



CCSBT-EC/1410/14

## Relationship with Non-members

### Purpose

To provide an update concerning discussion or issues with Non-Member and Non-CNM (Cooperating Non-Member) States/Entities.

### Identification of States that have or are likely to become important port or market States for SBT, for consideration at CCSBT 21

CCSBT 18 agreed that the following process would be used for nominating States that have or are likely to become important port or market States for SBT:

- Members nominate important States whose cooperation is desired, together with background information supporting that nomination and provide this information to the Executive Secretary at least 6 weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting.
- The Executive Secretary incorporates this information in the Secretariat's agenda paper for the standing agenda item on "Relationship with Non-Members" for consideration by the Extended Commission.
- With the Extended Commission's endorsement, the Executive Secretary write to the nominated State(s) seeking their cooperation.
- The nominating Member follow-up the Executive Secretary's letter with bilateral discussion. This is an important step because experience has shown that many States do not respond to written communication.

No nominations were provided to the Secretariat in advance of CCSBT 21.

### Progress on issues raised at CC 8 and CCSBT 20

At CCSBT 20, the Extended Commission agreed that it was extremely important to continue its efforts to engage with China and decided that:

- The Chair of the Commission would write to China on behalf of all Members to seek China's cooperation with the CCSBT;
- A delegation of CCSBT Members, led by Japan, would seek to meet with China in the margins of the December 2013 WCPFC meeting; and
- Members would individually consider contacting to China via their diplomatic channels.

A copy of the letter from the CCSBT Chair to China is provided at **Attachment A**<sup>1</sup>. China acknowledged receipt of the Chair's letter and further advised that it had responded to the Secretariat's August 2012 request, but that it had accidentally sent its response to an incorrect e-mail address. A bilateral meeting between Japan and China was held during the December 2013 WCPFC meeting. The report of that bilateral meeting from Japan is provided at **Attachment B**<sup>2</sup>.

The Eighth meeting of the Compliance Committee considered that it would be useful if Singapore had any data on the movements of SBT into or out of Singapore that it could provide to the CCSBT, to assist members to identify any anomalies or unexpected activity. Singapore advised that it would investigate and share information with the CCSBT, where possible. The Secretariat has maintained communication with Singapore since CC 8 and has recently been advised that Singapore's Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority has now received in-principle approval to share appropriate SBT data with CCSBT. Singapore has also indicated that should data be released to the Secretariat, it may be associated with appropriate confidentiality clauses and other restrictions. The Secretariat has subsequently made a more specific data request to Singapore and is hopeful that the information requested might be released soon.

The Secretariat has also been in regular communication with the USA to seek enhanced cooperation with the CCSBT's CDS, in particular by having the USA send copies of CCSBT CDS documents it receives with SBT imports to the Secretariat. USA officials remain supportive of providing this cooperation, but have not yet been able to progress this matter due to other priorities.

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<sup>1</sup> The Chair's letter was distributed to Members in Circular #2013/055.

<sup>2</sup> Japan's report was also provided to Members in Circular #2014/004.

Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna



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Mr Xiaobing Liu  
Director, Division of International Cooperation  
Bureau of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture  
No. 11 Nongzhanguan Nanli  
Beijing 100026  
People's Republic of China

17 October 2013

Dear Mr Liu,

I write as the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) has noted the growing importance of China as a market for southern bluefin tuna (SBT) and the potential presence of Chinese flagged vessels in the distributional area of SBT. The CCSBT has recognised that expansion of markets for Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) is a compliance risk for the SBT fishery because it provides a potential avenue for marketing SBT that are caught outside of the CCSBT's conservation and management measures framework. Both the Seventh and Eighth meetings of the CCSBT's Compliance Committee

The CCSBT has previously written to China on a four separate occasions in order to seek cooperation from China in relation to SBT entering China's markets. The Executive Secretary of the CCSBT wrote to you in December 2012 seeking cooperation and inviting China to attend the Eighth meeting of the Compliance Committee. The CCSBT also wrote to you in August 2012 following a World Wildlife Fund market survey during 2011 in China that found a large percentage (29.5%) of the samples of sashimi grade tuna from restaurants and supermarkets in Beijing and Shanghai to be SBT. At that time, the CCSBT requested a breakdown of the sources (flags) of China's SBT imports during 2011 as well as information concerning the quantity of SBT catch (if any) by Chinese flagged vessels during 2011. In addition, the CCSBT wrote to you during December 2009, seeking cooperation with the CCSBT's Catch Documentation Scheme, with a follow up in March 2011 expressing our desire for any information that China is able to provide in the future on the import or landing of SBT into China. Unfortunately, the CCSBT has yet to receive any correspondence from China on these matters.

The CCSBT has commenced a management procedure for rebuilding of the SBT stock and it is concerned that the possible expansion of other fisheries into areas where SBT are likely to be caught could jeopardise the rebuilding strategy that the CCSBT has put in place. The CCSBT wrote to you in November 2011 noting the significant increase in albacore catches by Chinese flagged vessels from 1999 to 2010 as reported in the WCPFC year book and the possibility of overlap between that fishery and the SBT fishery at certain times of the year. At that time, we requested information on the quantity of SBT catch (if any) by Chinese flagged vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area. The CCSBT also requested information on the fishing effort (number of hooks and/or days fished) of Chinese flagged longliners on a year by month and area (e.g. in 5 degree latitude and longitude blocks) basis in the South Pacific.

I must emphasise that the CCSBT considers these matters and the information it is seeking to be extremely important to the sustainability and successful rebuilding of the southern bluefin tuna stock. The CCSBT is therefore urgently requesting China's cooperation in these matters, consistent with China's obligations in relation to UNCLOS and its status as a signatory to UNFSA. I also wish to advise you that a delegation of CCSBT Members will be seeking to have discussions with the Chinese delegation on these matters in the margins of the WCPFC meeting scheduled for December 2013 in Cairns, Australia.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Forbes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Malcolm Forbes

Chair  
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

**FISHERIES AGENCY****MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN**

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February 4, 2014

Mr. Bob Kennedy  
Executive Secretariat of CCSBT

Dear Mr. Kennedy,

At the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Compliance Committee, Japan agreed to take the leading role to coordinate a meeting with China, during the last Annual Meeting of the WCPFC, regarding its potential catch and trade of southern bluefin tuna. In this regard, I would like to report a progress on this matter.

Due to the serious time constraints at the WCPFC meeting, we were unable to coordinate a meeting between the CCSBT Members and China. Instead, Japan held a bilateral meeting with China.

The meeting with China was held on 6 December between Japanese Commissioner to WCPFC, Mr. Masanori Miyahara, and Chinese Commissioner, Mr. Xiaobing Liu. At the meeting, Japan, informing China that the CCSBT members had grave concern on its potential catch and trade of southern Bluefin tuna, requested China for its cooperation to the CCSBT with regard to the resource management of the species. China replied that they would conduct investigation if we provided concrete and detailed information.

Japan will continue to monitor closely China's involvement concerning SBT fisheries in cooperation with other CCSBT Members. In this regard, I would like to request all the CCSBT Members to cooperate for collecting relevant information. Any information regarding this issue will be welcomed. I would appreciate if you could circulate this information to all the CCSBT Members.

Sincerely yours,

Hisashi Endo

Japanese Commissioner to CCSBT