



CCSBT-EC/0310/22

## 20 Other Business Data Confidentiality Policy

### Purpose

To discuss the Extended Commission's policy on data confidentiality.

### Discussion

At CCSBT9 the Extended Commission agreed to a data confidentiality policy. A copy of the policy is at **Attachment A**.

Management of the subset of SDP data in the database is subject to specific confidentiality rules as set out in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.4 of the Program's manual. A copy of these paragraphs is at **Attachment B**.

In summary the policy treats all data as confidential that can only be released with the permission of all members. The only current exceptions are for provision of the following data to members:

- data obtained from the CCSBT surface tagging program, which is available to members on request to the Database Manager
- data agreed for annual exchange at Scientific Committee meetings that has been subsequently approved by the Extended Commission
- the SDP reports produced for members by the Secretariat on a bi-annual basis, which lists out export data by weight, country, month and fishery type

One effect of the policy is that the CCSBT does not publish any coherent data sets on the SBT fishery other than a reference on the CCSBT website to information that can be obtained from reading meeting reports.

The practical difficulties associated with this situation arose recently when the Secretariat sought agreement to use SDP data on the SBT catch by Seychelles in discussions on data reconciliation with the IOTC. Agreement could not be reached. As a consequence the data held by the two regional fishery management bodies remains to be reconciled.

In this context Japan has suggested the matter be considered at CCSBT10 and this paper provides background information to support the discussion.

More recently the Secretariat was unable to provide data to the FAO for inclusion in the tuna nominal catch database. Rather than seek the agreement of members, the Secretariat has deferred the matter until after CCSBT10.

### **Other Regional Tuna Fisheries Bodies Policies**

All other Tuna regional fisheries bodies (RFB) have data confidentiality policies and place data sets in the public domain. This data is being supplied by Extended Commission members where there is joint membership of those bodies.

#### *ICCAT*

ICCAT has advised that data on catch, CPUE, and size by month and member plus vessel lists submitted by members is considered public information with the exception of raw data.

#### *IATTC*

In respect to data provided by members, the IATTC publishes total catch and effort by species stratified by catching country. Every few years an IATTC scientist and a Japanese scientist publish more detailed Japanese data.

In respect to data gathered by IATTC staff, all data is published.

#### *IOTC*

The IOTC publishes catch and effort and length frequency data grouped by 5° squares for longline and 1° squares for surface fisheries stratified by fishing nation. In cases where this data would identify an individual vessel the data is aggregated to preclude identification. Data at a finer level is only released with the permission of the data source.

### **Options**

#### *Main Database*

If the Extended Commission wishes to amend the data confidentiality policy so that a suite of information was in the public domain and the Secretariat could provide that data on request without reference to members, the policies/practices of the other tuna regional fisheries could be adopted. If this was agreed an appropriate amended policy is at **Attachment C** (amendments are underlined). The Secretariat would place the data in an appropriate format on the CCSBT website.

A second option might be to restrict the availability of this suite of data to meet requests from the FAO or where cooperation with other regional fisheries bodies required its disclosure.

#### *TIS data*

For the subset of data from the TIS held in the database, the same principle could be applied as for the main database. In practice this would mean placing exports by

weight, country, month and fishing type in the public domain. An amended TIS policy to give effect to this policy is at **Attachment D** (amendments are underlined).

A second option would be to restrict access to other tuna regional fisheries bodies and the FAO. This option would result in the data not being made public but being available for sharing on request to the CCSBT Secretariat by an approved organisation.

For consideration by the Extended Commission.

**Prepared by the Secretariat**

**Confidentiality Policy for the CCSBT Central Database**

This is the policy for releasing data from the CCSBT Central Database. This policy has no influence on the data that should be provided to the database by members of the Extended Commission and other parties.

The use of the word “data” in this policy refers to both raw and aggregated data.

Data provided for the CCSBT database will be treated confidentially and will not be released by the Secretariat except where members of the Extended Commission approve the specific data release on a case by case basis.

Consensus at SAG/ESC meetings and subsequent approval by the Extended Commission is sufficient approval for release of specific data to members of the Extended Commission for the purpose of routine data exchange for the stock assessment and management procedure. This approval will apply until the Extended Commission revises the data confidentiality policy. Release of other data requires case by case approval from an exchange of correspondence (including e-mails) between Extended Commission member’s nominated contacts.

When providing approval to release specific data, members of the Extended Commission can specify that the particular data does not require their re-approval for future releases by the Secretariat. In these situations, members of the Extended Commission must also specify the groups of people (e.g. public, Extended Commission members) to whom the Secretariat may release the data without requiring case by case re-approval. The Secretariat will maintain a list of data sets (and associated groups of people) that are approved for release without requiring case by case re-approval. The list will be provided to members of the Extended Commission and members of the Extended Commission have the right to revise the approvals that they have given.

## Attachment B

### Extract from CCSBT Statistical Document Program

- 5.1 Members which import southern bluefin tuna shall retain all original Southern Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents received by them. They shall forward to the Executive Secretary on a quarterly basis copies of all such Documents, but may omit the Import Section other than the final point of import and the date of import. The Executive Secretary shall compile the raw data from those Documents into an electronic database.
- 5.2 The Executive Secretary shall ensure the confidentiality of the raw data in its database and release to any country/fishing entity only the raw data relating to the Statistical Documents it validated. If a country/fishing entity requests raw data relating to another country/fishing entity, the Executive Secretary may release those data only with the latter's agreement.
- 5.3 The Executive Secretary shall report to the Commission on and circulate to all Members the data collected by the Program each year by 1 June for the period of 1 July - 31 December of the preceding year and by 1 December for the period of 1 January - 30 June of the current year. The formats of the reports are attached as **Annex 2** and **Annex 2a**. The Executive Secretariat shall provide an electronic copy of the report to a designated authority of each Member.
- 5.4 On request by the Scientific Committee or another subsidiary body of the Commission, the Executive Secretary shall, with the approval of the Commission, provide to that body data collected by the Program more frequently or at a greater level of detail than specified in 5.3.

**Confidentiality Policy for the CCSBT Central Database**

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The use of the word “data” in this policy refers to both raw and aggregated data.

The CCSBT will publish and provide on request national catch and effort and length frequency data by 5° square by month for longline and 1° square by month for each other gear type. In cases where this will enable identification of an individual vessel, the data will be aggregated to preclude such identification.

All other data provided for the CCSBT database will be treated confidentially and will not be released by the Secretariat except where members of the Extended Commission approve the specific data release on a case by case basis.

Consensus at SAG/ESC meetings and subsequent approval by the Extended Commission is sufficient approval for release of specific data to members of the Extended Commission for the purpose of routine data exchange for the stock assessment and management procedure. This approval will apply until the Extended Commission revises the data confidentiality policy. Release of other data requires case by case approval from an exchange of correspondence (including e-mails) between Extended Commission member’s nominated contacts.

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**Possible amendment to the CCSBT Statistical Document Program Manual**

- 5.2 The Executive Secretary shall ensure the confidentiality of the raw data in its database and release to any country/fishing entity only the raw data relating to the Statistical Documents it validated. If a country/fishing entity requests raw data relating to another country/fishing entity, the Executive Secretary may release those data only with the latter's agreement.
- 5.3 The Executive Secretary shall report to the Commission on and circulate to all Members the data collected by the Program each year by 1 June for the period of 1 July - 31 December of the preceding year and by 1 December for the period of 1 January - 30 June of the current year. The formats of the reports are attached as **Annex 2** and **Annex 2a**. The Executive Secretariat shall provide an electronic copy of the report to a designated authority of each Member and place a copy of the reports (without information on export city and product F/FR) on the CCSBT website.
- 5.4 On request by the Scientific Committee or another subsidiary body of the Commission, the Executive Secretary shall, with the approval of the Commission, provide to that body data collected by the Program more frequently or at a greater level of detail than specified in 5.3.