



**CCSBT-EC/0410/07**

#### **4. Relationship with Non-members**

##### **Purpose**

To discuss the situation with non-members.

##### **Discussion**

###### Philippines

The Philippines became a formal cooperating non-member on 2 August 2004 and will be participating in CCSBT11 under the terms of the CCSBT resolution on cooperating non-members. A copy of the exchange of correspondence is at Attachment A.

A catch limit of 50 tonnes has been agreed with the Philippines and is subject to review at CCSBT11.

###### Indonesia

A delegation from the CCSBT met with Indonesian officials in February 2004 to discuss the terms of Indonesia's application to become a cooperating non-member of the CCSBT. A form of words was agreed for the application. Under the terms of the CCSBT resolution a deadline of 21 June 2004 was applicable for Indonesia's application if Indonesia was to participate in CCSBT11 as a cooperating non-member. At Indonesia's request this deadline was extended to 21 July 2004.

On 22 July 2004 Indonesia advised the Executive Secretary that the matter was still be considered by the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that Indonesia would not be making an application for CCSBT11. In separate advice the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs advised the Executive Secretary that observers would not be sent to CCSBT meetings until the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had endorsed an application.

The Executive Secretary wrote to Indonesia on 16 August 2004 encouraging the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to endorse an application for cooperating non-membership and inviting observers to the CCSBT meetings in September and October 2004. An offer to meet the costs of Indonesian participation was extended. A copy of this letter is at Attachment B.

No reply has been received from Indonesia to the Executive Secretary's letter.

###### South Africa

A delegation from the CCSBT visited South Africa in January 2004 to discuss South Africa's intentions about acceding to the Convention or applying to become a cooperating non-member. South Africa confirmed its interest in the CCSBT and initially sought a catch limit of 300-400 tonnes. A counter offer of 30 tonnes was made by the CCSBT delegation as agreed at CCSBT10. In subsequent correspondence, South Africa reduced its proposed catch limit to 250 tonnes.

South Africa has indicated the proposed catch limit would be used to support the development of a tuna and swordfish fishery in South Africa's EEZ and adjacent high seas. SBT would be taken as a bycatch.

South Africa cited a catch history going back to the 1960s and more recent catches by the Taiwanese and Japanese fleets in its EEZ to support its catch limit proposal.

The CCSBT discussed South Africa's situation at the Special Meeting in April 2004. As a consequence and after further intersessional discussion, a catch limit has not been agreed for South Africa. The Executive Secretary wrote to South Africa on 12 August 2004 inviting it to send an observer to CCSBT11 where it is hoped the situation with South Africa will be resolved.

#### China

The Executive Secretary wrote to China on 19 May 2004 seeking advice on China's intentions with regard to the SBT fishery. The letter was prompted by information from the TIS scheme that China was catching SBT and exporting product to members.

No reply has been received to the Executive Secretary's letter.

#### Seychelles

The Seychelles gave an undertaking to the CCSBT that it would not authorise Seychelles' registered vessels to fish for SBT. This undertaking appears to be being honoured. The TIS Scheme has no record of Seychelles' catch for nearly two years.

#### Vessel List

Only vessels from cooperating non-members (only the Philippines) have been added to the CCSBT authorised vessel list.

**Prepared by the Secretariat**



**Attachment A**

26 July 2004

Mr Alberto A. Encomienda  
Secretary-General  
Maritime and Ocean Affairs Centre  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
2330 Roxas Blvd.  
Pasay City  
PHILIPPINES

Dear Mr Encomienda

I refer to your letter of 18 June 2004 in which you applied to become a cooperating non-member of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

Your application and the undertakings contained therein have been considered by members and accepted. As a result the Philippines is invited to participate in the next annual meeting in Busan, Korea on 19-22 October 2004.

The Commission asked me to thank the Philippines for its interest in and commitment to the conservation and management objectives of the Commission and looks forward to its participation in all future activities.

The vessels nominated by the Philippines have been added to the Commission's list of vessels authorised to fish for southern bluefin tuna.

I will be in contact with you shortly concerning the meetings of the Commission over the balance of 2004.

Yours sincerely

Brian Macdonald  
Executive Secretary



Office of the Secretary  
Maritime and Ocean Affairs Center

17591

18 June 2004

**MR. BRIAN MACDONALD**

Executive Secretary  
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)  
PO Box 37 Deakin St., West ACT 2600  
Unit I, JAA House  
19 Napier Close Deakin, Australia

Dear Mr. Macdonald:

**ON BECOMING A CO-OPERATING NON-MEMBER OF THE EXTENDED COMMISSION AND THE EXTENDED SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA (CCSBT)**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines presents its compliments to the Executive Secretary for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), and acknowledges receipt of your invitation to become a Co-operating Non-member to the CCSBT. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines recognizes the Commission's authority for the management of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT).

Your letter of invitation is regarded as a positive and encouraging signal on the part of the Commission, and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines therefore wishes to respond positively by submitting this application for CCSBT Co-operating Non-member status with a formal statement in which our commitment to the specific requirements of paragraph 4 and 5 of the RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE STATUS OF CO-OPERATING NON-MEMBER OF THE EXTENDED COMMISSION AND THE EXTENDED SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (the Resolution) are described.

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines looks forward to your favorable consideration of our application for Co-operating Non-member status.

Kindly accept our highest regards.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alberto A. Encomienda".

**ALBERTO A. ENCOMIENDA**  
Secretary-General

(ATTACHMENT)

**STATEMENT TO THE EXTENDED COMMISSION OF THE CCSBT OF THE PHILIPPINES COMMITMENT TO PROVISIONS PRESCRIBED IN THE RESOLUTION**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines wishes to confirm its commitment with respect to provisions in Paragraph 4 and 5 of the Resolution, emphasizing the following specific matters:

**1. Catch Limits**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines will manage the relevant fisheries to ensure that the annual catch volume of SBT does not exceed the catch limit decided at CCSBT. In this regard, catch limit for the 2004/2005 fishing season shall be 50 tonnes. We acknowledge that this catch limit may be reviewed at the Commission's annual meeting in October 2004 when the total allowable catch for all members and cooperating non-members is considered.

**2. Conservation and Management Measures**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines will, cooperating with Indonesia, take measures to reduce SBT bycatch by its fishing vessels operating in the Indonesian EEZ under access arrangement with Indonesia.

**3. Data Provision**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines will provide accurate catch data to the CCSBT each year and by the same time frame that is required by CCSBT.

**4. IUU Fishing**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines will implement whatever domestic regulations are required to support the CCSBT's measures to combat IUU fishing.