



CCSBT-EC/0310/09

6. ACTION PLAN

Purpose

To consider further action in relation to the five countries specifically identified at CCSBT9 - Indonesia, Belize, Honduras, Cambodia and Equatorial Guinea.

To consider whether action should be taken against the Seychelles.

To consider whether any further consideration should be given to other countries, which have not responded to CCSBT requests for cooperation with the Extended Commission's management and conservation policies.

Background

An Action Plan to ensure the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT was endorsed at CCSBT6(2) in March 2000, which is attached to this document as **Attachment A**.

Since the original decision there has been an extensive transmission of correspondence from the Secretariat on behalf of the Extended Commission with the current situation being:

Belize, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea and Honduras are now all at the second level of the Action Plan following the elevation of Belize to this status after CCSBT9. Belize was informed of its elevation to second level status in October 2002 but no reply has been received.

Indonesia has been identified by the Extended Commission but action has not been progressed because mechanisms are under consideration to strengthen cooperation between the Extended Commission and Indonesia.

At CCSBT9 the Seychelles and the Philippines were identified as nations associated with fishing for SBT by vessels believed to have been engaged in IUU fishing. The Executive Secretary wrote to each country informing them of the Extended Commission's concerns in October 2002. In reply, the Philippines indicated the vessels of concern would be de-registered. The Seychelles indicated they wished to cooperate fully with the Extended Commission and would also de-register the vessels of concern or have them managed under Japanese or Taiwanese fleet

reduction programs.. The Seychelles also indicated it is not their intention to develop a SBT fishery.

A table summarising the status of activity under the Action Plan is at **Attachment B**.

Discussion

Members have a number of issues to consider:-

- whether to proceed with further steps against Belize, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea and Honduras in the light of their failure to respond to requests for cooperation with the Extended Commission
- is Indonesia's cooperation with the Extended Commission sufficient
- is the response from the Philippines sufficient
- should any further action be taken in relation to the Seychelles given the undertakings they have given to cooperate

In considering these issues the Extended Commission might note:-

- at CCSBT9, the Extended Commission was reluctant to progress the Action Plan in relation to Belize, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea and Honduras for a variety of reasons but particularly because the Trade Information Scheme was indicating that trade in SBT by these countries seemed to have ceased
- Indonesia is actively cooperating with the Extended Commission, including the provision of data, and will be sending observers to CCSBT10
- the Philippines is seeking to participate in the activities of the Extended Commission as a cooperating non-member
- the Seychelles has given undertakings to the Extended Commission over cooperation with the its conservation and management objectives including the de-registration of vessels believed to have been associated with IUU fishing. Also the Seychelles is fully compliant with the requirements of the Extended Commission's Trade Documentation Program.

Prepared by the Secretariat

ACTION PLAN

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (the Commission),

RECALLING that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (the Convention) is to ensure the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna (SBT);

AWARE that a significant number of vessels registered to non-Parties to the Convention are catching SBT;

CONVINCED of the need for urgent action to ensure the effectiveness of the conservation measures for SBT in force from time to time;

AWARE of the strenuous efforts by Parties to encourage non-Parties to accede to the Convention or cooperate with the Commission;

RECALLING that under Article 15(4) of the Convention Parties are obliged to cooperate in taking appropriate action to deter non-Party fishing which could adversely affect the objective of the Convention,

resolves as follows:

1. The Commission requests non-Members catching SBT to cooperate fully with the Commission in implementing the measures applicable to Members for conservation, management and optimum utilisation of SBT (hereinafter referred to as “conservation and management measures”). The Commission also requests those non-Members to advise it of their actions taken in that regard.
2. The Commission will identify, at or before the Seventh, and then at each subsequent Annual Meeting of the Commission, those non-Members whose vessels have been catching SBT in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures, based on the catch data compiled by the Commission, trade information and other relevant information obtained in ports and on fishing grounds.
3. The Chair of the Commission shall request those non-Members identified pursuant to paragraph 2 to rectify their fishing activities so as not to diminish the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures and to advise the Commission of their actions taken in that regard.
4. Members shall jointly and/or individually request non-Members catching SBT to cooperate fully with the Commission in implementing the conservation and management measures.
5. The Commission will review, at subsequent Annual Meetings as appropriate, actions taken by those non-Members to which requests have been made pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4, and identify those non-Members which have not rectified their fishing activities.
6. The Commission may decide to impose trade-restrictive measures consistent with Members’ international obligations on SBT products, in any form, from the non-Members identified pursuant to paragraph 5.

Attachment B

Country	Terms of original Reply	Originally identified for attention	Date of letters after CCSBT8	Date of letters after CCSBT9	Reply received
Taiwan	Taiwan has taken all necessary measures to ensure objectives are met. Has now been admitted to the Extended Commission	No	-		-
Indonesia	No response	Yes	31/10/2001 and 5/8/2002	2/7/2003	Yes Indonesia will be sending an observer to CCSBT10 meetings
Honduras	Indicated willingness to cooperate with the CCSBT	Yes	31/10/2001 and 29/7/2002	-	No
Philippines	Will fully cooperate with CCSBT.	No	-	12/11/2002	Philippines have de-registered identified vessels and is seeking cooperating non-member status.
Belize	Will cooperate with the CCSBT and is developing a vessel registry to regularise management. Will provide this information to CCSBT when it becomes available.	Yes	31/10/2001 and 29/7/2002	31/10/2002	No
Equatorial Guinea	No response	Yes	31/10/2001 and 29/7/2002	-	No
Singapore	Singapore is not a flag country for SBT vessels and will not be involved in TIS. However will cooperate with CCSBT.	No	-		-
Cambodia	No response but Executive Secretary spoke to embassy in Australia.	Yes	31/10/2001 and 29/7/2002	-	No
Palau	No response	No	-		-
Fiji	Have indicated will cooperate with CCSBT	No	-		-
Malaysia	Will fully support and cooperate with CCSBT	No	-		-
Thailand	No response	No	-		-
Uruguay	Will collect information on SBT.	No	-		-
Tonga	Indicated that SBT are not caught in Tongan waters	No	-		-
USA	No Us vessel fishing for tunas in the south Pacific targets SBT. The US will provide any annual trade data as may be available to the CCSBT.	No	-		-
Panama	No Panamanian vessel is authorised to fish for SBT. If CCSBT can identify any Panamanian vessels they will look into it.	No	-		-
Croatia	No response	No	-		-
Micronesia	No SBT is reported as being caught by Micronesian vessels.	No	-		-
Maldives	No response	No	-		-
Portugal	No response	No	-		-
Vanuatu	Will cooperate	No	-		-
France	No response	No	-		-
Chile	No response	No	-		-
Cook Islands	No formal interest with SBT fishery but will cooperate.	No	-		-
Spain	Currently has no extractive or commercial activity for SBT	No	-		-
South Africa	Acknowledgement response only.	No	-		-
Trinidad	No response	No	-		-
Tunisia	No response	No	-		-
Greece	No response	No	-		-
Seychelles	No vessels targeting SBT but will cooperate.	No	-	25/11/2002, 11/2/2003 and 28/3/2003	The Seychelles has indicated they will cooperate with the CCSBT including appropriate action against IUU fishing vessels.

