

**CCSBT-CC/2010/SBT Fisheries – European Union
(CC Agenda item 2.2)**

**Template for the Annual Report
to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission**

(Revised at the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting: 17 October 2019)

If there are multiple SBT fisheries, with different rules and procedures applying to the different fisheries, it may be easier to complete this template separately for each fishery. Alternatively, please ensure that the information for each fishery is clearly differentiated within the single template.

This template sometimes seeks information on a quota year basis. Those Members/CNMs that have not specified a quota year to the CCSBT (i.e. the EU), should provide the information on a calendar year basis. Within this template, the quota year (or calendar year for those without a quota year) is referred to as the “fishing season”. Unless otherwise specified, information should be provided for the most recently completed fishing season. Members and CNMs are encouraged to also provide preliminary information for the current fishing season where the fishing for that season is complete or close to complete.

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1 Summary of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Improvements

1.1 Improvements achieved in the current fishing season

Provide details of MCS improvements achieved for the current fishing season.

General

The Common Fishery Policy (CFP)¹ is the overall legal framework for all EU fishing activities around the world. The objective of the CFP is to ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities conducted by EU vessels are environmentally sustainable in the long term and managed in a way consistent with economic, social and employment benefits. Its success depends very much on the implementation of an effective control and enforcement system.

As regard control, the core elements of the EU legislation are provided by

- Regulation (EC) No 2009/1224² ('the Control Regulation'), seconded by Regulation (EU) No 2011/404³ (implementation rules)
- Regulation (EC) No 2008/1005 ('the IUU regulation')⁴, seconded by Regulation (EU) No 2009/1010 (implementation rules⁵)
- Regulation No 2019/1241⁶ on 'Technical Conservation Measures'
- Regulation (EU) No 2017/2403 on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets⁷ (SMEFF)

The current Control Regulation entered into force in 2010 to foster a level playing field among Member States and fishing operators. The control system has been designed to:

- ensure that only the allowed quantities of fish are caught and illegal fishing is prevented;
- allow data collection to manage fishing opportunities;
- clarify the respective roles of EU countries and the Commission;
- ensure rules and sanctions are uniformly applied across the EU;

¹ [Regulation \(EU\) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations \(EC\) No 1954/2003 and \(EC\) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations \(EC\) No 2371/2002 and \(EC\) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC.](#)

² [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 2009/1224 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy.](#)

³ [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 2011/404 of 8 April 2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy.](#)

⁴ [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 2008/1005 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.](#)

⁵ [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 2009/1010 of 22 October 2009 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.](#)

⁶ [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, amending Council Regulations \(EC\) No 1967/2006, \(EC\) No 1224/2009 and Regulations \(EU\) No 1380/2013, \(EU\) 2016/1139, \(EU\) 2018/973, \(EU\) 2019/472 and \(EU\) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations \(EC\) No 894/97, \(EC\) No 850/98, \(EC\) No 2549/2000, \(EC\) No 254/2002, \(EC\) No 812/2004 and \(EC\) No 2187/2005.](#)

⁷ [Regulation \(EU\) No 2017/2403 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets.](#)

- enable the tracing and checking of fisheries products throughout the supply chain, from net to plate.

The 'Technical Conservation Measures' are a broad set of rules which govern how, where and when fishermen may fish, as well as determining the type of gear, catch composition and ways to deal with accidental catches.

The SMEFF Regulation covers all EU vessels fishing outside EU waters, as well as third-country vessels fishing in EU waters. This Regulation provides in particular for a system of issuing and managing fishing authorisations, necessary to operate outside EU waters, and intended to improve monitoring and transparency of the fishing operations conducted by the EU external fishing fleet.

Improvements

One major improvement was the adoption of the above mentioned Regulation on 'Technical Conservation Measures'. Moreover, The European Commission continually performs regular audits and inspections of the European Member States control systems in place, to ensure that they do comply with all the EU obligations, including those contracted at international level, and are effective. Deficiencies are identified through audits and addressed through action plans. Where necessary, the cases are brought to Court.

Moreover, during 2018 and 2019 an audit series was conducted on the EU's 'external fleet', referring to vessels fishing outside EU waters and under Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPA), private agreements, RFMOs and on the high seas outside RFMO arrangements. The main objective of this exercise was to assess whether the monitoring and control of the external fleet is effective and complies with applicable regulations. No deficiencies with respect to the CCSBT have been reported through these audits.

1.2 Future planned improvements

Describe any MCS improvements that are being planned for future fishing seasons and the expected implementation date for such improvements.

The implementation of fisheries control systems in the EU Member States is continually improving. The European Commission continually performs audits and inspections of the European Member States control systems in place to ensure that they are not only compliant with the regulations but also effective. If deficiencies are identified they are addressed through recommendations and other instruments such as action plans where necessary. Currently, several action plans are being implemented in various European Member States, which for example include measures to improve the catch registration systems, to ultimately ensure a more effective management of quotas. In addition, the Control Regulation stipulates that every five years, the European Union Member States provide a report on its application.

The European Union is continually reviewing and improving its legislation. The need to review the Union fisheries control system, and in particular the Control Regulation was agreed in 2017. A comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of the Control Regulation and its impacts on the CFP, covering the period 2010-2016, was carried out and its results published in the Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council and the accompany Staff Working Document.

The evaluation confirmed that the Control Regulation is highly relevant for ensuring compliance with the CFP, however improvements could be made. Consequently the revision of this Regulation is now well underway. A Commission proposal was adopted in May 2018 and the ordinary legislative procedure on the Commission proposal is ongoing.

The Commission's proposal includes:

- Measures to improve the enforcement of the Common Fisheries Policy, with a common list of criteria for what qualifies as a serious infringement and corresponding sanctions and strengthening of the existing point system for licensed vessels to work as the systems for traffic offences to motorists in most Member States;
- A more reliable and complete fisheries data system, including fully digitised reporting of catches, applicable to all EU fishing vessels (including vessels below 12 metres), an electronic tracking system for all vessels, new weighing procedures for fisheries products and reinforced catch registration rules for recreational fisheries;
- Enhanced traceability of EU and imported fishery and aquaculture products. Due to digitisation, controls will be made possible all along the supply chain for all fishery and aquaculture products whether imported or coming from the EU;
- Reinforced rules on fishing gear. Abandoned, lost or disposed fishing gear is a source of marine litter in European seas. The Commission is proposing to improve reporting on lost fishing gear, in line with the proposal to reduce the impact of certain plastic products in the environment in addition to producers helping cover the costs of waste management and clean-up of fishing gear;
- Revising the mandate of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) to fully align its objectives with the Common Fisheries Policy and upgrade its inspection powers.

The revised rules will strengthen compliance, modernise data management and ultimately make control more efficient to the benefit of EU fisheries. Improving the way in which the EU can monitor the enforcement of EU rules on fisheries will intensify the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. It will further support the effective implementation of the landing obligation, which [is now](#) fully in force and requires that fishermen land all catches to stop the wasteful practice of throwing unwanted fish back to the sea.

In April 2019 the European Parliament adopted the political agreement to amend the Technical Measures, to adopt a more decentralised and simplified approach. The new rules give fishermen a stronger say in deciding on the best measures for sustainable fishing, adapted to their specific needs. The new rules streamline the technical measures guiding how, where and when fishermen may fish, as well as determining the type of gear, catch composition and ways to deal with accidental catches.

The Regulation simplifies the existing technical conservation measures that over the years have become highly complex. It includes provisions for the protection of the marine ecosystem and marine habitats. The new rules confirm the EU's strong commitment to sustainable fisheries by introducing additional measures to avoid by-catches of non-commercial and sensitive species. This new Regulation [entered into force on 14 August 2019](#).

Also, the EU continues to work to improve the IUU Regulation, for example, by simplifying and modernising its implementation (e.g. by moving from a paper-based EU catch certification system to an electronic-based one). This will increase the traceability of fisheries imports and exports in the EU and protect the system from potential document fraud.

As regards fisheries data, since 2019 the Commission and the Member States exchange fishing activities, sales notes and aggregated catches under UN/FLUX. Discussions are also on-going with some RFMOs to adopt UN/FLUX for data exchanges (mainly VMS and fishing activities) with their members. In coming years it is envisaged that data exchanges on fishing authorisations (including vessel notifications and authorisations requests) will be based on UN/FLUX standard, gradually implementing it in the EU Member States and third Parties.

2 SBT Fishing and MCS

2.1 Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna

2.1.1 Catch and allocation

Specify the Effective Catch Limit, carry-forward of quota, total available catch, and attributable catch for the previous three fishing seasons in

Table 1. All figures should be provided in tonnes.

EU vessels are prohibited from targeting SBT, any incidental catches are the result of EU surface long-liners' by-catches, operating in the zone of SBT distribution, mainly targeting swordfish, in the Southern part of the Indian, Western and Central Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. On a yearly basis the EU Fishing Opportunities Regulations⁸ prohibits targeting SBT and explicitly mentions that the allocated EU quota is to be used exclusively to account for by-catch in compliance with the CCSBT allocation.

In 2019 there were 52 oceanic surface longliners operating in the Southern Hemisphere that entered in the SBT distribution area:

- 43 from Spain there; 29 in the Southern Atlantic, 11 in the Indian Ocean and 3 in the West and Central Pacific Ocean,
- 7 from Portugal; 4 in the Southern Atlantic and in 3 the Indian Ocean (1 of them also with an innocent passage in the Atlantic Ocean) and,
- 2 from the UK in the Indian Ocean.

All these vessels mainly targeted swordfish outside the SBT distribution area. However, they entered intermittently in fishing grounds south of 30° South but interactions with SBT are very unusual.

The average size of these long-liners is roughly 40 meters, ranging from 30 to 50 meters. There are also some small surface longliners mainly active in La Reunion EEZ, fishing albacore and tropical tunas but not operating in areas of SBT distribution (i.e. not interfering with SBT fisheries). EU Purse Seiners operating in the Southern Hemisphere do not harvest SBT as they fish in tropical tunas' fishing grounds.

Since 2010 the level of catches has been maintained below the 10 tonnes allocated to the EU under the CCSBT SBT TAC for this purpose and since 2013 there were no records of SBT by-catches.

Catches are recorded through logbooks (electronic) and fishing reports, which are validated by the scientific bodies, as well as observer reports and flag State inspections. Port State inspections, reports and any related information provided by foreign States, notably those having fisheries agreements with the EU, might also contribute to the calculation of the catches.

⁸ See Annex IG of the [Council Regulation No 2018/120 of 23 January 2018 fixing for 2018 the fishing opportunities available in EU waters and, to EU vessels, in certain non-EU waters for certain fish stocks, Official Journal of the European Union, L 27, 31.1.2018.](#)

For 2017, see Annex IG of the [Council Regulation 2017/127 of 20 January 2017 fixing for 2017 the fishing opportunities available in EU waters and, to EU vessels, in certain non-EU waters for certain fish stocks, Official Journal of the European Union, L 24, 28.1.2017.](#)

For 2019, see Annex IG of the [Council Regulation No 2019/124 of 30 January 2019 fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, Official Journal of the European Union, L 29, 30.1.2019.](#)

Table 1. Effective catch limit, carry-forward, total available catch, and attributable catch.

A	B	C	D	E
Fishing Season	Effective Catch Limit ⁹	Quota Carried Forward to this Fishing Season	Total Available Catch ¹⁰ (B+C)	Attributable catch ¹¹
2017	10	0	10	0
2018	11	2	13	0
2019	11	0	11	0

2.1.2 Allowances and SBT mortality for each sector

Specify the allowances and SBT mortality for each sector during the previous three fishing seasons in Table 2. If information on SBT mortality is not available for a particular sector, use the best estimates of catch. All figures to be provided in tonnes.

Table 2. Allowances and SBT mortality for each sector.

Sector	Commercial fishing operations whether primarily targeting SBT or not			
	All oceans		Sector 2: (please name)	
Fishing season	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)
2017	10	0	-	-
2018	13	0	-	-
2019	11	0	-	-

Sector cont.	Releases and/or discards		Recreational fishing		Customary and/or traditional fishing		Artisanal fishing	
	Sector 3:		Sector 4:		Sector 5:		Sector 6	
Fishing season	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2.1.3 SBT Catch (retained and non-retained)

For the previous three fishing seasons, specify the weight and number of SBT for each sector (e.g. commercial longline, commercial purse seine, commercial charter fleet, commercial domestic fleet, recreational fishing, customary and/or traditional fishing and artisanal fishing) in Table 3. Provide the best estimate if reported data is not available. Figures should be provided for both retained SBT and non-retained SBT. For all non-farming sectors, “Retained SBT” includes SBT retained on vessel and “Non-Retained SBT” includes those returned to the water. For farming, “Retained SBT” includes SBT stocked to farming cages and “Non-Retained SBT” includes towing mortalities. If possible, provide both the weight in tonnes and the number of individuals in square brackets (e.g. [250]) for each sector. Table cells should not be left empty. If the value is zero, enter “0”.

⁹ Effective catch limit is the Member’s allocation plus any adjustments for agreed short term changes to the National Allocation. For example, see column 3 of Table 1 at paragraph 87 of the Report of CCSBT 24.

¹⁰ Total available catch means a Member’s Effective Catch Limit allocation for that quota year plus any amount of unfished allocation carried forward to that quota year.

¹¹ ‘A Member or CNM’s attributable catch against its national allocation is the total Southern Bluefin Tuna mortality resulting from fishing activities within its jurisdiction or control including, inter alia, mortality resulting from: commercial fishing operations whether primarily targeting SBT or not; releases and/or discards; recreational fishing; customary and/or traditional fishing; and artisanal fishing.’

Table 3. SBT catch (retained and non-retained)

Fishing Season	Retained and discarded SBT							
	Commercial sectors				Sector 3		Sector 4:	
	Sector 1 (all Oceans)		Sector 2 (please name)		Recreational sector		Customary/artisanal sector	
	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT
2017	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-

2.1.4 The number of vessels in each sector

Specify the number of vessels that caught SBT in each sector during the previous three fishing seasons in Table 4.

In cases where vessel numbers are not able to be provided, specify the best estimate.

The EU has no vessels targeting SBT or having SBT as a significant bycatch or even having any minor SBT bycatch since 2012 (see information of vessels active in the SBT distribution area in 2.1.1.).

Table 4. Vessels by Sector

Fishing season	Number of vessels			
	Commercial sectors		Sector 3: Recreational sector	Sector 4: Customary/artisanal sector
	Sector 1 (please name)	Sector 2 (please name)		
2017	-	-	-	-
2018	-	-	-	-
2019	-	-	-	-

2.2 Monitoring catch of SBT

2.2.1 Daily logbooks

- i. *If daily logbooks are not mandatory, specify the % of SBT fishing where daily log books were required.*
- ii. *Specify whether the effort and catch information collected complied with that specified in the “Characterisation of the SBT Catch” section of the CCSBT Scientific Research Plan (Attachment D of the SC5 report), including both retained and discarded catch. If not, describe the non-compliance.*

Not relevant, there are no SBT by-catches since 2012.

EU vessels over 10m shall keep a logbook, which is an electronic fishing logbook (ERS) for vessels over 15m, to record all the fishing related activities associated to a fishing trip. This includes the quantities of each species caught during a fishing operation.

Masters of EU fishing vessels shall record in their fishing logbook all estimated discards above 50 kg of live-weight equivalent in volume for any species. However, all SBT catches irrespective of the weight shall be recorded in the logbook.

Information on sea birds and turtles is not necessarily included in the logbook but it is reported as per each RFMO requirement.

2.2.2 Additional reporting methods (such as real time monitoring programs)

- i. *If multiple reporting methods exists (e.g. daily, weekly and/or month SBT catch reporting, reporting of tags and SBT measurements, reporting of ERS interactions etc) then, for each method, specify if it was mandatory, and if not, specify the % of SBT fishing that was covered.*

DG MARE reports monthly to the Secretariat data on SBT catches (bycatch). This information is based on aggregated catch data provided by all EU Member States to the Aggregated Catch Data Reporting (ACDR).

Catches are recorded through logbooks (electronic). However, the detection of any bycatches of SBT is anchored on information and cross checking of data, not only from logbooks, but also from landing declarations and sales notes, observer reports, port and high-seas inspections, electronic observation (when available), self-sampling and port sampling (when available) and, when necessary, investigations of any evidence or clear suspicion related to a misreport or non-declared catch.

2.2.3 Scientific Observers

Not applicable. Observer coverage apply to “the fishing activity of CCSBT members and cooperating non-members wherever Southern Bluefin Tuna is targeted or is a significant bycatch”, which is not the case of EU vessels operating in the SBT distribution area.

- i. *Provide the percentage of the SBT catch and effort observed in the three previous seasons for each sector (e.g. longline, purse seine, commercial charter fleet, and domestic fleet) in Table 5. The unit of effort should be hooks, and sets for longline, and purse seine respectively.*

Table 5. Observer coverage of SBT catch and effort

Fishing season	Sector 1		Sector 2	
	% effort obs.	% catch obs.	% effort obs.	% catch obs.
-	-	-	-	-

ii. *Specify whether the observer program complied with the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards. If not, describe the non-compliance. Also indicate whether there was any exchange of observers between Members.*

There is no specific SBT observer program as there are no fisheries targeting SBT and no substantial by-catches of SBT. However, there are observer programs implemented in accordance with the observer requirements of other tuna RFMOs (in general 5% coverage).

EU Observer coverage:

- WCPFC - 5.4% (in 2019);
- IOTC - 5.4% (in 2018, from the last available IOTC scientific report);
- ICCAT – Spain 7.8% and Portugal about 5%.

2.2.4 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

For the most recent fishing season for Member-flagged authorised carrier vessels and fishing vessels fishing for or taking SBT specify:

i. Was a mandatory VMS that complies with CCSBT’s VMS resolution in operation?

All EU vessels operating in the SBT distribution area must comply with VMS requirements. In the event of a technical failure or non-functioning of the satellite-tracking device fitted on board an EU fishing vessel, the master or his/her representative shall, starting from the time that the event was detected or from the time that he was informed, communicate every 4 hours (or other time period, according to relevant RFMO legislation), to the FMC of the flag Member State the up-to-date geographical coordinates of the fishing vessel by appropriate telecommunication means.

The FMC of the flag Member State shall enter the relevant geographical positions into the VMS database without delay on their receipt. The manual VMS data shall be clearly distinguishable in a database from automatic messages. Where appropriate, those manual VMS data shall be transmitted without delay to coastal Member States, when appropriate.

ii. If a mandatory VMS that complies with CCSBT’s VMS resolution was not in operation, provide details of non-compliance and plans for further improvement.

Nothing relevant to be reported.

iii. The number of its flag 1) fishing vessels (FVs) and 2) carrier vessels (CVs) that were required to report to a National VMS system:-

- 1) FVs: All active vessels.
- 2) CVs: No CVs active.

iv. The number of its flag 1) fishing vessels (FVs) and 2) carrier vessels (CVs) that actually reported to a National VMS system:-

- 1) FVs: All active vessels.
- 2) CVs: No CVs active.

v. Reasons for any non-compliance with VMS requirements and action taken by the Member.

Nothing relevant to be reported.

- vi. In the event of a technical failure of a vessel's VMS, the vessel's geographical position (latitude and longitude) at the time of failure and the length of time the VMS was inactive.

Nothing relevant to be reported.

- vii. A description of any investigations initiated in accordance with paragraph 3(b) of the CCSBT VMS resolution including progress to date and any actions taken.

Nothing relevant to be reported.

2.2.5 At-sea inspections

Specify the coverage level of at sea inspections of SBT authorised fishing vessels by Member's patrol vessels during the previous fishing season (e.g. the percentage of SBT trips inspected).

There were no SBT trips. However, in the WCPFC area since 2016, there were 3 high seas inspections carried out on EU surface longliners.

2.2.6 Authorised vessel requirements

Report on the review of internal actions and measures taken in relation to the authorised vessel requirements provided at Attachment A, including any punitive and sanction actions taken.

Nothing relevant to report.

2.2.7 Monitoring of catch of SBT from other sectors (e.g. recreational, customary, etc)

Provide details of monitoring methods used to monitor catches in other sectors.

Not applicable, the EU has no other sectors.

2.3 SBT Towing and transfer to and between farms (farms only)

Specify the percentage of the tows that were observed and the percentage of the transfers of the fish to the farms that were observed during the previous three fishing seasons in

Not applicable (NA), no SBT farms.

Table 6.

Not applicable (NA), no SBT farms.

Table 6. Observer coverage of towing and transfer to and between farms

Fishing season	Observer coverage of tows	Observer coverage of transfers
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

- i. Plans to allow adoption of the stereo video systems for ongoing monitoring.

2.4 SBT transshipment (in port and at sea)

In accordance with the Resolution on Establishing a Program for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels, report:

NA, no SBT transshipments.

- i. *The quantities and percentage of SBT transhipped at sea and in port during the previous three fishing seasons in Table 7.*

Table 7. SBT transhipment (in port and at sea)

Fishing season	Kilograms of SBT transhipped at sea	Percentage of the annual SBT catch transhipped at sea	Kilograms of SBT transhipped in port	Percentage of the annual SBT catch transhipped in port
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-

- ii. The list of the tuna longline fishing vessel with Freezing Capacity (LSTLVs) registered in the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List which have transhipped at sea and in port during the previous fishing season.

NA.

- iii. A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received at-sea transhipments from their LSTLVs during the previous fishing season.

NA.

2.5 Port Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels/Carrier Vessels (FVs/CVs) with SBT/SBT Products on Board

For the three previous calendar years, provide information about the number of landing/ transhipment operations that foreign FVs/CVs carrying SBT or SBT product made in port, the number of those landing/ transhipment operations that were inspected, and the number of inspections where infringements of CCSBT's measures were detected in Table 8.

Not applicable, no SBT landings/transhipments of foreign vessels carrying SBT or SBT products in EU ports.

Table 8. Port inspections of foreign FVs and CVs with SBT/SBT products on board

Calendar year	Foreign Flag	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations (that occurred)	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations Inspected	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations where an Infringement of CCSBT's Measures was Detected
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL NUMBER	-	-	-

2.6 Monitoring of trade of SBT

For the last whole calendar year or fishing season,

- i. *Provide the percentage of landings of SBT that were inspected.*

ii. *Provide the percentage of exports of SBT that were inspected.*

iii. *Provide the percentage of imports of SBT that were inspected.*

No reported landings, exports and imports of SBT in the EU.

2.7 Coverage and Type of CDS Audit undertaken

As per paragraph 5.9 of the CDS Resolution, specify details on the level of coverage and type of audit undertaken, in accordance with 5.8¹² of the Resolution, and the level of compliance.

There are no recorded catches of SBT by the EU fleet since 2012 and it is very unlikely that SBT caught by EU longline vessels enters in the EU market. In fact, we are not aware of any instance in the past where SBT by-caught by the EU fleet has entered the EU market or any third country market.

EU Member States' competent authorities shall ensure that any retained SBT that is landed, transhipped, exported, re-exported and/or imported SBT is accompanied by the appropriate CDS documentation. However, SBT imports in the EU when happening are limited to dozens of Kg, namely for consumption or processing and therefore the probability to have exports/re-exports of SBT subjected to CDS is near nil.

Pursuant to the EU IUU Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008) marine catches (fisheries products) by third country fishing vessels can only be imported into the EU if accompanied by a catch certificate validated by the catching vessel Flag State. Regulation 1010/2009 Annex V accepts the CCSBT CDS as an equivalent to the catch certificate if also accompanied by transport details. In fact, the EU IUU Regulation requests Member States to check the EU catch certificate or its accepted equivalent (e.g. CCSBT CDS) prior to accepting the import (Art. 16 and 17). Each year consignments that do not comply with the requirements laid down in the IUU Regulation are denied import in the EU, pursuant to Art. 18 of the IUU Reg.

Moreover, EU Member States must report every two years on their application of the IUU Regulation. The analysis of these biennial reports is used to detect potential weaknesses and feed dedicated trainings by the European Fisheries Control Agency, as well as specific meetings with the Member States. Where relevant the European Commission can also perform visits or audits to the Member States.

3 Changes to sections in Annex 1

List any sections of Annex 1 that have changed since the previous year.

¹² Paragraph 5.8 of the CDS Resolution specifies that "Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall undertake an appropriate level of audit, including inspections of vessels, landings, and where possible markets, to the extent necessary to validate the information contained in the CDS documentation."

Annex 1. Standing items: details of MCS arrangements used to monitor SBT catch in the fishery

1 Monitoring catch of SBT

Describe the system used for controlling the level of SBT catch. For ITQ and IQ systems, this should include details on how the catch is allocated to individual companies and/or vessels. For competitive catch systems this should include details of the process for authorising vessels to catch SBT and how the fishery is monitored for determining when to close the fishery. The description provided here should include any operational constraints on effort (both regulatory and voluntary).

Methods used to monitor catching in the fishery

Details should also be provided of monitoring conducted of fishing vessels when steaming away from the fishing grounds (this does not include towing vessels that are reported in Section 2).

The information reported in the table below, complements the information provided in the main report.

Monitoring Methods	Description
Daily log book	<p>Specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Whether this is mandatory. ii. The level of detail recorded (shot by shot, daily aggregate etc):- iii. What information on ERS is recorded in logbooks:- iv. Who are the log books submitted to¹³:- v. What is the timeframe and method¹⁴ for submission:- vi. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:- vii. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:- viii. Other relevant information¹⁵:- <p>Catches are recorded through logbooks, EU vessels operating in the SBT distribution area record all the fishing related activities associated to a fishing trip in electronic fishing logbook, which is compulsory for vessels over 15m. Information recorded includes the quantities of each species caught during a fishing operation.</p> <p>All SBT catches irrespective of the weight shall be recorded in the logbook and discards of SBT are not allowed.</p> <p>Information on sea birds and turtles is not necessarily included in the logbook but it is reported as per each RFMO requirement.</p>

¹³ If the reports are not to be submitted to the Member's or CNM's government fisheries authority, then also specify whether the information will later be sent to the fisheries authority, including how and when that occurs.

¹⁴ In particular, whether the information is submitted electronically from the vessel.

¹⁵ Including information on ERS, and comments on the effectiveness of the controls or monitoring tools and any plans for further improvement.

<p><i>Additional reporting methods (such as real time monitoring programs)</i></p>	<p><i>If multiple reporting methods exists (e.g. daily, weekly and/or month SBT catch reporting, reporting of tags and SBT measurements, reporting of ERS interactions etc), create a separate row of in this table for each method. Then, for each method, specify:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. Whether this is mandatory.</i> <i>ii. The information that is recorded (including whether it relates to SBT or ERS):-</i> <i>iii. Who the reports are submitted to and by whom (e.g. Vessel Master, the Fishing Company etc)¹³:-</i> <i>iv. What is the timeframe and method¹⁴ for submission:-</i> <i>v. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:-</i> <i>vi. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-</i> <i>vii. Other relevant information¹⁵:-</i> <p>DG MARE reports monthly to the Secretariat data on SBT catches (bycatch), which is based on aggregated catch data provided by EU Member States to the EU Aggregated Catch Data Reporting (ACDR).</p> <p>Catches are recorded through logbooks (electronic). However, the detection of any bycatches of SBT is anchored on information and cross checking of data, not only from logbooks, but also from landing declarations and sales notes, observer reports, port and high-seas inspections, electronic observation (when available), self-sampling and port sampling (when available) and, when necessary, investigations of any evidence or clear suspicion related to a misreport or non-declared catch.</p>
<p><i>Scientific Observers</i></p>	<p><i>Specify:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. The system used for comparisons between observer data and other catch monitoring data in order to verify the catch data:-</i> <i>ii. What information on ERS is recorded by observers:-</i> <i>iii. Who are the observer reports submitted to:-</i> <i>iv. Timeframe for submission of observer reports:-</i> <i>v. Other relevant information (including plans for further improvement – in particular to reach coverage of 10% of the effort):-</i> <p>Not applicable. Observer coverage apply to “the fishing activity of CCSBT members and cooperating non-members wherever Southern Bluefin Tuna is targeted or is a significant bycatch”, which is not the case of EU vessels operating in the SBT distribution area and therefore, there is no specific SBT observer program. However, EU vessels are subjected to observer programs implemented in accordance with the observer requirements of other tuna RFMOs (in general 5% coverage).</p>
<p><i>VMS</i></p> <p><i>The items of “ii” are required in association</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. For Member-flagged authorised carrier vessels and fishing vessels fishing for or taking SBT reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-</i>

<p><i>with the Resolution on establishing the CCSBT Vessel Monitoring System</i></p>	<p>All EU vessels operating in the SBT distribution area, are equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System and must comply with CCSBT VMS requirements. In the event of a technical failure or non-functioning of the satellite-tracking device fitted on board an EU fishing vessel, the master or his/her representative shall, starting from the time that the event was detected or from the time that he/she was informed, communicate every 4 hours (or other time period, according to relevant RFMO legislation), to the FMC of the flag Member State the up-to-date geographical coordinates of the fishing vessel by appropriate telecommunication means.</p> <p>The FMC of the flag Member State shall enter the relevant geographical positions into the VMS database without delay on their receipt. The manual VMS data shall be clearly distinguishable in a database from automatic messages. Where appropriate, those manual VMS data shall be transmitted without delay to coastal Member States.</p>
<p><i>Other (for example, use of electronic monitoring etc.)</i></p>	<p>Some vessels are already equipped with electronic devices and participating in e-monitoring projects, on voluntary basis.</p>

1.1 SBT Towing and transfer to and between farms (farms only)

(a) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring towing of SBT from the fishing ground to the farming area. This should include details of:

- i. Observation required for towing of SBT
- ii. Monitoring systems for recording losses of SBT (in particular, SBT mortality).

(b) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transferring of SBT from tow cages into farms. This should include details of:

- i. Inspection/Observation required for transfer of SBT
- ii. Monitoring system used for recording the quantity of SBT transferred:-

(c) For “b” and “c” above, describe the process used for completing, validating¹⁶ and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Farm Stocking Form, Farm Transfer Form):-

(d) Other relevant information¹⁵

NA, the EU has no SBT farms.

1.2 SBT Transshipment (in port and at sea)

(a) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transshipments in port. This should include details of:

- i. Flag State rules for and names of:
 - designated foreign ports where SBT may be transhipped, and
 - foreign ports where in-port transshipments of SBT are prohibited:-
- ii. Flag State inspection requirements for in-port transshipments of SBT (include % coverage):-

¹⁶ Including the class of person who conducts this work (e.g. government official, authorised third party)

- iii. *Information sharing with designated Port States:-*
 - iv. *Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT transhipped:-*
 - v. *Process for validating¹⁶ and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, Catch Tagging Form):-*
 - vi. *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*
 - vii. *Other relevant information¹⁵:-*
- (b) *Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transhipments at sea. This should include details of:*
- i. *The rules and processes for authorising transhipments of SBT at sea and methods (in addition to the presence of CCSBT transhipment observers) for checking and verifying the quantities of SBT transhipped:-*
 - ii. *Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT transhipped:-*
 - iii. *Process for collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, Catch Tagging Form):-*
 - iv. *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*
 - v. *Other relevant information¹⁵:-*

NA, EU vessels do not tranship SBT.

1.3 Port Inspections of Foreign FVs/CVs with SBT/SBT Products on Board

This section provides for reporting with respect to the CCSBT's Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port. It should be filled out by Port State Members that have authorised foreign Fishing Vessels/Carrier Vessels carrying SBT or SBT products to enter their designated ports for the purpose of landing and/or transhipment. Only information for landings/transhipments of SBT or SBT products that have NOT been previously landed or transhipped at port should be included in the table below.

- (a) *Provide a list of designated ports into which foreign FVs/ CVs carrying SBT or SBT product may request entry:-*
- (b) *Provide the minimum number of hours of notice required for foreign FVs/CVs carrying SBT or SBT product to request authorisation to enter these designated ports:-*

Not applicable, no SBT landings/transhipments of foreign vessels carrying SBT or SBT products in EU ports.

1.4 Landings of Domestic Product (from both fishing vessels and farms)

Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring domestic landings of SBT. This should include details of:

- (a) *Rules for designated ports of landing of SBT:-*
 - (b) *Inspections required for landings of SBT.*
 - (c) *Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being landed as a different species:-*
 - (d) *Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT landed:-*
-

- (e) *Process for validating¹⁶ and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, and depending on circumstances, Catch Tagging Form):-*
- (f) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*
- (g) *Other relevant information¹⁵:-*

Not applicable, no landings of domestic products.

1.5 Monitoring of trade of SBT

1.5.1 SBT Exports

Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring exports of SBT (including of landings directly from the vessel to the foreign importing port). This should include details of:

- (a) *Inspections required for export of SBT -*
- (b) *Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being exported as a different species:-*
- (c) *Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT exported:-*
- (d) *Process for validating¹⁶ and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form and depending on circumstances, Catch Tagging Form or Re-export/Export after landing of domestic product Form):-*
- (e) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*
- (f) *Other relevant information¹⁵:-*

There are no SBT exports and the probability to have such exports in the future is near nil. EU Member States (in general customs authorities) have the competence and responsibility to apply the Regulations in force with regard to SBT exports and to perform and document the necessary checks. DG MARE requests copies of any catch certificates containing SBF together with the CDS with the quarterly request for data provision on exports; this information is centrally stored.

Moreover, DG MARE/European Commission makes the legal basis and provisions available to the national authorities to carry out legally required checks and provides guidance in individual cases, on request.

1.5.2 SBT Imports

Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring imports of SBT. This should include details of:

- (a) *Rules for designating specific ports for the import of SBT:-*
 - (b) *Inspections required for imports of SBT*
 - (c) *Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being imported as a different species:-*
 - (d) *Process for checking and collecting CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form and depending on circumstances, Re-export/Export after landing of domestic product Form):-*
 - (e) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*
-

(f) *Other relevant information*¹⁵:-

SBT imports in the EU are marginal and do not occur every year. Member States authorities (in general customs) have the competence and responsibility to apply the Regulations in force with regard to SBT imports and to perform and document the necessary checks. DG MARE requests copies of any import certificates containing SBF with the quarterly request for “data provision on domestic landings, exports, imports, re-exports, farm stocking and farm transfers of SBF”.

Imports of fisheries products in the EU are framed under the EU Catch Certification Scheme. The EU Catch Certification Scheme is an essential part of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2008, which is intended to improve the traceability of all marine fishery products traded with the EU and to facilitate the control of their compliance with conservation and management rules. To achieve this, fishery products shall only be imported into the EU when accompanied by a catch certificate. Through this instrument, the competent authorities of the flag State of the catching vessel will certify that the catches concerned have been made in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and international conservation and management measures.

EU catch certificates (or their accepted equivalent, the CCSBT CDS is an equivalent to the EU Catch Certificate) have to be validated upon acceptance of the import into the EU and imports cannot enter in the EU market without a certificate. Member States that reject consignments lacking proper or comprehensive information must pass this information to DG MARE and to the Flag State.

1.5.3 SBT Markets

(a) *Describe any activities targeted at points in the supply chain between landing and the market:-*

(b) *Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring of SBT at markets (e.g. voluntary or mandatory requirements for certain documentation and/or presence of tags, and monitoring or audit of compliance with such requirements):-*

(c) *Other relevant information*¹⁵¹

There are no SBT landings. Catches are recorded through logbooks but the detection of any bycatches of SBT is anchored on information and cross checks also using data from landing declarations, sales notes, observer reports, port and high-seas inspections, electronic observation (when available), self-sampling and port sampling (when available) and, when necessary, investigations of any evidence or clear suspicion related to a misreport or non-declared catch.

1.6 Other

Description of any other MCS systems of relevance.

Nothing relevant to be reported.

2 Additional Reporting Requirements Ecologically Related Species

(a) *Reporting requirements in relation to implementation of the 2008 ERS Recommendation:*

i. *Specify whether each of the following plans/guidelines have been implemented, and if not, specify the action that has been taken towards implementing each of these plans/guidelines:-*

- *International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries:*

Implemented since 2012 through the European Commission Plan of Actions for reducing incidental catches with seabirds in fishing gears¹⁷.

¹⁷ <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2012/EN/1-2012-665-EN-F1-1.Pdf> .

- *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks:*

Implemented since 2009 through the European Commission Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks¹⁸.

- *FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations:*
- ii. *Specify whether all current binding and recommendatory measures¹⁹ aimed at the protection of ecologically related species²⁰ from fishing of the following tuna RFMOs are being complied with. If not, specify which measures are not being complied with and the progress that is being made towards compliance:-*

Implemented, notably through the execution and accomplishment of RFMOs CMM on turtles.

- *IOTC, when fishing within IOTC's Convention Area:*

All measures implemented.

- *WCPFC, when fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area:*

All measures implemented.

- *ICCAT, when fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*

All measures implemented.

- iii. *Specify whether data is being collected and reported on ecologically related species in accordance with the requirements of the following tuna RFMOs. If data are not being collected and reported in accordance with these requirements, specify which measures are not being complied with and the progress that is being made towards compliance:-*

- *CCSBT²¹:*

The EU has no SBT fisheries. However, main data referring to ERS provided to other tRFMO (surface oceanic longlines) has been included in the scientific report.

- *IOTC, for fishing within IOTC's Convention Area:*

All available data provided.

- *WCPFC, for fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area:*

All available data provided.

- *ICCAT, for fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*

All available data provided.

(b) *Mitigation – describe the current mitigation requirements:*

The EU has no SBT fisheries. However, mitigation measures in force in other tRMFOs have been implemented.

(c) *Monitoring usage of bycatch mitigation measures:*

- i. *Describe the methods being used to monitor compliance with bycatch mitigation measures (e.g. types of port inspections conducted and other monitoring and surveillance programs used to monitor compliance). Include details of the level of coverage (e.g. proportion of vessels inspected each year):*

Idem.

- ii. *Describe the type of information that is collected on mitigation measures as part of compliance programmes for SBT vessels:*

¹⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=legissum%3Aev0014>

¹⁹ *Relevant measures of these RFMOs can be found at: http://www.ccsbt.org/site/bycatch_mitigation.php.*

²⁰ *Including seabirds, sea turtles and sharks.*

²¹ *Current CCSBT requirements are those in the Scientific Observer Program Standards and those necessary for completing the template for the annual report to the ERSWG.*

Idem.



Appendix 1. CCSBT Authorised Vessel Resolution

The flag Members and Co-operating Non-members of the vessels on the record shall:

- a) authorize their FVs to fish for SBT only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the CCSBT Convention and its conservation and management measures;
 - b) take necessary measures to ensure that their FVs comply with all the relevant CCSBT conservation and management measures;
 - c) take necessary measures to ensure that their FVs on the CCSBT Record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish and/or tranship;
 - d) affirm that if those vessels have record of IUU fishing activities, the owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that they will not conduct such activities anymore;
 - e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their FVs on the CCSBT Record are not engaged in or associated with fishing activities for SBT conducted by FVs not entered into the CCSBT Record;
 - f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the FVs on the CCSBT Record are citizens or legal entities within the flag Members and Co-operating Non-members so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.
-