

For the 2009 ERSWG and ESC meetings, Members agreed to trial a paperless meeting, in which the Secretariat did not print papers for the meeting. Instead, Members brought their own copies of papers which they downloaded from the private area of the CCSBT web site. This is becoming a common practise in many RFMOs and significantly reduces both wastage and costs. The trial worked well and the Secretariat suggests that the Extended Commission consider this as the standard practise for all future CCSBT meetings, including the annual meeting. To support such arrangements, papers submitted very late (within 7 days of the meeting) would have copies provided at the meeting by the submitting Member. Also, papers would be available electronically at the meeting and papers could be printed or copied at the meeting if required.

During 2009, five organisations (ACAP, TRAFFIC International, WWF Australia, Birdlife International and the Humane Society International) made separate requests for observer status at different CCSBT meetings (SFMWG, ERSWG, ESC, Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission meeting). These requests involved a chain of approval messages from the Secretariat to Members and back to the requesting organisations in order to facilitate observer status according to the CCSBT Rules of Procedure. In addition, the Secretariat requested approval from Members to invite observers from three of the other tuna RFMO's and CCAMLR to attend the ERSWG meeting. During 2009, Members were happy to grant observer status. It would therefore aid planning, be more transparent and be more efficient for Members, the Secretariat and the observer organisations if the CCSBT created a long-term observer status and maintained a list of approved long-term observers for specific meetings. Draft changes to the CCSBT Rules of Procedure to implement a long-term status for approved observers is provided at Attachment A. The table below provides a suggestion for an initial list of approved long-term observers based on recent (2008 and 2009) approvals

and attendances by NGOs. However, according to the Article 14 of the Convention, non-government organisations may need to request this status before it is confirmed for them.

Suggested list of initial observers to be 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 ¹	Yes ¹		Yes ¹
ICCAT		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IOTC		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
WCPFC	Yes ²	Yes ²	Yes ²	Yes ²	Yes ²
NGOs					
Birdlife Int.		Yes			Yes
HSI Int.					Yes
TRAFFIC Int.	Yes			Yes	Yes
WWF Aust.					Yes

CCSBT Website

The public side of the CCSBT website was updated to incorporate the results and decisions from the 2008 meetings after CCSBT 15. 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 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.

Unfortunately, the CCSBT web site is old³ and may become incompatible with new web servers and internet browsers. Those parts of the web site that were developed in a language called “Cold Fusion 4” need to be re-written or at least upgraded to a newer version of Cold Fusion⁴. Upgrading to a new version of Cold Fusion would be the cheapest option, but a complete re-write would offer improved functionality⁵ and easier maintenance by the Secretariat in the long term.

It is recommended the web site be re-written in 2010 or 2011. The proposed budget for 2010 presented in meeting document CCSBT-EC/0910/06 assumes that this will occur in 2010.

¹ The draft Arrangement between CCSBT and CCAMLR that CCSBT Members are considering specifies that: “Consistent with each Commission’s rules of procedure, grant permanent reciprocal observer status to representatives of the respective Commissions in relevant meetings of each Commission”. For the purpose of this table, “relevant meetings” have been considered to be the ERSWG, ESC and the annual meetings of the Extended Commission.

² The current Memorandum of Understanding between CCSBT and WCPFC specifies that the CCSBT and WCPFC agree to “grant permanent reciprocal observer status at meetings”. For the purpose of this table, this statement has been considered to refer to all meetings.

³ It was developed in late 2001 and the underlying structure, format and programming language have not been updated since then.

⁴ This includes the entire private area of the web site (including an administration area that Members do not see), the record of authorised fishing and carrier vessels and the record of authorised farms.

⁵ Such as better organisation of the private area, easy on-line access to meeting documents, improved management of meeting details and documents, ability to provide observers with on-line access to meeting documents (this cannot currently be done because it would also provide access to the entire private area).

Meetings of Other Organisations

The Executive Secretary represented the Extended Commission at the following meetings and conferences since CCSBT 15:

- COFI 28, the 2nd Meeting of the Regional Secretariat's Network and a meeting of the Tuna RFMO Secretariats (Rome, March 2009).
- The Second Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs and a meeting of the Tuna RFMO Secretariats (San Sebastian, July 2009).
 - The Secretariat prepared a paper for this meeting to describe CCSBT's progress in respect to the Course of Actions for RFMOs from the first (Kobe) meeting of joint tuna RFMOs.

Participation in the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS)

The CCSBT is a partner in FAO's FIRMS system. During 2008/09, 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 15; and
- Supplying agreed data to FIRMS.

Integrated MCS Measures

The Secretariat has conducted a significant amount of work towards the implementing MCS measures agreed at CCSBT 15. This included:

- Modifying the CCSBT database and the CCSBT web site to manage and display the new record of authorised SBT farms and the new record of authorised SBT carrier vessels.
- Developing improved forms for the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS), preparing a draft Secretariat reporting format for the CDS, coordinating the purchase of tags for use by five Members and one Cooperating Non-Member with the CDS; and compiling recommendations for additional changes to the CDS. This intersessional development work was presented to the Compliance Committee as paper CCSBT-CC/0910/05.
- Developing and obtaining intersessional agreement to a format for Member's annual VMS summary reports to the Compliance Committee as described in CCSBT-CC/0910/06.
- Implementing the CCSBT transshipment resolution as described in the Compliance Committee paper CCSBT-CC/0910/07.

Trade Information Scheme

The Secretariat continued its management of the Trade Information Scheme. Six monthly reports were issued on 1 December 2008 for TIS exports from January to June 2008, and during July 2009 for TIS exports from July to December 2008. The report for the first six months of 2009 is due on 1 December 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.

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. The number of tags recovered from the surface fishery will decline each year, but substantial numbers are still expected for 2009. 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 2009.

The Secretariat managed the 2009 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 most data received.

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. This work was supported by the Second Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs in San Sebastian and development of the UVI has been identified as one of the proposals for immediate action arising from the meeting. More details of this activity are provided in CCSBT-EC/0910/08.

**Draft changes to Rules 3 and 11 of the CCSBT Rules of Procedure
to implement the proposal for a long-term observer status**

RULE 3

OBSERVERS

1. In accordance with Article 14 of the Convention, the Executive Secretary may, with the approval of all the Members, invite the following States, entities or organisations to send observers to attend meetings of the Commission:

- (a) any State or entity not party to the Convention, whose nationals, residents or fishing vessels harvest southern bluefin tuna, and any coastal State through whose exclusive economic or fishery zone southern bluefin tuna migrates: and
- (b) any inter-governmental or, on request, non-governmental organisations having special competence concerning southern bluefin tuna or competent to contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the Convention.

2. Except as provided in Rules 3.3 and 3.43.5, the Commission shall determine which States, entities, inter-governmental organisations and, on request, non-governmental organisations referred to in Rule 3.1 shall be invited to send observers to attend the next meeting of the Commission at the meeting immediately preceding the one to which the invitation shall be extended.

3. The Commission may approve long-term observer status to specific States, entities, inter-governmental organisations and, on request, non-governmental organisations referred to in Rule 3.1. Approvals by the Commission for long-term observer status will specify the types of meetings to which the approvals apply and approvals will remain in-force until cancelled by the Commission. Approvals for long-term observer status may be cancelled at any time by the Commission. The Executive Secretary shall maintain the list of all current approvals for long-term observer status granted by the Commission and shall issue invitations for observers with long-term observer status to attend the specified meetings in accordance with Rule 3.7.

34. Any non-governmental organisation which has expressed an interest in sending observers to attend a meeting of the Commission shall provide the Executive Secretary with information explaining the organisation's competence concerning southern bluefin tuna or the organisation's competence to contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the Convention.

45. Not less than 50 days before a meeting of the Commission, the Executive Secretary shall advise the Members of the names of States, entities and organisations that do not have long-term observer status in accordance with Rule 3.3 which have expressed an interest in sending observers to attend the next meeting of the Commission, and provide the Members with any information received from non-governmental organisations pursuant to Rule ~~3.3~~3.4. The Executive Secretary may also suggest to Members the names of States, entities and inter-governmental- organisations referred to in Rule 3.1 not otherwise invited to attend a meeting of the Commission whose attendance at that meeting may facilitate the work of the Commission.

56. The Commission shall take a decision to extend an invitation to observers on the Executive Secretary's advice or suggestion made under Rule ~~3.4~~3.5 in accordance with Rule 6.5. If a Member objects to an invitation being extended to particular States, entities or organisations to send observers to proceedings of the Commission, that Member shall inform the Executive Secretary in writing of its objection together with the reasons for such objection. The Members shall be informed of any objection and any reason given therefor by another Member to extending an invitation to particular observers and that objection shall be considered at an early point at the next meeting of the Commission. The Executive Secretary, upon receipt of the notification in writing of an objection, shall thereupon advise the State, entity or organisation against which the objection has been entered of the objection, by which Member it was lodged and the reasons provided therefor.

67. The Executive Secretary shall issue invitations with respect to observers to a meeting of the Commission not less than 28 days before the date of the opening of the meeting. Recipients of invitations shall be required to advise the Executive Secretary in writing at least 14 days before the opening of the meeting of acceptance of the invitation and of details of the observers who will attend the meeting.

78. Observers may be present at both public and private sessions of the Commission. If a Member of the Commission so requests, the Commission shall meet without observers present to decide whether the discussion of a particular agenda item shall be restricted to Members. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a Member so requests, any session of the Commission concerning the invitation to non-governmental organisations to send observers to attend meetings of the Commission, shall be restricted to Members.

89. The Chairman may invite observers to address the Commission unless a Member objects. Observers shall not be entitled to participate in the taking of decisions by the Commission and shall not vote.

910. Observers may submit documents to the Executive Secretary for distribution to Members as information documents only. Such documents must be relevant to matters under

consideration in the Commission. Unless any Member of the Commission requests otherwise such documents shall only be available in the language in which they are submitted.

~~1011~~. The Commission may decide to consider documents submitted by observers.

RULE 3A

CO-OPERATING NON-MEMBERS

1. A State or entity that is admitted to the Extended Commission in the capacity of a co-operating non-member will have the right to participate actively in meetings of the Extended Commission, the Extended Scientific Committee and their subsidiary bodies, including, but not limited to, the right to make proposals and the right to speak, but not to vote. The Extended Commission may decide to restrict the participation of a cooperating non-member in a particular Agenda item.

.
. .

RULE 11

OTHERS

1. Unless the Commission decides otherwise, the opening plenary session of a meeting of the Commission shall be open to the public.

2. Subject to Rule ~~3.7.3.8~~ all other proceedings of meetings of the Commission shall be private and open only to Members and observers unless decided otherwise by the Commission.

3. The Commission may decide to restrict the proceedings of any meeting to Members.