



CCSBT-EC/0410/22

19. Activities with Other Organisations

Purpose

To brief the Extended Commission on interactions with other organisations during 2004 and proposals for 2005.

Activities in 2004

Secretariat staff participated in or will participate in the following meetings:

- Meeting of tuna regional fisheries bodies - 9-11 March 2004
- FIRMS/FIGIS training course - 28 June – 2 July 2004
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) 10-12 November 2004

The report of the tuna regional fisheries bodies meeting is at Attachment A.

The agenda for the ACAP meeting is at Attachment B. The interim Executive Secretary of ACAP has specifically invited the CCSBT Executive Secretary to attend its inaugural meeting. ACAP is interested in the CCSBT's work and decisions in relation to seabirds.

The Executive Secretary was invited to attend the annual meetings of ICCAT, IATTC, IOTC and CCAMLR. After examination of the draft agendas it was judged that there was nothing of direct significance to the CCSBT and the invitations were declined. The Executive Secretary indicated that the interests of the CCSBT would be represented by a member of the CCSBT attending the annual meetings.

The Executive Secretary is in regular contact with the Executive Secretaries of other regional fisheries bodies on matters of mutual interest.

Activities in 2005

Known meetings of interest to the Extended Commission are:-

- Annual meetings of other tuna regional fisheries bodies – June-December 2005
- CCAMLR annual meeting – November 2005
- 26th Session of the Committee of Fisheries (COFI) – February 2005
- 4th Meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies – February 2005
- Meeting of tuna regional fisheries bodies – February 2005
- Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) – January/February 2005

It is proposed to continue the practice of deciding whether to attend the annual meetings of other regional fisheries bodies and other meetings of interest on the basis of the specific interests of the CCSBT in the agendas.

The Executive Secretary will represent the CCSBT at COFI and the associated meetings of regional fisheries bodies.

Depending on the agenda the Secretariat will send the Database Manager to CWP. The CCSBT has participated as a member of this body since 1999.

The budget prepared for 2005 provides for participation in the identified meetings except for the annual meetings of other regional fisheries bodies.

For discussion

Prepared by the Secretariat

**Report of the Fourth Meeting of Secretariats of Tuna Agencies and Programs
Madrid, Spain, 9 March, 2004**

Agenda

1. FIRMS
2. Trade/Catch documentation
3. Positive/Negative vessel lists
4. Consolidation of resolutions
5. FAO fishing capacity project
6. Quota trading – legal issues
7. Managing new entrants to fisheries
8. Funding formulae for RFBs

The meeting was held at the Hotel Reina Victoria in Madrid, coinciding with two meetings on bigeye tuna organized by ICCAT. The following were in attendance:

CCSBT: Brian MacDonald

IATTC: Robin Allen

ICCAT: Adolfo Lima and Victor Restrepo

SPC: John Hampton

Robin Allen served as Chairman and Victor Restrepo as Rapporteur.

1. FIRMS

Participants noted that IATTC, ICCAT and CCSBT had become members during the first meeting of the FIRMS Steering Committee (FSC) and that SPC had participated in that meeting as an observer. Some concerns were expressed about the scope of the Partnership in comparison to the general scope of relations between RFBs and FAO.

Participants agreed that it would be worthwhile to monitor progress of the Partnership's obligations so as to avoid duplication of work (e.g. when submitting data to FIRMS and submitting data to FAO-FIDI).

2. Trade/Catch documentation

CCSBT noted that they had closed the catch documentation circuit because they receive all of the individual documents, serially numbered, back at the Secretariat. The system works like export consignments. Data are also transmitted electronically by members to the CCSBT Secretariat, which makes it easy to assimilate them and publish on the Web.

It was noted that IATTC, ICCAT and IOTC all have similar resolutions establishing Statistical Document Programs, but there are some technical differences that should be solved (e.g., differences in definitions of Area, or differences in product-type exemptions). Some of the difficulties could be solved, and the programs made more efficient, if further standardization of the document programs and tracking systems was achieved. It was suggested that the CCSBT experience could help improve the programs, but the Secretariats would need to ensure that any efforts spent on this matter could be supported by various common members to the Tuna RFBs.

It was agreed that IATTC and ICCAT would look at this issue of standardization and closed-circuit catch documentation programs in more detail towards the end of the year, perhaps in consultation with Japan and/or other members.

3. Positive/Negative vessel lists

ICCAT reported that its positive list program has been operational since September 2003. The negative list program, however, has not worked as envisioned by the last ICCAT resolution on this subject.

SPC reported that FFA maintains a vessel registry that includes the concept of "good standing" for individual vessels.

CCSBT also adopted a positive list resolution, similar to those of IOTC and ICCAT.

IATTC has a positive list for longline vessels, a "closed" register of purse seine vessels to control capacity, and a general register for vessels authorized to fish.

It was noted that the vessel size limit of 24m common in several positive lists was too large a threshold to realistically include the important fishing vessels. Members of several RFBs are thought to be considering smaller thresholds such as 15m or 18m.

It was noted that it would be useful to have common identifiers for individual vessels that were on the various positive lists. Robin Allen agreed to contact FAO or the various tuna RFBs to see how best to accomplish this.

4. Consolidation of resolutions

ICCAT reported that the Commission had agreed to embark on a project to consolidate all of its resolutions into a single, legal text.

IATTC is looking at a less ambitious program, by keeping the number of generic resolutions down, and updating the ones on individual themes.

CCSBT reported that this was not a problem yet, as the number of CCSBT resolutions was relatively small, and many of the decisions were included in the record of the meetings.

No items requiring action were mentioned.

5. FAO fishing capacity project

Participants noted that a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for this project would take place in Madrid, the following week. No action items were mentioned.

6. Quota trading – legal issues

CCSBT brought up the issue that some countries may want to sell/trade part of their quotas when they are unlikely to catch it in its entirety, and questioned what would the legal requirements be.

ICCAT informed that all quota transfers in ICCAT had to be officially approved by the Commission. In practical terms, this meant that they could only be approved at the annual meetings, so there was no mechanism for trading in "real time".

SPC reported that a subset of FFA countries (the Parties to the Palau Arrangement) is setting up a system to allocate purse seine fishing effort to their EEZs. The system includes rules for transferring fishing effort across years (during a 3-year management period and in a more limited way between management periods) and among EEZs. Countries are able to use their allocations for licensing either domestic purse seine vessels, or foreign vessels. There are no limits on the number of vessels that may fish, therefore there is scope of the entry of new participants.

It was noted that quota transfers were not a simple in the sense that the transfers may occur from one gear to another, thus altering the size composition of the catches and the impact on the stock.

No action items were mentioned.

7. Managing new entrants to fisheries

CCSBT brought up the issue of countries that have historical (but not recent) catches, who want to have new quota allocations. Participants noted that this is going on in all RFBs and that, in general, parties need to negotiate quota transfers (as opposed to quota increases) to accommodate new entrants without negatively impacting the stock.

No action items were mentioned.

8. Funding formulae for RFBs

CCSBT mentioned that its formula for budget contributions was a disincentive for developing countries to join, as they had to pay very high dues. The idea of a 2-tier system was being considered, where new entrants would enter into a second (lower dues) tier for some years, and then move into the first tier (current funding formula). However, this would probably require a change to the Convention.

ICCAT mentioned that in 1993 it negotiated a change in its Convention so that the funding formula would allow developing countries to pay less. However, this change was not yet in effect because it still needed to be ratified by one party. ICCAT also mentioned that the Legal Department at FAO had later on mentioned that the change in funding formula may not have required a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to change the Convention, after all. Thus, CCSBT may want to explore other legal avenues.

No action items were mentioned.

9. Date and place of the next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held Friday afternoon during the week of the 2005 meeting of COFI at FAO. Robin Allen agreed to contact FAO to obtain a meeting room.



Interim Secretariat provided by the Australian Government

First Meeting of the Parties

Hobart, Australia, 10-12 November 2004

ACAP/MOP1/Doc.1

Provisional Agenda

Agenda item	Documents
1. Opening remarks	
2. Adoption of the agenda	Includes schedule
3.1. Report of Interim Secretariat	
3.2. Report of Depositary	
4. Rules of procedure	
5.1. Financial arrangements	
5.2. Scale of contributions	
5.3. Agreement budget	
6. Establishment of Advisory Committee	
7. Report of Scientific Meeting	
8.1. Establishment of Permanent Secretariat	
8.2. Recruitment procedures for the Permanent Secretariat	
9. Emergency criteria	
10. Collaboration with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations	Parties may table information papers
11. Provisional date and venue of the Second Meeting	
12. Any other business	
13. Adoption of MOPI Report	
14. Closure of the Meeting	