



Review of the ERSWG Data Exchange Process (Agenda Item 5.1)

Background

At the nineteenth meeting of the Extended Commission, agreement was made to conduct an annual ERSWG Data Exchange. This exchange required specific ERS Data to be provided to the Secretariat.

During 2013, two separate exchanges of data will be conducted, the first requiring data for the 2010 and 2011 calendar years to be provided by 30 April 2013, and the second requiring data for the 2012 calendar year to be provided by 31 July 2013.

This document provides a brief summary of the process and the success of its implementation during the first year.

Confidentiality and Access of Data

Part of the ERSWG Data Exchange agreement requires that ERS data be rated as “medium risk” within the “Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the CCSBT”. This means that access to the data requires specific authorisation (completed data request forms, signed confidentiality agreements and approvals).

The Secretariat send out requests for Members to have staff requiring access to the ERSWG data to complete the CCSBT Data Request Form and CCSBT Data Confidentiality agreements in February, noting that it was envisaged that Members may require between 2 and 4 staff to have access. It was also noted that access would be approved by Members subject to reciprocal access being granted.

Upon receipt of completed forms, the Secretariat then compiled a list of all users who had requested access and notified Members, seeking approval for access to their ERSWG data. The following Members have approved reciprocal access to specific people for each other’s ERSWG data:

- Australia;
- Japan;
- Korea;
- New Zealand; and
- Taiwan

Data Provision

Data was provided to the Secretariat from most Members using the template that was provided in the agreed ERSWG Data Exchange requirements for the 2010/2011 calendar years within the timeframes specified. That data was loaded to the private area of the CCSBT website, and those users that had requested access, and been approved by Members, were provided access to the website. Data for the 2012 calendar year was not due at the time of preparing this paper.

Issues for consideration

Approval of Confidentiality agreements

The process of receiving completed data request and confidentiality forms and the subsequent approval of access to ERSWG data by Members was time consuming and caused some lengthy delays between users requesting access to data, and being granted access via the CCSBT website.

However, given that this was the first year, it is reasonable to assume that this would not be the case for future exchanges given that users have now been granted access to data, with the exception of staff changes or new users requiring access that would need to complete the process.

Data issues

There appeared to be some misunderstanding by some Members on the definitions of the data to be provided, particularly in relation to Table 1 of the ERSWG Data Exchange Requirements which represented Total Fishing and Observed Effort data. Some Members initially provided this data only for Observed Effort, and did not include fishing effort that was not observed. However after follow up by the Secretariat, these issues were resolved and data was resubmitted.

Prepared by the Secretariat