



CCSBT-EC/0410/04

2. Report from the Secretariat

Purpose

To submit a report to the Extended Commission on the activities of the Secretariat since the 10th Annual Meeting in October 2003.

Secretariat Staff and Office Management

For 2004, Secretariat staff has comprised:

- Executive Secretary
- Deputy Executive Secretary
- Database Manager
- Office Administrator

The Extended Commission agreed to extend the contract of the Executive Secretary to 28 February 2006.

The Executive Secretary extended the contract for the Database Manager, Bob Kennedy for 3 years with effect from 16 September 2004.

The office administrator position is job-shared. Ms Chika Scally commenced maternity leave in August 2004 and will return to work in August 2005. Kozue Loghem resigned in May 2004 to accompany her husband on an overseas posting. Chika and Kozue have been replaced by Noriko Ishigaki and Mari Warren.

Financial

An operating surplus of \$166,412 is estimated for 2004. The main reasons for the surplus are the movement in the Australian dollar, which has reduced the cost of meetings, and the anticipated UN adjustment to salary levels not occurring, which has reduced salary payments. A comparison between the approved budget and the estimated outcome is included in meeting document **CCSBT-EC/0410/05**. That document also provides a detailed explanation of the reasons for variations from the approved budget.

The Secretariat applied the full amount of \$76,161 in the special fund established to manage the net proceeds from the mortalities from the 2003 Australian east coast tagging pilot to the CCSBT tagging program.

A further special fund has been established for the proceeds of the 2004 Australian east coast tagging program. A net amount of \$50,223 is currently held in this account.

A proposed budget for 2005 with indicative figures for 2006 has been prepared for Commission consideration taking into account the recommendations of the Extended Scientific Committee. The proposed budget with supporting documentation is set out in meeting document **CCSBT-EC/0410/06**.

Organisation of CCSBT Meetings

The Secretariat organised and supported the following meetings and workshops:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| - 5 th Ecologically Related Species WG | 2-5 February 2004 |
| - 3 rd Management Procedure Workshop | 19-24 April 2004 |
| - Special Commission Meeting | 26-27 April 2004 |
| - 5 th Stock Assessment Group Meeting | 6-11 September 2004 |
| - 9 th Extended Scientific Committee | 13-16 September 2004 |

Meetings of Other Organisations

The Secretariat represented the Extended Commission at the following meetings and conferences:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Meeting of tuna regional fisheries bodies | 13-14 March 2004 |
| - FIRMS/FIGIS training at FAO | 28 June – 2 July 2004 |

Trade Information Scheme

The TIS module of the central database and procedural arrangements of the TIS were modified as agreed at CCSBT10.

The Secretariat issued an interim report on TIS exports for the final six months of 2003 in June 2004. The report for the first six months of 2004 is due on 1 December 2004.

The Secretariat continued efforts with Indonesia to seek improvement in accurate completion of the TIS forms sent with consignments of SBT. Some progress has been made but progress is slow. Indonesia is cooperating. The Secretariat also sought improved TIS reporting from South Africa and China, but has not received responses from these countries. The U.S.A. has indicated that it is implementing legislation to allow it to cooperate with the CCSBT TIS scheme for imports by the U.S.A.

A report on compliance with the TIS scheme is at Attachment A.

CCSBT Website

The CCSBT website was modified to incorporate the CCSBT authorised vessel list. The list has been populated with the data supplied by members and cooperating non-members. Vessel lists supplied by other countries have not been placed on the website. Members have been advised of the procedures the Secretariat will follow in maintaining the currency of the list.

The website was also modified to provide public access to a subset of TIS data as agreed at CCSBT 10. Publication of catch effort and size data also agreed at CCSBT 10 has been deferred due to uncertainty that existed regarding certain historical datasets. This uncertainty was resolved prior SAG5/SC9 and it is now planned that the agreed data be published on the web site in late 2004.

The CCSBT will be contributing catch data to FAO's FIRMS system to be published on the FIGIS web site. It is planned that the data provided for the FIGIS web site also be published on the CCSBT web site.

Action Plan

No activity has been undertaken under the Action Plan since CCSBT10.

CCSBT Surface Tagging Program

The Secretariat managed the third year of the program and has begun preparations for the fourth year of activity, which is scheduled to commence in December 2004.

In total, 10,277 fish were tagged in the surface fishery and another 224 fish were tagged and seeded into sea cages this season (since December 2003). Final outlays on tag deployment for the program are estimated to total \$535,575. Tags from a total of 1,473 fish, including seeded tags, have been recaptured this season at the time of writing this report.

In addition to the deployment of tags, the Secretariat continued efforts on tag recovery activities. Members have assisted the Secretariat in this activity by publicising the need for recovery of tags with their fleets.

The Extended Scientific Committee established a small working party to consider the structure of the surface tagging program and recommended continuation of the surface tagging program as a high priority. The special budget for the tagging program is presented to the Extended Commission in **CCSBT-EC/0410/06**.

Database Developments

Technical modifications were made to the database to incorporate the new CCSBT authorised vessel register, additional tagging data¹, and modifications to the TIS scheme. At the time of writing, the database was up to date for all data received with the exception of recent surface fishery tag recaptures, for which a backlog accumulated prior to the SAG/SC meetings.

Processing data for the database (including electronic assessment related data from members; TIS data; tag & recapture data; and authorised list vessel data) has become a significant task for the Secretariat.

Ecologically Related Species Working Group

The Secretariat published the education pamphlets on seabirds and sharks in January 2004. These were circulated at the 5th ERS Working Group Meeting in February and have been provided to members for distribution among their fishing fleets.

Development of Discussion Papers

Discussion papers were prepared for the Extended Commission on

- Quota trading
- Modifying the funding formula
- Catch monitoring
- Criteria for admission of new members
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Interaction with Non-members

The Secretariat organised and participated in meetings with South Africa and Indonesia for discussions with a CCBT delegation concerning cooperating non-membership.

The Executive Secretary wrote to China enquiring as to its intentions for developing a SBT fishery. No reply had been received at the time of writing this report.

Prepared by the Secretariat

¹ For tags that are “seeded” into fish farms.

Compliance with the CCSBT Statistical Document Program

In previous years, the Secretariat has provided a summary of compliance with relevant sections of the TIS scheme. A similar summary, updated for 2003/04 is provided here for member's information.

A. Information Required (Section 2 of SDP)

Section 2.1 requires that the Statistical Documents be completed and checked in accordance with the minimum standards.

Japan has been reporting on problems it discovered in statistical documents to the Secretariat as is required by Annex 5, section 2.3. The Secretariat has also monitored the accuracy and completeness of all statistical documents received and has contacted the countries/fishing entities involved to obtain corrected information as is required by Annex 5, section 3. Table 1 reports on the problems remaining in statistical documents after this process. It is encouraging to note that Indonesia has been making a significant effort to correct its statistical documents through this process¹. The Secretariat has yet to see improvement in completion of original documents by Indonesia, but hopes that this will occur in the near future. The process of following up all incorrect/incomplete statistical documents is time consuming for the Secretariat, so it is important to achieve improvements in the completion of the original documents.

Table 1: Summary of problems remaining in Statistical Documents after the Secretariat sought corrections from issuing countries/fishing entities. Restricted to documents for exports from 1 November 2003 (i.e. after CCSBT agreement on minimum standards) to 31 March 2004 (last data held by Secretariat at the time of preparing this report)

Type of Problem	AU	TW	NZ	KR	PH	ID
Number of statistical documents received	65	88	2	2	1	132
Number of incomplete/incorrect documents	1	0	0	1	0	94
Percentage incomplete/incorrect	1.5%	0%	0%	50%	0%	71%
Missing document number	0	0	0	0	0	19
Capture or Farmed not specified	0	0	0	0	0	60
Vessel name not provided	0	0	0	0	0	18
Missing processor name	0	0	0	0	0	4
Missing export city	0	0	0	0	0	83
Missing export country	0	0	0	0	0	82
Missing or invalid product state (F/FR)	0	0	0	0	0	10
Missing date of harvest	0	0	0	0	0	51
Harvest date provided as a range spanning months	1	0	0	1	0	0
Missing or invalid gear code	0	0	0	0	0	47
Missing or invalid statistical area	0	0	0	0	0	34
Multiple statistical areas provided for a single fish description record	0	0	0	1	0	0
Missing number of fish	0	0	0	0	0	58
Missing export date	0	0	0	0	0	13

In accordance with Section 2.2 (d) and (e) members are required to maintain aggregated information on their tuna farms and submit such information to the Secretariat every six months on average. Australia last submitted aggregated information on tuna farms to the Secretariat during 26 March 2004.

¹ Nearly all Indonesian TIS documents have contained at least one problem prior to correction by Indonesian officials after follow-up by the Secretariat.

B. Exchange of Information (Section 4 of SDP)

Members who modify the Standard SDP form are required to provide a copy of the modified form to the Executive Secretary. Revised SDP forms to comply with CCSBT 10's recommendation to include Destination country on the form were submitted by:

- Australia (May 2004, with a further revision in July 2004)
- Taiwan (June 2004)
- New Zealand (May 2004)
- Indonesia (June 2004)

It was not necessary to submit revised forms if the forms did not differ from the officially revised standard SDP form.

The following validation updates have been provided by members since CCSBT 10.

- Australia provided an update of all of its validators (September 2004).
- Australia also provided regular updates of its export registered establishments².
- Taiwan provided details of its changed validation official (June 2004).
- Japan provided updates of its changed list of validators (February and July 2004).
- New Zealand provided an update of all of its validators (July 2004).
- Korea provided an update of all its validators (March 2004).

C. Record and Report and Re-export (Sections 5 & 6 of SDP)

Japan complied with the requirement in Section 5.1 to forward SDP documents on a quarterly basis. No other member has provided standard SDP documents for SBT imports since CCSBT 10, but Korea reported as required on its imports of SBT that were re-exported from Japan.

The Secretariat has complied with Sections 5.3 and 6.4, and provided reports for the export periods of January-June 2003 and July-December 2003 on 28 November 2003 and 8 June 2004 respectively. The 8 June report was provided 7 days late due to other commitments of the Secretariat.

Most members complied with the requirement in Section 5.8 to provide an electronic record of exports for the periods January-June 2003 and July-December 2003 and Section 5.10 to resolve discrepancies identified by the Executive Secretary in the reconciliation of import and export documents. The only exceptions are that an electronic record of July-December 2003 exports have not been received from Korea and there are some TIS documents reported by exporters that have yet to be received from Japan.

² However, this is not a requirement of the CCSBT SDP