



CCSBT-EC/0710/12

## 17.1 Relationship with CCAMLR

### Purpose

To advise the Commission on developments in relation to fishing for SBT in the CCAMLR Convention Area.

### Background

Consideration of this item has been deferred from the CCSBT 13 Special meeting July 2006 and CCSBT13 October 2006.

At its 2005 annual meeting, the Extended Commission agreed that it should have an arrangement with CCAMLR concerning the management of fishing for southern bluefin tuna in the CCAMLR Convention Area. The Executive Secretary wrote to CCAMLR in October 2005 seeking development of such an arrangement and the proposal was considered by CCAMLR at its annual meeting in November 2005.

The terms of an agreement required by CCAMLR were conveyed to the Executive Secretary after the CCAMLR annual meeting and the Executive Secretary has replied indicating the issues raised by CCAMLR need to be discussed by the Extended Commission. A copy of this exchange of correspondence is attached.

The CCAMLR requirements for fishing for southern bluefin tuna in the CCAMLR Convention Area are broadly summarised below:

1. full details of the vessels authorised to fish for southern bluefin tuna to be provided to CCAMLR
2. the CCSBT will not authorise any vessel on the CCAMLR IUU vessel list
3. the provision of automatic satellite-linked VMS reports
4. application of CCAMLR's measures on plastic packaging bands
5. application of CCAMLR's provisions for the minimisation of incidental seabird mortality consistent with the nature of fishing for southern bluefin tuna
6. submission of data on catch, by-catch and incidental mortality of seabirds consistent with CCAMLR arrangements
7. compliance with CCAMLR's system of inspection, which includes at sea inspections
8. observer coverage
9. actions related to IUU fishing

Of this list, items 3,4,6,7 and 8 are management issues where new or significant change to CCSBT management and conservation measures would be required.

### Context

A number of options are presented in this paper for the Extended Commission to consider. Consideration of these options would be undertaken in the following context:

- Article 12 of the Convention requires cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations and this has occurred with ICCAT, IOTC and the WCPFC, where there is overlap or shared interests.
- Four of the CCSBT members, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Korea are members of CCAMLR and have agreed to the conservation and management measures of that body.

- To some degree CCAMLR's measures reflect a purpose more associated with the protection of a unique environment than the CCSBT, where the purpose of its creation related more to the commercial international exploitation of a high seas fishery.
- The common interest with CCAMLR is not significant:
  - Only 10 vessels are listed with CCAMLR from CCSBT members – Australia (2), Japan (2), New Zealand (4) and Korea (2).
  - Very little fishing for southern bluefin tuna has occurred in the CCAMLR Convention Area, although in the last two years the catch has increased. Fishing in this area largely ceased in 1984 and that until 2004, the total catch in most subsequent years was less than 1 tonne. There were larger catches of about 25 tonnes in 2004 and 75 tonnes in 2005. The catch in 2005 was reported by Japan and the Philippines. The catch in recent years has occurred mainly in the area 60-65° east, 45-50° south.

## Options

Three options are presented for consideration by the Extended Commission. They are not recommendations but represent a set of responses to give a view of the range of possible responses available to the Extended Commission:

- i. Agree to the CCAMLR request with application of an agreement with CCAMLR specified for an area where fishing for SBT was possible (say 30-80° east, 45-50° south).
- ii. Decline the request and members cease fishing in the CCAMLR Convention Area
- iii. Propose a compromise arrangement, which would reflect current CCSBT management and conservation arrangements.

### Option (i)

Even though the amount of fishing effort and number of vessels involved is relatively small, this option would be onerous for the CCSBT unless the CCSBT wished to implement the management and conservation measures in its own right. It would probably require for the area and vessels involved:

- the introduction of a VMS system managed by the Secretariat
- specific CCSBT action on plastic packaging bands for application across the fishing fleet
- an extension of the current tori line decision and other mitigation actions to reflect the specifics of the CCAMLR resolution
- increased data provision to the CCSBT database to include by-catch and incidental seabird mortalities
- agreement to at sea inspection arrangements
- 100% observer coverage

### Option (ii)

This option might be considered if the demands of Option (i) were judged by the Extended Commission to be too difficult in the context of the limited fishing activity involved.

It would require some form of decision by the Extended Commission to prohibit fishing in the CCAMLR Convention Area.

### Option (iii)

This option represents a possible response where the intent of the CCAMLR requirements is met, but without the CCSBT adopting any new systemic measures. The structure of the option is presented against the nine CCAMLR requirements set out in the background section of this agenda paper. An explanation for each proposal is shown in red type in brackets in each item.

1. the CCSBT authorised list would be provided to CCAMLR (This list is already maintained)
2. the CCSBT would agree not to authorise any vessel on the CCAMLR IUU vessel list (The Secretariat would establish a routine in the authorised vessel list system that would prevent a vessel on the CCAMLR list from being added to the CCSBT list. There would be some costs associated with the arrangement's development.)
3. the CCSBT Secretariat would advise CCAMLR when a vessel was intending to fish in the CCAMLR Convention area and when the vessel had left the area. (A system for members to inform the Secretariat of these two dates would have to be set in place. It would not involve operating a VMS system during the time the member's vessel was in the CCAMLR Convention Area and would not be a real time system. Such an arrangement would inform CCAMLR of the fishing presence and its duration, which is the purpose of the VMS system.)
4. an undertaking would be given that any plastic packaging bands would not be jettisoned in the CCAMLR Convention area (The CCAMLR arrangement is to ban this packaging material for securing bait boxes in the Convention Area and with other restrictions on the use of similar packaging for other on-board purposes. A CCSBT offer not to dispose of the packaging material would secure the same outcome)
5. the CCSBT would require Member vessels fishing in the CCAMLR Convention Area to observe the CCSBT's instructions on the application of tori poles and the general guidance given in its pamphlets on mitigating the impact of fishing on seabirds (This is not as comprehensive as the CCAMLR provision and would lack compulsion. It would not however require new arrangements to be adopted for seabird mitigation. Alternatively, the CCAMLR requirement could be mandated if members thought it appropriate and a reasonable extension of the existing CCSBT arrangement)
6. at the end of the fishing cruise in the CCAMLR Convention Area, the Secretariat would report on a 5°X5° basis the southern bluefin tuna catch, by-catch and incidental mortality of seabirds (This would require a new catch reporting arrangement to be operated by the CCSBT with some costs. The masters of the vessels concerned would have to be instructed to record the necessary data as observers would not be present. However, some of this material is already collected, so the additional data requirement may not be too onerous)
7. the CCSBT would agree to vessel inspection (This offer would reflect the fact that vessel inspection in the CCAMLR area is already supported by the four members common to the two organisations)
8. the CCSBT observer standards would apply (100% observer coverage would be very difficult in the circumstances of the southern bluefin tuna longline fishery in the Indian Ocean. Agreement to the catch reporting requirements in 6 above could be cited as a reason to relax this requirement of CCAMLR)
9. the various actions the CCSBT has undertaken and are currently in place would be explained (The response would cite all of the measures the CCSBT has taken – Action Plan, Trade Documentation Scheme, Authorised Vessel List, etc – as a demonstration of the CCSBT's determination to stop IUU fishing)

**For consideration**

**Prepared by the Secretariat**