



CCSBT-EC/0310/18

15. Ecologically Related Species Working Group

Purpose

To discuss the arrangements of the Ecological Related Species Working Group's (ERSWG) work program.

Background

The 9th Annual Meeting was held in Canberra on 15-18 October 2002. The Extended Commission agreed on Ecologically Related Species Working Group activities as follows:

- **endorse the draft agenda for the 5th meeting of the ERS working group at Attachment 9 of the report of the 4th ERSWG. (Attachment A)**
- **members providing a summary of papers submitted to the working group meeting in their national report; and**
- **intersessional consultation between members and the secretariat on how best to manage the business of the working group and arrangements for the preparation and exchange of papers and reports.**

In June, the members agreed the 5th ERSWG would be held on 2-5 February next year.

Since the 9th Annual Meeting, the Secretariat has been working with members to develop the educational pamphlets on sharks and seabirds. The contents of pamphlets have already agreed by members and they are now being translating into non English versions.

Discussion

At the 8th Meeting of the Scientific Committee, there were no scientific comments to make on the proposed agenda of 5th ERS meeting. However, the Secretariat would like to propose following points to the Commission.

Arrangements for next meeting

The Commission agreed to having inter sessional consultations. However, this has not been undertaken by members so there has not been any development of guidance to the Working Group on the focus of their discussions. The Commission is invited to discuss this aspect, in particular, how to deal with the volume and arrangements of business at the 5th ERSWG.

Educational Pamphlets

The Commission is invited to consider progress on completion of all language versions of the pamphlets.

Prepared by the Secretariat

DRAFT AGENDA
CCSBT – 5th Meeting of Ecologically Related Species Working Group
(Date and Venue to be determined)

1. Opening
 - (i) Election of the Chair
 - (ii) Adoption of the Agenda
2. Reports
 - (i) Member reports (activities undertaken since last meeting in November 2001)
 - (ii) Non-members reports
3. Review of Relevant International Instruments
4. Reports of meetings of other organisations relevant to the ERS Working Group
5. Provide information and advice on issues relating to species associated with southern bluefin tuna (SBT) (ecologically related species), with specific reference to:
 - (a) species (both fish and non-fish) which may be affected by SBT fisheries operations:
 - (b) predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock
6. Education and public relations activities
7. Update of 'Research Priorities for Mitigation Measures' (ERSWG 4 Attachment 5)
8. Update of 'ERSWG Operational Framework (ERSWG 4 Attachment 6)
9. Proposals for future research activities
10. Future work program
 - (i) Draft Agenda for the next ERSWG meeting
 - (ii) Inter-sessional work
11. Other business
12. Conclusion
 - (i) Adoption of meeting report
 - (ii) Recommendation of timing of next meeting
 - (iii) Close of meeting