Report of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission

10 - 13 October 2006
Miyazaki, Japan
Report of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission
10-13 October 2006
Miyazaki, Japan

Agenda Item 1. Opening of meeting

1.1 Welcoming address
1. Mr Nakamae (Deputy Director-General, Japanese Fisheries Agency), provided a welcoming address to the meeting. The address is at Appendix 1.
2. The Chair (Mr Ryotaro Suzuki, Japan) opened the meeting and welcomed participants. He also announced that the European Union had requested to become a Cooperating Non-Member of the Commission.
3. The meeting approved the Chair’s proposed procedure for managing the Commission and Extended Commission Meetings.

1.2 Adoption of agenda
4. The agenda was adopted and is included at Appendix 2.
5. The list of meeting participants is included at Appendix 3.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of decisions taken by the Extended Commission
6. The Commission approved the decisions taken by the Extended Commission for the Thirteenth Meeting of the Commission, which is at Appendix 4.

Agenda Item 3. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair for CCSBT 14 and venue
7. CCSBT 14 will be hosted and chaired by Australia.
8. The Vice Chair for CCSBT 14 will be nominated by New Zealand.

Agenda Item 4. Other business
9. There was no other business

Agenda Item 5. Adoption of report of meeting
10. The report was adopted.
Agenda Item 6. Close of meeting

11. The meeting closed at 9:30pm, 13 October 2006.
List of Appendices

Appendix

1 Welcoming address
2 Agenda
3 List of Participants
4 Report of the Extended Commission for the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Commission
Chairman, ladies and gentleman, welcome to this meeting.

Japan hosted CCSBT 8 at Miyako in 2001. It is my great pleasure to host the thirteenth meeting of the CCSBT in Miyazaki.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Secretariat for so much effort in organizing this meeting. I am sure that there have been difficult tasks to organize this meeting. We are very grateful to have such a wonderful setting and arrangements for the meeting.

I also would like to take this opportunity to extend my genuine appreciation to Prefecture of Miyazaki and Miyazaki City. As you can see, this venue is an excellent facility. Without support from Prefecture of Miyazaki and Miyazaki City, we could not have this meeting here.

In this occasion, I would like to explain thoughts of Japan regarding this meeting.

The sustainable utilization of the SBT stock is the common and most important goal for all CCSBT members. However, there is concern about deterioration of the SBT stock. CCSBT is requested to take measures to cope with this problem so that CCSBT can make steps toward the recovery of the SBT stock.

As a country which has utilized the SBT stock for a long time and as the largest SBT consumer nation, I would like to emphasize our strong will and responsibility to make every effort for the recovery of the SBT stock.

Japan conducted an investigation on its own initiative last year, and we disclosed that we exceeded our SBT allocation in the 2005 fishing season. In order to eliminate causes of such excess catch, from this April, we moved to a new SBT management scheme, which includes allocation to individual fishing vessel and tagging of individually caught SBT. As this new scheme covers whole processes from catch to landing, we are able to eliminate uncertainties in fisheries.
When this new scheme was introduced, I faced great difficulties to convince stakeholders, including fishermen. However, introduction of this new scheme was imperative and indispensable for us, and we exerted our utmost effort.

Furthermore, in order to make this new scheme effective, we increased the number of JFA inspectors at port so that 100% SBT landing inspection can be done. I can promise you that Japan will strictly comply with its national allocation determined at CCSBT, and the new scheme is a clear answer to criticisms against our SBT fisheries. I would like you to fully understand the new scheme, and I hope that all CCSBT Members will introduce the tagging system to improve the management of SBT.

There are some difficulties in the track record of the catch in some fisheries. There are Longliner, Purse seiner and Pole and line fisheries for SBT. For Long liner and Pole and line, it is possible to measure weight of individual SBT at the time of catch. However, Purse seiner is different from longline and pole and line fisheries. There is no landing at the time of catch, and catches by purse seine are transferred to farming pens. Some kind of effort is necessary to obtain accurate estimated catch by purse seine. It is desirable to develop appropriate management methodologies for each type of fishery taking into account their characteristics.

Since last year’s annual meeting, meetings of two independent review panels, the Special Meeting, and the Scientific Committee were held in order to solve uncertainties in certain fisheries. There still remain many uncertainties; however, as the Scientific Committee pointed out, it is imperative to start taking action to recover the SBT stock. We cannot leave the situation by using uncertainties as an excuse. We need to take measure as responsible Members.

As the largest longlining fishery country, we are ready to take initiative in this endeavor. There is no point in having discussion without any decision. I hope that the other members will join our efforts for the recovery of the SBT stock.

In concluding, I hope that you will have a pleasant time and enjoy this beautiful autumn in Miyazaki.

Thank you.
Appendix 2

Agenda
Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission
10-13 October 2006
Miyazaki, Japan

1. Opening of the meeting
   1.1 Welcoming address
   1.2 Adoption of agenda

2. Approval of decisions taken by the Extended Commission

3. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair for CCSBT14 and venue

4. Other business

5. Adoption of the report of the meeting

6. Close of meeting
Appendix 3

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10 - 13 October 2006
Miyazaki, Japan

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Appendix 4

Report of the Extended Commission of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission

10-13 October 2006
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Report of the Extended Commission of the
Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission
10-13 October 2006
Miyazaki, Japan

Agenda Item 1. Opening of meeting

1.1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Extended Commission of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Commission
1. The Chair of CCSBT 13 (Mr Ryotaro Suzuki) opened the meeting.
2. Mr Ryotaro Suzuki, Japan and Mr Glenn Hurry (Australia) were confirmed as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Extended Commission meeting.

1.2 Adoption of agenda
3. A revised agenda was adopted and is included at Attachment 1.
4. The list of meeting participants is included at Attachment 2.
5. The list of documents submitted to the meeting is at Attachment 3.

1.3 Opening statements
1.3.1 Members
6. Opening statements by members of the Extended Commission are at Attachment 4. In their opening statements, members of the Extended Commission identified priority issues for consideration at the meeting.

1.3.2 Cooperating Non-Members
7. The Philippines presented an opening statements which is at Attachment 5.

1.3.3 Other States and entities
8. The European Community and Indonesia presented an opening statement, which are at Attachment 6.

Agenda Item 2. Report from the Secretariat
9. The Executive Secretary presented the report from the Secretariat (CCSBT-ESC/0610/04). The Extended Commission noted the report.
10. The Executive Secretary introduced his replacement, Mr Neil Hermes, who commences duty on 16 October. The Chair welcomed Mr Hermes on behalf of the Extended Commission. Mr Hermes thanked the Extended Commission for its confidence in him and advised that he was looking forward to assisting the Extended Commission in managing this important resource.

Agenda Item 3. Handling Confidential Matters Concerning the CCSBT

11. Japan raised its grave concern that the confidentiality of documents agreed at the July Special Meeting had been broken by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority’s Managing Director, Richard McLoughlin. He made a one-side and partial presentation containing information of the anomalies mentioned in the market review report and this was reported in the media.

12. Australia acknowledged the breach of confidentiality and apologised for the incident and advised that the person involved had been counselled and its officials in general have been instructed to be more careful in the future.

Agenda Item 4. Finance and Administration

4.1 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee

13. The Executive Secretary presented a revised budget for 2006 (CCSBT-ESC/0610/05) and proposed budgets for 2007 (CCSBT-ESC/0610/06).

14. The Executive Secretary outlined the assumptions underpinning the budgets. The Extended Commission referred the draft budgets to the Finance and Administration Committee for consideration and report back to the Extended Commission. It was noted that the budgets might have to be modified in the light of discussions during the course of the meeting on activities in 2007. Australia foreshadowed in particular, a possible need to include funding for new monitoring, control and surveillance measures.

15. The Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) was convened to consider the revised budget for 2006 and the proposed budget for 2007. New Zealand was nominated to chair the FAC and Australia acted as rapporteur.

16. The FAC considered and endorsed the revised budget for 2006 incorporated in meeting document CCSBT-EC/0610/05. The FAC recommended that the identified over-expenditure in that report be absorbed. The Extended Commission adopted the revised budget for 2006.

17. The FAC considered the proposed budget for 2007 and noted that an additional $45,000 was required to cover the Compliance Committee special meeting agreed to at CCSBT 13. Further, because of costs associated with new monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures agreed at CCSBT 13, cost savings were investigated in the other elements of the proposed budget. Savings endorsed by the FAC are:
• Decreased meeting costs, primarily through reductions in publication costs, equipment hire and miscellaneous costs (e.g. by self catering meetings where possible, hosts providing venues free).
• A decrease in the number of panellists from four to three participating in the SC and SAG unless other measures to reduce expenditure can be found.
• No purchase of tags for the CCSBT tagging programme in 2007.
• No Interim Management Procedure Workshop.
• No management strategy development.

18. The Extended Commission accepted the revised general budget for 2007 as shown in Attachment 7 Table 1.

19. The FAC also noted that an additional cost of $100,000 will be required to support the employment of a person in the Secretariat to develop the MCS measures agreed at CCSBT13. The FAC advise that if a small reduction was made in the number of vessel days in the SRP tagging programme, the subsequent savings could be made available for this new requirement.

20. The Extended Commission accepted the revised special budget for 2007 as shown in Attachment 7 Table 2. The Extended Commission also agreed that up to $100,000 could be transferred from the special budget to the general budget to support the employment a person in the Secretariat to develop the MCS measures agreed at CCSBT13.

21. With respect to the indicative 2008 budget, the FAC recommended that it be increased to reflect a 10% increase in member contributions.

4.2 Discussion on Finance Issues

22. In considering the FAC report, Australia drew the meeting’s attention to the conclusions of the Extended Scientific Committee that, “there was increased reliance on a smaller suite of indicators (Aerial Survey, conventional tagging, NZ charter fleet and Indonesia catch monitoring) due to the impact of the catch anomalies on the level of confidence on the fisheries dependent indicators, in particular the Japanese longline CPUE”.

23. In light of this the ESC had recommended that to ensure verifiable and reliable indicators are available, the highest priority should be given to the following set: catch and CPUE verification, aerial surveys, Indonesian monitoring, and tagging together with verification of reporting rates.

24. Australia stated that the Aerial Survey has direct tangible benefits for all members of the Commission global fishery; especially given that it is now the sole reliable indicator of juvenile abundance in the global fishery and will cost $545,000 in 2007. The cost of the Aerial Survey has been funded solely by Australia for the past 2 years and is an element of the scientific research budget for SBT that is funded by the Australian Government. Australia believes that all members should contribute to this critically important research.
25. It is a fundamental principle that all those who participate and benefit from the fishery contribute to the scientific understanding and management of the fishery.

26. Australia wanted a clear understanding by all Members that this is a vitally important component of the CCSBT Scientific Research Program (SRP).

27. Depending on the outcome of the SRP review next year by the ESC, Australia wants to ensure that the Aerial Survey is included in next year’s budget.

28. Agreement could not be reached for assistance from other Members for payment of the cost of the Aerial Survey this year and Australia agreed to continue to pay the full cost of the Aerial Survey, but indicated the ESC must provide a clear indication of the priority of scientific activities in full for consideration at CCSBT 14.

29. The Commission welcomed Australia’s substantial contribution to the scientific work of the Commission and their support of the Aerial Survey.

30. New Zealand advised the meeting that the data from the New Zealand charter fleet was also considered by the Extended Scientific Committee to be an important reliable indicator for monitoring recruitment. Its reliability is related to the 100% observer coverage of this fleet. This observer coverage costs New Zealand up to $200,000 per year.

Agenda Item 5. Compliance

5.1 Report from the Compliance Committee

31. The Chair of the Compliance Committee (CC Chair) presented the report of the Compliance Committee (which is at Attachment 8). He advised that:

- Members of the Compliance Committee recognised that extensive levels of unreported catch demanded significant improvement in the measures needed to better monitor catch and raise the levels of compliance with the conservation and management measures of the CCSBT.

- The meeting received over 20 formal reports, presentations and proposals.

- The Chair of the Scientific Committee reported on discussions at the Extended Scientific Committee meeting and emphasised the importance of reliability of catch and effort data.

- The Extended Scientific Committee provided advice to the Compliance Committee on the essential nature and statistical accuracy of information (paragraphs 62-68 of the SC11 report).

32. The CC Chair noted that the Committee set itself an ambitious task to undertake in the available time. It placed particular emphasis on the development of proposals on an integrated package of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures. He advised that:
• Australia presented details of eight MCS measures to the Compliance Committee, and proposed draft resolutions to carry out work on each of these and a proposed implementation date on each of these:
  o an effective catch documentation scheme (CDS);
  o use of genetic techniques to complement other monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures;
  o implementation of a centralised vessel monitoring system (VMS);
  o an international observer program;
  o vessel registers;
  o regulation of transhipment;
  o boarding and inspection of vessels; and
  o port state measures.
• New Zealand presented a paper outlining various approaches for strengthening compliance, and a separate paper proposing development of an effective catch documentation scheme.
• Japan outlined its new domestic MCS arrangements, which included allocation of quota for individual vessel and tagging of Japanese caught SBT at the time of catch. Japan proposed two resolutions:
  o proposal on CCSBT New Tagging System; and
  o proposal on management and compliance measures on SBT farming.
• The Compliance Committee agreed to focus on four of these proposals as key priorities:
  o CDS and tagging of individual fish as a cornerstone of the CDS;
  o VMS;
  o Independent Observer program; and
  o Regulation of transhipment.

33. The CC Chair commented that there was insufficient time to complete the development of resolutions on these proposals and recommended to the Commission that further work be undertaken during CCSBT 13. The CCSBT13 meeting was subsequently adjourned to allow the Compliance Committee Working Group (CCWG) to address the 4 high priority proposals and consider how these could be further progressed for implementation.

34. The CCWG developed 3 draft resolutions for consideration by the Extended Commission. These papers are in relation to development of a catch documentation scheme (Attachment 9), a vessel monitoring system (Attachment 10), and transhipments at sea by large scale longline fishing vessels (Attachment 11). The CCWG was unable to reach agreement on the proposal to establish an independent observer program.

35. The CC Chair advised that, if adopted by the Extended Commission, the 3 draft resolutions require considerable work before they can be implemented. It is proposed that this work be undertaken intersessionaly and at a Compliance
Committee Working Group meeting in mid 2007. Some Members proposed that further work be undertaken on:

- Observer Program.
- Vessel Register.
- Port State Measures.
- Boarding and Inspection.

### 5.2 Integrated Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System

36. Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Observers recognised the critical importance of adopting and fully implementing at the earliest possible time an integrated package of compliance measures which would ensure the elimination of unreported catch and provide accurate data as a basis for proper stock assessment.

37. In particular, Members adopted three resolutions on the following compliance measures:

- A catch documentation scheme (*Attachment 9*).
- A vessel monitoring system (*Attachment 10*).
- Regulation of transhipments by large scale fishing vessels (*Attachment 11*).

38. Noting that implementation of the above three measures would require considerable work, and that there had been insufficient time to reach agreement on other important measures such as an independent observer program, port state measures, boarding and inspection, and a vessel register, Members agreed to undertake further work intersessionally and at a Compliance Committee meeting in mid-2007. Members agreed to refer the proposal on use of genetics in verifying tuna species and legal origin of catch to the Extended Scientific Committee.

39. The Extended Commission further agreed, in order to improve transparency of and confidence in management measures, that all Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall provide to the CCSBT Secretariat in a timely manner information relating to:

a) the yearly quota and catch allocation arrangements for this fishery either by company, quota holder or vessel¹; and

b) the final catch against quota by company, quota holder or vessel at the completion of a vessel’s fishing period or fishing year.

40. In the case where Members and Cooperating Non-Members manage through an “Olympic” system members shall only be required to report details in (b).

41. Recognising the value of the Japanese Tagging System in improving compliance in the Fishery, the Extended Commission agreed to cooperate in developing this proposal further to apply as soon as practicable to all CCSBT Members and Cooperating Non-Members.

¹ Vessel details provided shall include vessel name and call sign
Australian SBT Farming Study

42. The Japanese delegation indicated that the uncertainties raised in the Independent Review of the Australian Farm Operations require further investigation. Japan requests Australia to investigate the following issues as a flag-state responsibility. Japan would like the following issues clarified.

   a. Representativeness of the 40 fish samples, which are used to estimate catch (bias in 40 fish sample); and
   b. Weight change during towing;
   c. Accuracy in counting of dead fish during towing;
   d. Accuracy in growth rate during farming; and
   e. Number of fish transferred into farming pens.

43. Members recognise that in relation to items (b) and (d):

   • That intra- and inter-seasonal variability will require experiments to take place over a number of seasons with appropriate replication. This is likely to take place over a minimum three year period and require the use of the research mortality allowance.
   • Different farming practices (such as feeding regimes, husbandry practices, harvest timing) will have an effect on growth rate and this will have a large impact on the experimental design and confidence intervals given the number of variations that would need to be considered.
   • The most effective approach is to ensure that there is an accurate estimate of weight of the fish at capture which will negate the need to examine different farming practices.

   However, the seasonal results will be reported.

44. Australia will endeavour to complete work on the experimental design and experimental work as soon as practicable with an emphasis on finalizing (a), (c) and (e) in the first year. The schedule for this work is:

   • Australia submits a draft initial experimental design to address the issues raised to other CCSBT members - end November 2006
   • Comments from other CCSBT members - end December 2006
   • Finalise initial experimental design – mid January 2007
   • Finalise tender for experimental project – end February 2007
   • Implementation of experimental approach – February 2007
   • Submission of initial results to Commission – May 2007
   • Submission of revised experimental design – July 2007
   • Examination of results and revised design by ESC – September 2007
   • Examination of the results by the Extended Commission – October 2007
   • Second year study commences 1 December 2007
Agenda Item 6. Review of SBT Fisheries

45. Reports on the SBT fisheries of Members of the Extended Commission are provided at Attachment 12. There were no questions on these reports.

Agenda Item 7. Report from the Extended Scientific Committee

46. The SC Chair presented an overview of the key conclusions of the report of the 11th Scientific Committee Meeting (SC11). The SC11 Report is shown in Attachment 13, and the overview presentation is shown in Attachment 14. Key conclusions were:

- The suggested magnitude of past over-catches jeopardizes many of the key SBT indicators, undermines the basis upon which the SBT Operating model is designed and conditioned, and will require the proposed SBT MP to be re-evaluated.

- There is high uncertainty regarding the plausibility of alternate past catch scenarios. Given this uncertainty, the SAG could not conduct a formal assessment in 2006. Rather, a range of alternate ‘scenarios’ was evaluated, using the Operating Model under different assumptions about past catches and CPUE.

- Results of scenario evaluations are generally consistent with the 2005 assessment, and indicate that the SBT spawning biomass is at a low fraction of its original biomass, well below the 1980 level, and below the level that could produce MSY. Scenarios show median spawning biomass levels in 2006 (110,000t - 170,000t), well above 2005 median biomass estimate (50,000t estimated in 2005) as a result of the incorporation of catch anomalies, but still show substantial depletion, with median B2006/B0 levels between 10% and 13%.

- Under these scenarios, the estimated catch levels that will result in meeting the short term target of a 50% probability of biomass in 2014 being greater than the biomass in 2004, lie in a relatively narrow range from approximately 9,900t to approximately 12,100t.

- To ensure a high probability of sustainability and rebuilding of the SBT spawning stock, three steps are required:
  - An immediate reduction in total catches to below 14,925t to decrease the probability of further stock declines.
  - Immediate action to restore confidence in estimates of total catch and CPUE series. Monitoring of recruitment and of the Indonesian fishery must continue, and where possible, be improved.
An interim management procedure needs to be adopted within the next 3-5 years, with a full management procedure thereafter designed to ensure a high probability of stock rebuilding.

The SC Chair provided the following answers to questions from members:

47. Australia asked what might the state of the SBT stock be if the indicated over-catches had not occurred:
   • The SC Chair noted that this question had been asked at CCSBT12, and forwarded to the Advisory Panel. However, it could not be addressed until there was some advice from the Commission regarding possible magnitudes and sources of past over-catches. Following selection of the scenarios to evaluate at SC11, the SC Chair again posed this question to the Panel. Limited time precluded the Panel from addressing the question at SC11. However, Dr Parma had subsequently conducted a first preliminary retrospective analysis, using just one central scenario (scenario-c) under one set of central assumptions for the operating model parameters, to try and answer the question. Assuming recruitment remained unchanged from the estimates used in 2006 the spawning stock would be at 19% of its estimated unfished level, as opposed to the current estimate of 11%, under this scenario (scenario c). This estimate equates to 58% of the estimated 1980 level. Alternatively, assuming that recruitment increased as a result of the increase in spawning biomass, the estimated spawning biomass would be 29% of the estimated unfished level. That is, two and a half times higher than the current estimate under this particular scenario. This equates to 88% of the estimated 1980 level.

48. Australia questioned the feasibility of establishing a credible scientific process within the next 3 years to assess the SBT stock:
   • The SC Chair advised that this will depend on provision of accurate total catch data (or at least catch data of known uncertainty), plus a reliable index of longline CPUE over representative SBT distribution by area and age-class. The SC also hoped to develop an interim management procedure over this time.

49. Japan asked whether conservation and management of SBT could be done using numbers, rather than weight:
   • The SC Chair responded that input data for assessments can be dealt with in either in numbers or weight, but will have to be accompanied by adequate representative size-frequency data in either case, to allow numbers or weight to be converted into estimates of annual catch-at-age.

50. Japan questioned why CPUE data are not available, or not used, for the surface fishery:
   • The SC Chair advised that actual fishing effort in the surface fishery (purse-seine sets) is not related in any meaningful way to SBT abundance, and so cannot provide a CPUE index. Commercial spotting data are being used as a CPUE-like index (spotting index), but suffered from many potential biases. For that reason, increasing effort is being put into the scientific aerial line transect survey, which
had improved, and is considered increasingly suitable as an index of abundance of age 2-4 SBT in the Great Australian Bight.

51. Japan asked about the possibility of other longline fisheries CPUE data being used in the Management Procedure:
   - The SC Chair advised that while these data are available, and could potentially be used, the SC Chair advised that other longline CPUE indices (New Zealand, Taiwan, Korea) are for limited areas, few age classes, or only cover a few years. These other indices are therefore not very influential or useful in SBT assessments. Only the Japanese LL CPUE index covers most of the SBT distribution range and age-classes, is available for the entire history of the fishery, and so can potentially provide an index of SBT exploitable biomass.

52. New Zealand asked whether the relative state of the stock is essentially unchanged from the 2005 assessment:
   - The SC Chair responded that under the over-catch scenarios evaluated, the stock is considered to be somewhat more productive, and estimates of SB2006/SB0 (depletion) have increased from approximately 0.08 in 2005 to approximately 0.12 under scenario-c.

53. New Zealand sought clarification on whether all the scenarios evaluated assumed no over-catch in future:
   - The SC Chair responded that all of the projections made using the range of scenarios assumed specific future constant catch levels, and the maximum future catch considered in these projections was 14,925t. In other words, it was assumed that all overcatch stopped in the future (paragraphs 58-59 of the SC11 Report).

54. New Zealand asked what the TAC recommendation would be to achieve 50% probability of B2014>B2004 if no over-catches had been made, and reported catches had been correct:
   - The SC Chair advised that if no over-catch had been made (i.e. scenario '0' in the SAG7 report: Attachment 6, Figure 15), a constant catch of approximately 6,500t would be required to give a 50% probability that B2014>B2004.

Agenda Item 8. Report from the Ecologically Related Species Working Group

55. Taiwan presented the report of the Sixth Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group, which is at Attachment 15. In reporting the outcomes of the meeting, Taiwan advised that:
   - The 6th ERS Working Group (ERSWG), received two strong and clear directions from the Extended Commission in 2005. The first was the issue of data provision on bycatch species and the second was the provision of management advice relating to ERS matters. These were the most important issues considered by the ERSWG and the meeting allocated most of the time available to discussions associated with them.
Many matters were discussed during the meeting. However, this presentation is focused on these two main issues.

The draft recommendation in Attachment 7 contains two sections: data collection and data provision relating to two sources of data - logbooks and observers. In the data provision section, the scale of catch and interactions by species (or taxonomic group) are to be provided to the Commission in 5x5 grids for longline and 1x1 grids for all other gears, by calendar month. However, in instances where the provision of data at this spatial scale would result in breaches of domestic confidentiality agreements, data should be provided at the finest possible scale, but no larger than the level of CCSBT statistical area.

During discussions of working papers on seabird and shark proposals, considerable progress was made in identifying issues of concern.

- Attachment 8a is a draft recommendation on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds. There was general agreement on the spirit of the draft to reduce seabird mortality, to develop and implement National Plan of Actions, to collect and provide incidental catch data, to ensure implementation of mandatory use of tori poles in all SBT vessels below 30 degrees south as agreed at CCSBT 4, to encourage the use of a second tori pole or other additional effective measures if required, to undertake research into new mitigation measures and to develop a practice guide for their SBT fleets. However, members had differing opinions on two paragraphs of the draft and their views are listed together for the consideration of the CCSBT. The two paragraphs are Paragraphs 1 and 3 and the issues are whether to specify a target level of reduction of seabird mortality and whether to specify clearly the types of data to be collected and provided.

- Attachment 8b is the draft recommendation on conservation and sustainable utilization of sharks. Members agreed on the majority of the text except the shaded and bracketed Paragraph 1 relating to the provision of shark data. The text of Paragraph 1 was based on the draft recommendation of data provision (Attachment 7), so there should be no objection on this paragraph when the draft on data provision is adopted.

An important development was that the ERSWG expressed a commitment to conclude agreements on advice to the CCSBT on reducing seabird incidental catch, conservation and sustainable utilisation of sharks, and data collection and provision for ERS at ERSWG7.

The ERSWG recommends to the Commission, that the ERSWG7 be convened in 2007, instead of 2008, in order to achieve agreement on outstanding matters as soon as possible.

Australia stated that the ERSWG failed to agree to any significant measures to control or mitigate catch of non-target species or the collection of data on these species. Further, Australia noted the overlap between the region covered by the CCSBT and the Areas of Competence of the IOTC and WCPFC. Both these
commissions have agreed on the implementation of measures to mitigate bycatch of sharks and seabirds and it is hoped that the CCSBT can adopt similar measures.

**Agenda Item 9. Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation**

**9.1 Total Allowable Catch and its allocation**

57. The Chair requested each delegation to express its initial views on total allowable catch and allocation:

- **Australia** responded that it would suggest a global TAC of about 11,500t. However, this position was entirely dependent on:
  - The TAC being fixed at this level for 3 years.
  - In these 3 years a scientific and management process must be developed that delivers a “bankable” assessment of the stock so that we can make sensible long term decisions.
  - A suitable package of monitoring, control and surveillance measures, including catch documentation, and vessel monitoring systems, must be implemented for the CCSBT.

- Without the above measures, Australia advised it would not agree to a TAC at this meeting and will be seeking other avenues to address the issues outlined in its opening statement. Australia will not accept a reduction in its TAC from 5,265t. Australia also noted New Zealand’s outstanding allocation issue. As an outcome, Australia requested that New Zealand’s grievance be dealt with fairly, and recognised that agreements were made at CCSBT 1 which need to be honoured.

- **New Zealand** supported Australia’s position in general, but particularly in relation to the linkage between the agreement on a package on compliance measures before any agreement on a TAC. New Zealand further thanked Australia for its support of the need to resolve issues relating to the CCSBT 1 MOU and New Zealand’s outstanding allocation issue.

- **New Zealand** is supportive of a meaningful catch reduction based on the advice from the Scientific Committee. The specific details will depend on the outcome of the work of the Compliance Committee, and the recommendations for future work of the Scientific Committee to ensure we have sound systems in place to assess this stock.

- **Japan** responded that for the median biomass in 2014 to be equal or greater than the median biomass in 2004 a TAC reduction of at least 3,950t should be appropriate.

- **Korea** expressed disappointment with the outcomes of the Stock Assessment Group and Scientific Committee meetings. Korea noted that there were many uncertainties, but considered that a TAC recommendation should have been made taking into account the precautionary approach. Korea felt that the scientists involved did not appear to express their individual views and that the outcomes of these meetings were more political than they should have been when considering
their terms of reference. Korea proposed a 5,000t TAC reduction and advised that discussion should consider how to share those reductions amongst Members taking into account the illegal fishing that has been conducted.

- Taiwan noted the high level of uncertainties in the status of the stocks and future trajectory and requested Members to take into account economic and social issues that would result from catch reductions. Taiwan reserved its opinion on a TAC until the entire picture was clear.
- The Philippines noted that it only had a 50t allocation and would be sorry if that was reduced.
- The European Community noted that it was not targeting SBT. It only had a very small bycatch associated with exploratory swordfish fishing surveys and that it had no intention of targeting SBT. The European Community further noted that its practice was to follow scientific advice on TAC matters but that there were many uncertainties with respect to SBT resource status at present.
- Indonesia noted that it was seeking a reduction in the trade restrictive arrangements in relation to Indonesia exports of SBT.

58. The European Community advised that it was confident its bycatch would not exceed the modest quota allocated to it.

59. The Chair remarked that the European Community accepts a 10t TAC.

60. The Extended Commission agreed, as part of interim management measures, to adopt a TAC based on binding allocated catch limits for 2007 – 2009 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal catch (tonnes)</th>
<th>Allocated catch (tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>6065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>5265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>1140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>1140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

61. The Extended Commission agreed that each Member shall be bound to the allocated catch in column three above.

62. The Extended Commission also agreed, for the purposes of paragraph 2(b) of Article 11 of the CCSBT Convention, that the budget shall be divided in proportion to the nominal catch in column two above.

63. The TAC will only be reviewed if exceptional circumstances emerge in relation to the stock.

64. The Extended Commission agreed on interim catch allocations for Cooperating Non Members and observers for 2007, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocated catch (tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
65. The Extended Commission noted that the new TAC will be 11,810t.

66. The members also agreed that, taking into account the findings of the review panel on the Japanese Market anomalies, the allocated catch of Japan should remain fixed at 3,000t for the minimum period of 5 years beginning from 2007. The Extended Commission will review the level of this allocation in 2011, and if the stock situation prevailing at the time will permit and the compliance measures put in place by the Extended Commission and the relevant authorities of Japan are deemed sufficient to ensure that all unreported catches are eliminated, this level will be reviewed.

67. Members agreed to simultaneously implement all the steps of the MOU reached at CCSBT 1 relating to the national allocations of Australia, New Zealand, and Japan from the 2010 fishing year. Members noted that the global quota (TAC) had already been increased in 2001 (CCSBT 8) and that catch anomalies had prevented further TAC increases. Members noted that in respect of implementing the MOU from CCSBT 1, the national allocation of New Zealand will be raised to either 1,000t or 6% of the global quota, whichever is greater.

68. In order to contribute to the recovery of SBT stock, Taiwan and Republic of Korea undertook to maintain their actual catch at the level below 1,000t respectively for the minimum of 3 years.

69. The Extended Commission noted that the actual catch level will be below 11,530t for the coming 3 year period.

70. Australia undertook to review its allocation level in future, if further deterioration of the SBT stock calls for such review, or if it finds such review is necessary as a result of its own review of SBT farming operations.

71. In response to the request from the Extended Commission, Australia undertook to commence a robust and credible experiment in 2007 to ensure that the actual catch level of its farming operations can be properly monitored and reported to the Commission. Australia agreed to submit a proposal in this regard as soon as practicable, with a view to inviting Members comments, if there are any.

72. The Members agreed to continue the program to monitor the catch landings of SBT in Indonesia with a view to determining both a temporary allocation and a permanent allocation to Indonesia. A condition of this permanent allocation will be full Membership and cooperation with the goals and principles of the CCSBT.

73. The Members agreed to implement fully the resolutions and other undertakings on MCS measures recorded in agenda item 5.2.

74. The Members agreed to establish new management and scientific processes that will allow the CCSBT to recover the SBT stock to 1980 levels within an appropriate timeframe. The new timeframe will be estimated by the Scientific Committee.

75. The Members agreed to conduct a full stock assessment with the assistance of the CCSBT scientific advisory panel for discussion at the CCSBT meeting in 2009.

9.2 Other measures
76. There were no other measures.

9.3 Management Procedure

77. There was no discussion on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 10. Catch Documentation Scheme

78. The discussion of a Catch Documentation Scheme took place under agenda item 5.

Agenda Item 11. Management of Over-catch and Under-catch in National Allocations

79. It was agreed that discussion of this item would be taken up in discussion under agenda items 5 and 9.

Agenda Item 12. International Observer Program

80. The discussion of an International Observer Program took place under agenda item 5.

Agenda Item 13. Indonesian Catch Monitoring

81. The meeting discussed the importance of continued monitoring of the Indonesian catch of SBT especially in light of the unreliability of other data series. The program provides an important continuous data series on catch and landings from the port of Benoa. Australia has funded the program since 1992. The required funding for maintaining the program next year is $157,000. In accordance with the agreement at CCSBT 12, Australia had asked the Extended Commission consider direct funding of the program. Australia asked Japan to confirm that it had sought a cut to the CCSBT budget by 15%. Australia agreed to continue to fund the program for another year. Japan advised it has sought funding to continue funding of the IOTC to monitor tuna landings at Cilicap and Jakarta. The meeting appreciated effort by Australia and Japan. The meeting noted that the two programs are coordinated and data processing from the two monitoring programs is undertaken by the IOTC.

Agenda Item 14. Cooperating Non-Members

82. The Chair advised that there were three matters for consideration, these being the Cooperating Non-Member status for the Philippines in 2007, acknowledgement of
South Africa’s admission as a Cooperating Non-Member and the European Communities application for Cooperating Non-Member status.

83. It was agreed that the issue of national allocations to Cooperating Non-Members was to be discussed separately as part of agenda item 9 (total allowable catch and its allocation).

Continuation of the Philippines Cooperating Non-Member status for 2007

84. The Philippines apologised for the delay in submitting its Monthly Catch Reports from March to June 2006 and advised that it had no catch during this period. It noted that communication problems associated with movement of its headquarters together with retirement of the previous CCSBT delegate had resulted in delays in providing information to CCSBT. These delays would not be repeated.

85. The Extended Commission agreed to continue the Philippines status for 2007.

86. Taiwan requested the Philippines to provide any data or information requested by the Commission in a timely manner. The Chair requested the Philippines to take note of this point.

South Africa’s admission as a Cooperating Non-Member

87. The Chair noted that South Africa has been admitted as a Cooperating Non-Member.

88. Australia commented that for continuation of Cooperating Non-Member status in the future, it expected as a minimum that Cooperating Non-Members would attend annual CCSBT meetings, be aware of decisions and preferably attend Scientific Committee Meetings as well so that they can be involved in the sharing of data.

89. In response to questions from Japan regarding the accuracy of catch history information for South Africa, the Executive Secretary advised the meeting of the discussions since CCSBT 10 on South Africa’s catch history and the TAC negotiations with South Africa. The SC Chair was also asked for comment and he advised that South Africa has issued 20 directed swordfish fishing rights and 30 directed tuna longlining rights. However, he was unsure of how many of these rights had been activated.

90. It was agreed that the Executive Secretary would write to South Africa asking for information concerning validity of its past catch data, and in particular to request that South Africa attends future meetings of the Commission.

The European Community’s application for Cooperating Non-Member status

91. The Chair advised that the application from the European Community was too late for formal consideration according to the rules of the Commission, but that the rules could be waved if desired.

92. The Extended Commission agreed to waive the rules of the Extended Commission and accept the European Community’s application and they were formally welcomed by the Chair.

93. The European Community thanked the Extended Commission for its flexibility. It noted that its SBT fishing presence was modest and is essentially an unavoidable
bystock of its southern ocean fishery that targets shark and swordfish. It did not wish to raise the allocation issue except to say it only wanted an allocation sufficient to allow it to continue with its other fisheries.

**Enquiry from Belize regarding application for Cooperating Non-Member status**

94. The meeting noted that a query had been received from Belize regarding how to apply for Cooperating Non-Member status of the CCSBT. The Executive Secretary provided the requested information, but apart from an acknowledgement from Belize he had not received any further correspondence. It was also noted that Belize sought similar information from other RFMOs at the same time.

**Agenda Item 15. Relationship with CCAMLR**

95. It was agreed that the Executive Secretary would write to CCAMLR advising that the CCSBT did not complete consideration of the relationship between the two organizations and no decision has been taken.

**Agenda Item 16. Relationship with Non-Members**

96. The Executive Secretary briefly summarised issues concerning the relationship with non-members.

**16.1 Indonesia**

97. Indonesia advised that it expected to lodge an application in the near future for Cooperating Non-Member status with CCSBT.

98. Taiwan noted that concerns were raised at CCSBT 11 regarding the extensive catch of SBT by Indonesian tuna longline vessels. Taiwan has also paid attention to this problem, in particular:

- In order to facilitate Indonesia to enhance the monitoring and management of its SBT fisheries, Taiwan sent a representative to meet the Director General of Capture Fisheries (Indonesia Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries) in June 2006. At this time, the matter of joint efforts in improving the management of the fishery was discussed and both sides agreed to hold further consultations to discuss the details.

- In early June, Taiwan visited Mr. Yahaya, Representative of the Indonesian Economic and Trade Office in Taipei to reiterate the above intention and Taiwan urged convening of a consultation in early September.

99. Australia noted that it has raised the issue of the number of Taiwanese nationals engaged in the Indonesian fishery on the spawning grounds. It welcomed a report on the activity of Taiwanese nationals and it was glad to see that the work had started.
16.2 European Union

100. The relationship with the European Community was dealt with under agenda item 14 (Cooperating Non-Members).

16.3 Others

101. The Executive Secretary noted that China has indicated that it has no current interest in SBT other than perhaps some minor bycatch. The relevant correspondence with China is provided in paper CCSBT-EC/0610/15.

Agenda Item 17. Action Plan

102. It was agreed that no action was required under the Action Plan.

Agenda Item 18. Research Mortality Allowance

103. The research mortalities proposed by the Extended Scientific Committee were agreed.

104. It was noted that additional research mortality allowance may be required for any experiments concerned with the Australian tuna farms agreed in other items on the meeting agenda.

Agenda Item 19. Activities with Other Organisations

105. The contacts proposed in the Secretariat’s meeting document (CCSBT-EC/0610/18) were agreed.

Agenda Item 20. Program of Work for 2007

106. The Extended Commission agreed to the workplan at Attachment 16.

107. Members also agreed that there is an immediate need to modernise the CCSBT, with a view to improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

108. Participants at both the UNFSA Review Conference and the Ministerial High Seas Taskforce on IUU Fishing have agreed that performance reviews of RFMOs are required urgently. Further, the upcoming joint meeting of tuna RFMOs to be held in Kobe, Japan, is expected to promote the institutional strengthening of those organisations responsible for managing highly migratory fish stocks.

109. Taking these issues into account, and noting that reviews have now been launched in other RFMOs, Members decided that an intersessional working group together with
the Secretariat carry out a full internal review of the CCSBT. Each Member may
nominate one person for the working group and the working group and the
Secretariat provide a set of recommendations at CCSBT 14 for improving the
effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission, consistent with world’s best practice.

**Agenda Item 21. Confidentiality of Commission Documents**

110. The meeting agreed not to restrict any of the reports from meetings in CCSBT13.

111. In relation to the reports of Japanese Market Review, Japan advised that Mr
Kageyama, the facilitator of the Japanese market review panel sent an e-mail on July
24 to the Secretariat which says “…panel wishes to have the report treated as
confidential document as body of the report contains commercially sensitive
information…” Copies of the e-mail were sent to DAFF and JFA.

112. However, it was agreed that the Secretariat would write formally to all of the authors
of the two reports (the Japanese Market Review and the Australian Farm Review)
asking if they wanted the release of the reports to be restricted. The Secretariat
would advise members of the authors’ wishes intersessionally. Until then, the two
reports would be treated as confidential.

**Agenda Item 22. Other Business**

113. There was no discussion under this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 23. Close of Meeting**

23.1 **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Extended Commission of the 14th
Annual Meeting of the CCSBT**

114. Australia nominated Mr Daryl Quinlivan as the Chair for CCSBT 14. Mr Quinlivan
also chaired CCSBT 9 in 2002. New Zealand nominated the Vice-Chair as Mr
Arthur Hore.

23.2 **Adoption of report**

115. The report was adopted.

23.3 **Close of meeting**

116. The meeting closed at 9:30pm, 13 October 2006
List of Attachments

Attachment

1  Agenda
2  List of Participants
3  List of Documents
4  Opening Statements by Members
5  Opening Statements by Cooperating Non Members
6  Opening Statements by Other States and Entities
7  Revised General and Special Budgets for 2007
8  Report of the First Meeting of the Compliance Committee
9  Draft Resolution on the implementation of a Catch Documentation Scheme to record all catches of Southern Bluefin Tuna regardless of whether the Southern Bluefin Tuna were traded
10 Draft Resolution on the development and implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System
11 Draft Resolution on Establishing a Program for Transhipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels
12 Review of SBT Fisheries – Reports from Members of the Extended Commission
13 Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Scientific Committee
14 Slides of the Presentation of the Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Scientific Committee by the Chair of the Scientific Committee
15 Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group
16 CCSBT Workplan 2007
1. Opening of the Meeting
   1.1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Extended
        Commission of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Commission
   1.2. Adoption of Agenda
   1.3. Opening Statements
       1.3.1. Members
       1.3.2. Cooperating non-members
       1.3.3. Other States and entities

2. Report from the Secretariat

3. Handling Confidential Matters Concerning the CCSBT

4. Finance and Administration
   4.1 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee
   4.2 Discussion on Finance Issues

5. Compliance
   5.1 Report from the Compliance Committee
   5.2 Integrated Monitoring, Control and Surveillance system

6. Review of SBT Fisheries

7. Report from the Extended Scientific Committee

8. Report from the Ecologically Related Species Working Group

9. Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation
   9.1. Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation
   9.2. Other Measures
   9.3. Management procedure

10. Catch Documentation Scheme


12. International Observer Program

13. Indonesian Catch Monitoring

14. Cooperating Non-members

15. Relationship with CCAMLR
16. Relationship with Non-members
   16.1. Indonesia
   16.2. European Union
   16.3. Others

17. Action Plan

18. Research Mortality Allowance

19. Activities with Other Organisations

20. Program of Work for 2007

21. Confidentiality of Commission Documents

22. Other Business

23. Close of Meeting
   23.1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Extended Commission of the 14th Annual Meeting of the CCSBT
   23.2. Adoption of Report
   23.3. Close of meeting
Attachment 2

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10 - 13 October 2006
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Ms Kumi KOIKE
Ms Yoko YAMAKAGE
List of Documents
The Extended Commission of the Thirteenth Annual Commission Meeting

(CCSBT-EC/0610/)
01. Draft Agenda and the Annotation
02. List of Participants of Extended Commission and CCSBT13
03. Draft List of Documents
04. (Secretariat) Report from the Secretariat
05. (Secretariat) Revised 2006 Budget
06. (Secretariat) Draft 2007 Budget
07. (Secretariat) Report from the Compliance Committee
08. (Secretariat) Review of SBT Fisheries
09. (Secretariat) Report from the Extended Scientific Committee
10. (Secretariat) Management of Over-catch and Under-catch in National Allocations
11. (Secretariat) Quota Trading
12. (Secretariat) International Observer Program
13. (Secretariat) Cooperating Non-members
14. (Secretariat) Relationship with CCAMLR
15. (Secretariat) Relationship with Non-members
16. (Secretariat) Action Plan
17. (Secretariat) Research Mortality Allowance
18. (Secretariat) Activities with Other Organisations
19. (Secretariat) Workplan
20. (Secretariat) Confidentiality of Extended Commission Documents
22. (Australia) Overview of a proposed new CCSBT compliance framework
23. (Australia) Proposal to convert the CCSBT trade information scheme into a catch documentation system
24. (Australia) DNA sampling proposal for the SBT fishery
25. (Australia) Implementation of a centralised vessel monitoring system for the CCSBT
26. (Australia) Implementation of an enhanced CCSBT international observer programme
27. (Australia) Amendments to the CCSBT vessel register
29. (Australia) Adoption of transshipment protocols for the SBT fishery
30. (Australia) Implementation of boarding and inspection regimes for the CCSBT
31. (Australia) Adoption of port state measures for the CCSBT
32. (Taiwan) Proposal for Management of Over-catch and Under-catch in National
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33. (Japan) Proposal to implement tagging requirement on each SBT caught
34. (Japan) Proposal on management measures on SBT farming
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36. (New Zealand) Implementation of a CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme
37. (SC Chair) Report of the 7th Meeting of the CCSBT Stock Assessment Group and
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(CC SBT-EC/0610/SBT Fisheries-)
Australia - Australian’s Annual Review of the Southern
   Bluefin Tuna Fishery
Fishing Entity of Taiwan - Review of Taiwan’s SBT Fishery of 2004/2005
Japan - Review of Japanese SBT Fisheries in the 2005
   Fishing Season
New Zealand - Review of New Zealand SBT Fisheries
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(CC SBT-EC/0610/Rep)
03. Report of the Sixth Stock Assessment Group Meeting (August-September 2005)
04. Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (September 2005)
06. Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group
   (February 2006)
08. Report of the Seventh Stock Assessment Group Meeting (September 2006)

(CC SBT-EC/0610/Info)
   1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and
   Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
Opening Statement by Australia

Members of the CCSBT, Observers, Chairman Suzuki, Secretariat, new Executive Secretary Hermes, ladies and gentlemen.

First let me thank the Fisheries Agency of Japan, the Governor and people of the Miyazaki Prefecture and the Mayor of Miyazaki for assisting to host this, the 13th meeting of the CCSBT. This is indeed a wonderful part of Japan and an attractive venue. In a relaxing place such as this it would be appropriate for us to deal civilly with the challenging issues before this Commission.

Arrangements between the three original parties to the management of SBT go back to the mid 1980’s with Australia, Japan and New Zealand agreeing first to voluntary arrangements (the Tri-lateral Agreement) to reduce the catch in this fishery to manage the fish stocks. Then in 1993 we agreed to establish the CCSBT as a formal mechanism for the management of the Southern Bluefin Tuna stock.

It is fair to say that this Commission had a difficult birth and its teenage years have been turbulent. The issues before this meeting will determine if the parties have the practical sense and willingness to allow the CCSBT to come to maturity and take its place as one of the better migratory stock management Commissions in the world. We really are now at a point of no return. We need to become a world class and best practice Commission or we will fail. What follows is not easy to express but provides a basis on which to start this meeting.

In 1998 when I first became Australia’s Southern Bluefin Tuna Commissioner it was at a time of major turmoil and in the midst of a dispute with Japan over the Japanese demand for an experimental fishing program. This dispute was very challenging and in all took almost 5 years to resolve, in the process causing difficulties for the members and for the broader relationship between our countries. They were in every sense hard and often difficult times. I thought however, when we finally reached agreement on a TAC for SBT in 2003 and having established the independent scientific panel we had left the old days behind. I had been enjoying the new level of
trust and co-operation that had developed amongst the CCSBT members. I now find that this trust between officials is undermined by the actions of elements of the Japanese long-line industry.

The Commission now faces another set of difficult and challenging circumstances that none of the members of the Commission would have wished for. Yet it is an issue of such magnitude that it challenges the trust that had been established and the very survival of this Commission.

The issue before the CCSBT at this meeting is the illegal catch in the years 1985 to 2005 from this fishery of up to 178,000 tonnes of longline caught SBT. From 1994 when the CCSBT came into being the overcatch above national allocations has been in the order of 133,000 tonnes of fish. What is this fish worth? 178,000 tonnes of SBT have an estimated market value of some $6-8 billion Australian dollars, 133,000 tonnes probably $4-5 billion dollars. If this overcatch had not occurred we estimate that the fishery would be 5-6 times larger than it is at present, well on target for our original goal to rebuild this fishery to 1980 levels by 2020. I suspect we would be congratulating ourselves on a job well done and discussing higher levels of quota for all. That, however, is not our lot in life.

I note also in this context the paper from the external scientists estimating the state that the stock would have been in if the over-catch had not occurred. It actually makes the level of over-catch almost unforgivable. The Commission had taken the right decisions on catch and it has just been the actions of the Japanese long-line industry that has undermined the recovery of the fishery at a significant cost for all members.

Chair, I have been struggling………, genuinely struggling to put the magnitude of this overcatch into perspective for people to be able to fully appreciate it. I find it almost impossible…… it is staggering conservatively 178,000 tonnes of catch $6-8 billion dollars destroying in the short term the aspiration of members for recovery. You would probably find parallels in the illegal catch over time of Patagonian toothfish by the pirates in the southern ocean. You may find parallels overtime in other events and catches during the cod wars. But in Australia’s time spent fighting
illegal fishing around the world over the last 10 years over this SBT overcatch seems to stand alone.

As I reflect on this situation, perhaps more worrying is that the drivers that caused the longline industry to overcatch – “industry operating costs and lack of profitability” – are the same in all longline tuna fisheries. My sense is that other cases of overcatch, in high valued tuna fisheries worldwide, will be uncovered in the future.

When countries agree under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to develop mechanisms to manage migratory fish stocks, there is an obligation for them to work within the established rules and to abide by the decisions of the Commission. We are, all of us, responsible to broader civil society for our actions in an international environment. Countries cannot take the obvious benefits from the law of the sea, such as the rights for a 200 mile exclusive economic zone and the freedom of the high seas, and not accept the obligations and responsibilities that go with these rights. These responsibilities include the requirement to properly regulate and account for the actions of their boats, companies and nationals that engage in fishing on the high seas.

Three Members of the Commission are now parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement which only expands these obligations and should be drawn on in taking this Commission forward.

We are, all of us, experts in hindsight and wise after an event. What has happened has happened. Australia has not wished for this overcatch to happen and nor have officials from Japan. The sad fact is that it has occurred and we now need to come to an agreement on a way to deal with the amount of the overcatch, fix the problems with the monitoring and compliance that allowed the overcatch to occur and move forward towards a better future.

It is pointless for us over the next 4 days to continue to labour this issue. Rather we need to spend our time developing and agreeing arrangements to ensure that this can not and does not happen in the future. Too this end Australia has made a number of suggestions including catch monitoring, managing transhipment, vessel monitoring
and observer programs to improve monitoring and compliance within the fishing fleets of all countries. Japan has started a process to establish a scheme that will hopefully lead to more effective market control and monitoring of SBT imported into Japan. These are positive developments.

What the members and broader civil society needs from this Commission and from all others Commissions that we are members of is transparency, honesty and integrity in our rules and processes. What we need more than anything as we move forward is for the Japanese long-line industry and all other long line industries to finally comply with the rules of this and other Commissions.

What this issue has demonstrated is that none of us are immune to this type of activity and we need to make sure the domestic processes of all members of this Commission are open and transparent and subject to scrutiny.

In this context Australia gives to the Commission a full commitment that we will work constructively with other parties to ensure that we fully meet our international obligations in this and in all other fisheries commissions of which we are members. We will continue to cooperate in good faith with all members to ensure that the Commissions objectives are met. You can rest easily in the knowledge that we will not stop pursuing this issue until we also have full compliance from all members.

Chair can I suggest we make our opening statements and then we move forward and constructively look for ways to resolve the issues before us.

Glenn Hurry
Australian CCSBT Commissioner
CCSBT 13 Miyazaki Japan
9 October 2006.
Opening Statement by the Republic of Korea

Good morning, Distinguish Delegates, and Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Korean delegation appreciates the opportunity to meet and work with you at CCSBT13 and would like to express its gratitude to Japan for the arrangements made for this meeting.

As you are well aware, Korea became the Member Country of the five tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), renewing its commitment to sustainable conservation for tuna and tuna-like species.

We fully acknowledge that all those five Commissions need to forge closer ties in terms of collaborative conservation and use of the highly migratory tuna species. To maximize sustainable use of the resources, all Members and Non-Members should conform to the conservation and management measures.

One of our primary management objectives must be an improved stock status. The biomass has been severely depleted and there are risks for security of future MSY.

The Commission should have demonstrated at least to ourselves its usefulness and effectiveness as an international RFMO in ensuring a sustainable and responsibly managed fishery. However, the Commission has not fulfilled its responsibility in this sense.

Korea regrets that the Commission has accomplished almost nothing in terms of the matter of TAC Reduction for rebuilding SBT for some years. However, judging from all the information and circumstantial evidence, showing the trend of SBT stock, a TAC reduction is an unavoidable choice.

At this meeting, we expect that the concerns about the decline in Southern Blue fin Tuna (SBT), the very common and invaluable asset of us and a matter continuously raised for the past few years, will be addressed.
Especially, it is the essence of this meeting that the Commission shall study what has happened to us, namely, some provocative actions of our Member States, even though the SBT stock has been depleted far below MSY levels. Such violations which neglect, ignore, and undermine the Commission’s conservation and management measures for the Sustainable Yield could not, therefore be taken lightly and must be taken seriously to protect ourselves and interests.

Over the years, over-fishing has been carried out. This means that it is, what we call, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. It is a great threat to us. And, of course, it is needed that the Commission reconfirms the relevant members are responsible for it. Korea has been convinced that some swift actions against those states are required decisively, promptly, and definitely to secure recovery of SBT and to achieve MSY of SBT fishery Otherwise, it would jeopardize the international credibility of the Commission.

Respective Representatives, and Ladies and Gentlemen,

We may call ourselves partners in the same boat in this regards. At least we are attending this meeting with the one perspective on behalf of the respective countries. Korea sincerely hopes that the Member and non-member states for fishing SBT shall cooperate on the agenda through concerted efforts.

Rest assured, Korea will make every effort to solve the above-mentioned matters in a sincere and responsible manner, in close collaborate with Member and non-member states.

Korea would like to reiterate its appreciation of the staff members for successfully organizing this meeting.

Thank you very much.
Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend our appreciation to Japan for choosing this beautiful city Miyazaki as the venue of our meeting. I would also like to thank Mr. Brian Macdonald for his contribution over the past 5 years leading his staffs to make the operation of Secretariat more efficient. Without his efforts, well established systematic framework in the Extended Commission as other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations will become illusive.

My congratulation and welcomes also go to the Republic of South Africa as the new cooperating non-member. Besides, I have noted that European Community attends this annual meeting of the Extended Commission in the capacity of observer status. Since European Community plays an important role in various Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, we believe EC will make a great contribution to the conservation and management of SBT resources. European Community’s representative is welcome.

At the Special Meeting held this July in Canberra, according to the independent review of Japanese Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) market data and Australian SBT farming operations, we are astonishing while finding out the fact that unreported catch seems tremendous. We are disappointed and hope to take an integrated monitoring compliance measures to rectify such misconducts in the future. As running currently in the Extended Commission in association with managing over-catch and under-catch of national allocations, a payback for such over-catch shall be reviewed.

Mr. Chairman, at the last Extended Commission meeting held in Taipei last year, it was recognized that implementation of the selected management procedure was linked to the decision on the initial catch reduction recommended by the Scientific Committee. We regret that the members did not reach consensus on the initial reduction made by the Scientific Committee in that meeting. We hope we can conclude on this key issue in this meeting for rebuilding the stock.
In addition, in order to break the impasse we are facing, all members and cooperating non-members have to cooperate to seek how to improve monitoring of fishing operation and verifying catch data so as to obtain confident scientific data as the basis for estimating the stock status. Up to the present, various measures are proposed by some members but we have to set priorities to move forward. We need to think about how to make progress on effectiveness in the short time. For the purpose of sustainable utilization of the stock, we have to focus on some of the key issues addressed at this meeting. We look forward to working constructively with other delegations during the course of this week and further advancing the work of the CCSBT.

Thank you.
Opening Statement by New Zealand

Thank you Mr Chair,
Distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen – Good morning.

First I want to thank our hosts – the government of Japan – for their warm welcome, and compliment them on this outstanding venue in the beautiful city of Miyazaki.

I want to congratulate Mr Suzuki’s election as Chair of the Commission. I also want to thank Mr McDonald for five years of outstanding service.

Mr Chair, this is a critical meeting. The CCSBT is at a crossroads. The decisions we will make together over the coming days will dictate the future of the world’s southern bluefin tuna fisheries. They will also determine the relevance of the CCSBT, and perhaps even the relevance of all RFMO’s.

It is imperative, therefore, that we approach these decisions with urgency and integrity. This means accepting responsibility for our past actions, and making decisions about the future consistent with the core objective underpinning this Commission: that is, to ensure the conservation and optimum utilisation of the southern bluefin tuna.

Accordingly, New Zealand has identified four key areas where the Commission has to act:

First, we have to set a TAC that is in line with the best available science and the application of the precautionary principle. In that regard, New Zealand notes that the scientific committee has recommended meaningful reductions in catch – that advice is unequivocal.

Second, we need to adopt, as soon as possible, significant improvements to the Commission’s monitoring and compliance systems. I am disappointed at the poor progress that the Compliance Committee has made so far in this area.
Third, we must commit to an internal review of the CCSBT, with the aim of modernising the Commission and to reflect RFMO best practice. This is consistent with the recommendations from the UN Fish Stocks Agreement Review Conference.

Finally, we need to address allocation issues within the Commission. The present allocation system is not consistent with the allocation principles contained in the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement and from New Zealand’s perspective it is no longer defensible.

On this point, I want to emphasise that New Zealand takes its international responsibilities very seriously. Each New Zealand Commissioner who has sat at this table has focussed on the Commission’s goal of rebuilding the world’s southern bluefin tuna fisheries to a biomass level that would support the maximum sustainable yield. Sometimes this has meant us taking some decisions that were not in our self interest. But we have done so because New Zealand will not stand for anything less than sound and sustainable fisheries management.

I therefore want to make it very clear to all members of the Extended Commission how seriously outraged and aggrieved New Zealand is at the level of catch anomalies identified by independent panels over the last year.

At the inception of CCSBT, New Zealand accepted an inequitable country allocation in the interests of contributing to the rebuilding of the SBT stock. This was done on the basis that our Coastal state rights would ultimately be recognised by way of an increased allocation. This was encapsulated by the CCSBT 1 MOU, which was later endorsed by all current members of the extended Commission at CCSBT 10.

It has now been revealed that during eighteen years of sacrifice by New Zealand, others have been illegally fishing at astronomical levels.

Our scientific analyses indicate that if it had not been for this overcatch the stock would now have rebuilt to 1980 or MSY levels. New Zealand believes, therefore, that it has have paid a high cost in terms of its coastal state rights while others have mis-appropriated the benefits. We therefore expect the members of this Commission to
now act honourably, with goodwill, and consistently with their international obligations, and to explore ways for making right this situation. New Zealand is not prepared to have its position on this issue disregarded by the CCSBT anymore.

We have been wronged, we want justice, and if we don’t get it here we will take our case elsewhere.

Mr Chair, members of the extended Commission: if we cannot address these four issues adequately, the international community will judge us poorly -- and I am afraid they would be right. In judging us, they would also – by implication – judge every other RFMO.

And if the international community doubts the effectiveness of RFMOs in managing fisheries, it will begin looking at other ways to manage them. This could mean complete closures to many of the world’s productive high seas fishing grounds.

We trust that the other Commission members will be approaching these issues with the same seriousness as New Zealand over the coming days, and we look forward to working closely and constructively with you to rebuild the integrity of the CCSBT.

Thank you
Thank you, Chairman

Members, Cooperating Non-Members, Secretariat, ladies and gentleman; I would like to express my gratitude.

I would like to introduce again the new SBT fisheries management system, which was implemented from this SBT fishing season.

Until last year, we aggregated fishing operating information, such as catch, date and fishing area, from SBT registered fishing vessels, and we ordered these vessels to cease fishing in designated fishing zones when we assumed TAC (Total Allowable Catch) was reached. However, last year, SBT catch by non-SBT registered fishing vessels was detected. Furthermore, there was SBT catch outside the designated fishing zones after we ordered vessels to cease SBT fishing in the designated fishing zone. As a result, we exceeded our allocation of 6,065 tons by about 1,800 tons.

This incident indicated that there was a shortcoming within the old SBT management system. Therefore, we initiated a drastic improvement of the management system immediately after the detection, and we have implemented the following new SBT fisheries management system from April 2006.

There are three major components. Firstly, we decided to assign SBT allocation for individual fishing vessel. This allocation is free of charge and not transferable among different fishers. Secondly, it is obligatory to attach a tag to each SBT caught, and the tag contains the call sign of a fishing vessel and a serial number. Before fishers land SBT, they have to report serial numbers of these SBT to the JFA, and, at the time of landing at a designated port, all individual SBT is inspected by JFA officer. Thirdly, possession, sale or purchase of illegally caught/landed SBT, in other words a tag-less SBT without justifiable reasons, is prohibited.

All of these measures are ensured with ministerial order and notices under Fisheries Act of Japan, and there are serious penalties against offenders. We increased number of JFA officers at the designated ports for inspection. Furthermore, we deducted 1,500 tons from this year’s allocation.

These new measures together with patrol vessels, VMS, RTMP, and observer program, all of which have been implemented for years, make certain that SBT fisheries are properly managed.

These measures will become more flawless if each Member agrees to implement the tagging program, which requires putting a tag on each captured SBT.

Among a specific fishery of a Member, under estimate of SBT at time of catch is pointed out. With a subsequent short growing period, it is reported that SBT are growing double in size. If it is not under estimates of the catch at the time of catch,
then this is the epoch making growth rate, which is unprecedented in aquaculture history. We request the verification of the growth rate with high transparency as soon as possible. After the verification is completed, it should be accepted. However, it will be praised if a precautionary approach is taken now.

Extremely biased and one-sided information saying that Japan had been engaged in massive over-catch for many years was released to the mass media. The over-catch claim is based on estimate with low reliability, and therefore we cannot accept estimates blindly. However, based on what happened last year, we implemented the new SBT fisheries management system immediately to prevent recurrence as I explained in the beginning.

The status of SBT resource is our great concern. We have to implement recommendations from the Scientific Committee and also to bring meaningful reduction in terms of TAC.

Japan is determined to contribute to this meaningful reduction as we are a responsible country of SBT fisheries and consumption.

Thank you.
Opening Statement by the Philippines

HONORABLE CHAIRMAN
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
GOOD MORNING

On behalf of the Philippine delegation, I would like express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan for the warm welcome.

This is a great pleasure to attend the 13th annual meeting of CCSBT in this beautiful venue in the city of Miyazaki.

The participation of the Philippines in the CCSBT is always an opportunity to interact with CCSBT member countries on concerns relating to the conservation and management of the southern blue fin tuna at the same time enhancing the position of the Philippines cooperation to the commission.

It welcomes the agenda of this annual meeting and looks forward to discussing with CCSBT member countries, issues concerning the economic viability of Philippine vessels, in the light of its current national quota allocation and compliance requirements issues.

The Philippines is committed in whatever little way to contribute positively, with whatever available option for the conservation and management of SBT stock.
Opening Statement by the European Community

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for the European Community to be present for the first time at the Annual Meeting of the Convention on the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

As you all know, the European Community is committed to RFMOs and the key role they play in the long term conservation and sustainable use of stocks and to the importance of the strengthening and modernising these organisations. The European Community is a member of almost all the existing RFMOs and is an observer in those to which it has not yet acceded. Furthermore, we are currently active in the establishment of new RFMOs such as the South Pacific.

We are following the important work of your organisation with interest and look forward to participating in this Annual meeting.

As you are aware, the EC does not target Southern Bluefin Tuna in their fisheries in the Southern Oceans. However, some Community longline vessels have recently, while undertaking exploratory fisheries had some small unavoidable by-catches of Southern Bluefin tuna. I would like to underline that the level of by-catches of Southern Bluefin tuna have been extremely limited with 1.000 kg to maximum 3.400 kg per year based on statistics for all oceans.

Therefore, and in line with the Community's constant policy of cooperation with RFMOs, we have forwarded a request to your Commission to accord the EC the status of Cooperating non-member within the CCSBT. A cooperation quota of a modest dimension would be desirable.

Thank you
Opening Statement by Indonesia

Honourable Chairman,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, on behalf of the Indonesian delegates, I would like to thank to the Executive Secretary for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna for inviting us to joint the Extended Commission of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting and the Japan government for hosting this important meeting.

Referring to the Executive Secretary letter of 5 July 2006 sent to Director of Commodity and Standardization, Directorate General of Multilateral on Economy, Finance and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an active communication had been strengthened. However, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries have been deliberating robust intention and recently had gained support from related institutions in the country to lift up current Indonesian position in CCSBT, from observer to be a cooperating non-member. In this regard, may I reiterate again that a formal request to the Commission would officially be delivered in the near future.

The Indonesia willingness to cooperate with the RFMOs on the development of the tuna fisheries management in the region, Indonesia has been working to improve the national fisheries statistical data collection in collaboration with the IOTC/OFCF and ACIAR/CSIRO/DAFF Australia. From the said collaboration, data of tuna caught by longline vessels in Indian Ocean areas can be presented with higher accuracy. This current development would be benefited for RFMOs in supporting management for tuna like species, including SBT.

Finally, on behalf of the Indonesian government, I would like to reaffirm the Indonesian commitments to cooperate with the Commission and also would like to take this opportunity to seek the Extended Commission consideration to release the current trade restrictive measure to the Indonesian SBT.

Thank you.-
Table 1: General Budget - 2007 (CCSBT 14)

### INCOME

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<tr>
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<td>444,856</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>111,605</td>
<td>111,572</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>195,592</td>
<td>161,128</td>
<td>161,081</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fishing Entity of Taiwan</td>
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<td>Staff Assessment Levy</td>
<td>78,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
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<td>Carrying over from 2005</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Special Contribution from Miyazaki Prefecture</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL GROSS INCOME</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1,607,600</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,631,885</strong></td>
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### EXPENDITURE

#### ANNUAL MEETINGS - (CCSBT14) #

<table>
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<th>2007</th>
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<td>Interpretation Costs</td>
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<td>Hire of Equipment</td>
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<td>35,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publication and translation</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian Participants costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution from Miyazaki Prefecture</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIAL MEETING</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>54,400</strong></td>
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#### 12th SC & 8th SAG

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<tbody>
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<td>Interpretation Costs</td>
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<td>Hire of equipment</td>
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<td>Hire of Consultants - SAG Chair, SC Chair, Advisory Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesian participants costs</td>
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<td><strong>SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS</strong></td>
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#### 6th ERS Working Group

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<td>Interim Management Procedure Workshop</td>
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<td><strong>SPECIAL PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>143,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>226,000</strong></td>
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#### OPERATING MODELS/Strategic Development

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<td>Operating Model/Management Strategy Development</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tagging program coordination</td>
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#### SECRETARIAT COSTS

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<td>Secretariat Staff Costs</td>
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<td>Staff Assessment Levy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employer Super/Social security</td>
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<td>55,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worker's Compensation/ travel/contents Insurance</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>16,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel/transport - O/sea and domestic</td>
<td>86,700</td>
<td>100,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Translation of Commission and Committee Reports</td>
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<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home leave allowance, repatriation grant and removal costs</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>191,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other employment expense</td>
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<td><strong>OFFICE MANAGEMENT COSTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>124,000</strong></td>
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#### TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,607,600</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,725,450</strong></td>
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</table>

* exchange rate used for this budget is A$=US$0.70 and ¥ 75  
* Rounded Figures  
* Includes Compliance Committee expenses
Table 2: 2007 SPECIAL BUDGET - SRP TAGGING PROGRAM (Surface Fishery)

**ESTIMATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007</th>
<th></th>
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### INCOME

**Contributions from member**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>191,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>170,832</td>
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<td>Korea</td>
<td>61,876</td>
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<td>61,876</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>42,858</td>
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**Receipts from East Coast Tagging Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carryover from 2005</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL GROSS INCOME**

|                  | 576,174    |

### EXPENDITURE

**Tag Deployment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vessel charter</td>
<td>349,174</td>
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<tr>
<td>tag application</td>
<td>227,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE**

|                  | 576,174    |
Report of the
First Meeting of the Compliance Committee

8 – 9 October 2006
Miyazaki, Japan
Draft Resolution on the implementation of a Catch Documentation Scheme to record all catches of Southern Bluefin Tuna regardless of whether the Southern Bluefin Tuna were traded.

(for adoption at the Thirteenth Annual Meeting – 10-13 October 2006)
Draft Resolution on the implementation of a Catch Documentation Scheme to record all catches of Southern Bluefin Tuna regardless of whether the Southern Bluefin Tuna were traded.

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

Noting the intention of the Extended Commission to introduce an integrated package of monitoring, control and surveillance measures to improve compliance with the conservation and management measures of the Extended Commission in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the stock;

Recognising the need for monitoring, control and surveillance measures to apply to all sectors of the global SBT fishery;

Noting that on 1 June 2000 the Commission implemented a Trade Information Scheme to collect more accurate and comprehensive data on Southern Bluefin Tuna fishing through monitoring trade in Southern Bluefin Tuna under the jurisdiction of the Commission;

Further Noting that the Trade Information Scheme does not adequately cover landings of domestic production and trade of Southern Bluefin Tuna;

Considering that the adoption of a comprehensive and effective Catch Documentation Scheme, tracking each catch of Southern Bluefin Tuna from catch to the point of first sale, would improve the Commission’s functioning;

Agrees that:

1. The Commission shall develop and implement a Catch Documentation Scheme to record all SBT caught by Members and Cooperating Non-Members regardless of whether the Southern Bluefin Tuna was traded, taking into account:
   • The principles of a CDS agreed at CCSBT 12.
   • The need to coordinate with other tuna RFMOs.
   • The practicality of tagging individual fish as a cornerstone of a CDS (certificate of origin)\(^1\).

2. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall finalise the details of the Catch Documentation Scheme in inter-sessional meetings before the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission, in order to have the Commission’s approval of the agreed scheme at that meeting. The scheme shall be implemented by 1 January 2008 or another date agreed by the Commission.

3. The Catch Documentation Scheme shall apply to the catch, landing and trade in all Southern Bluefin Tuna by all Members and Cooperating Non-Members, including

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\(^1\) As a first step the Secretariat is asked to produce a draft proposal by July 2007.
during transhipment, import, export, re-export, and landings of domestic production.

4. The Catch Documentation Scheme shall include the following elements:

   (i) The Scheme shall track the catch, landings and trade flows, including transfer, transhipment, import, export, re-export, and landings of domestic production, of all Southern Bluefin Tuna.

   (ii) Copies of all catch documents shall be submitted to the flag state / fishing entity within a reasonable time and forwarded by the flag state / fishing entity to the Secretariat unaltered within a reasonable time after receipt.

   (iii) Each shipment of Southern Bluefin Tuna imported, exported, re-exported or domestically landed shall be accompanied by a catch document that has been signed and stamped by a person officially approved by the Member or Cooperating Non-Member as being complete and valid.

   (iv) Copies of documents shall be kept by the relevant Member or Cooperating Non-Member with additional copies submitted to the Secretariat on a regular basis for collation, analysis and verification.

   (v) Southern Bluefin Tuna catch without completed and validated catch documents shall be considered as catch taken in contravention of the CCSBT conservation and management measures and shall not be permitted to be imported, exported, re-exported or landed on the domestic market.

   (vi) The Scheme shall include a requirement that catch documents may be inspected at any time by an official approved by the Member or Cooperating Non-Member to ascertain the validity of documents.

   (vii) The scheme shall include tagging and measurement of weight and length of individual SBT at the time of kill.

5. This resolution shall bind all Members and Cooperating Non-Members.
Draft Resolution on the development and implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System

(adopted at the Thirteenth Annual Meeting – 10-13 October 2006)
Draft Resolution on the development and implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

Noting the intention of the Extended Commission to introduce an integrated package of monitoring, control and surveillance measures to improve compliance with the conservation and management measures of the Extended Commission in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the stock;

Recognising the need for monitoring, control and surveillance measures to apply to all sectors of the global Southern Bluefin Tuna fishery;

Further recognising the value of an effective and fully operational satellite-based Vessel Monitoring System in combating illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna and ensuring compliance with the Commission’s conservation and management measures;

Aware that some Members and other regional fisheries management organizations have established Vessel Monitoring Systems and that the experiences of such Members and organizations may be useful in developing and implementing a Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna Vessel Monitoring System;

Agrees that:

1. The Commission Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall develop and implement their satellite-linked Vessel Monitoring Systems for fishing vessels catching SBT and flagged to Members and Cooperating Non-Members.

2. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall finalise the details of their Vessel Monitoring Systems in inter-sessional meetings before the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission, in order to agree minimum standards at that meeting. These Vessel Monitoring Systems shall be implemented by 1 January 2008.

3. The Vessel Monitoring Systems shall include the following elements:

   (i) Flag states/fishing entities shall monitor and manage their vessels equipped with vessel monitoring devices.

   (ii) Rules and conditions of use shall be developed intersessionally to protect and ensure the confidentiality of any data transmitted to the Secretariat.

   (iii) The following data shall be continuously and automatically reported, at a frequency that allows the fishing activity of a vessel to be identified, while the vessel is fishing: the vessel identification; its geographical position; and the date and time.
(iv) Vessel monitoring devices shall be tamper-resistant and located in a sealed unit with official seals that indicate whether the unit has been accessed or tampered with.

(v) In the event of a technical failure of the device, the master or owner of a vessel shall be required to report to the flag state/fishing entity, at a frequency that allows the fishing activity of a vessel to be identified, the vessel’s identification, its geographical position, and the date and time.

4. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall implement a mandatory Vessel Monitoring System for fishing of SBT inside the Exclusive Economic Zone by 1 January 2008 for vessels above a specified size.

5. The VMS shall not derogate from the rights and responsibilities of flag states/fishing entities.

6. Arrangements in other regional organisations shall be drawn upon in developing rules and conditions relating to confidentiality.

7. Members and Cooperating Non Members shall ensure their domestic regulations and rules enable them to act in accordance with the Vessel Monitoring System to be developed under paragraphs 1 and 2.

8. This resolution shall bind all Members and Cooperating Non-Members.
Draft Resolution on Establishing a Program for Transhipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT),

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities because they undermine the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures already adopted by the CCSBT;

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN that organized tuna laundering operations have been conducted and a significant amount of catches by IUU fishing vessels have been transhipped under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

IN VIEW THEREFORE OF THE NEED to ensure the monitoring of the transhipment activities by large-scale longline vessels in areas beyond national jurisdiction, including the control of their landings;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to collect catch data of such large scale long-line tuna to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

Agrees in accordance with paragraph 3(b) of Article 8 of the CCSBT Convention, that:

SECTION 1. PROGRAM TO MONITOR TRANSHIPMENTS AT SEA

1. The Commission hereby establishes a program to monitor transhipment at sea which applies initially to large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (hereafter referred to as the “LSTLVs”) and to carrier vessels authorised to receive transhipments from these vessels at sea. The Commission shall at its 2010 Annual Meeting, review and, as appropriate, revise this Resolution.

2. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall determine whether or not to authorize their LSTLVs to tranship at sea. However, if the Members and Cooperating Non-Members authorizes the at-sea transhipment by its flag LSTLVs, such transhipment should be conducted in accordance with the procedures defined in Sections 2, 3 and 4, and annexes 1 and 2 below.

SECTION 2. RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENTS-AT-SEA IN AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION

3. The Commission shall establish and maintain a CCSBT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive SBT at sea from LSTLVs. For the purposes of this Resolution, carrier vessels not entered on the record are deemed not to be authorized to receive SBT in at-sea transhipment operations.
4. Each Member and Cooperating Non-Member shall submit, electronically where possible, to the CCSBT Secretary by CCSBT 14 the list of the carrier vessels that are authorized to receive at-sea transhipments from its LSTLVs. This list shall include the following information:
   1) The flag of the vessel
   2) Name of vessel, register number
   3) Previous name (if any)
   4) Previous flag (if any)
   5) Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
   6) International radio call sign
   7) Type of vessels, length, gross tonnage (GT) and carrying capacity
   8) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
   9) Time period authorised for transshipping

5. Each Member and Cooperating Non-Member shall promptly notify the Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the initial CCSBT Record of Carrier Vessels, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the CCSBT Record of Carrier Vessels, at any time such changes occur.

6. The Executive Secretary shall maintain the CCSBT Record of Carrier Vessels and take measures to ensure publicity of the record and through electronic means, including placing it on the CCSBT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements notified by Members and Cooperating Non-Members for their vessels.

7. Carrier vessels authorized for at-sea transhipment shall be required to install and operate a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

SECTION 3. AT-SEA TRANSHIPMENT

8. Transhipments by LSTLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of the Members and Cooperating Non-Members are subject to prior authorization from the Coastal State / Fishing Entity concerned.

9. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSTLVs flying their flag comply with the following conditions:

   **Flag State / Fishing Entity Authorization**

10. LSTLVs are not authorized to tranship at sea, unless they have obtained prior authorization from their Flag State / Fishing Entity.
Notification obligations

Fishing vessel:

11. To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraph 10 above, the master and/or owner of the LSTLV must notify the following information to its Flag State / Fishing Entity authorities at least 24 hours in advance of an intended transhipment.

   a) the name of the LSTLV and its number in the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List,
   b) the name of the carrier vessel and its number in the CCSBT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive transhipments at sea, and the product to be transhipped,
   c) the tonnage by product to be transhipped,
   d) the date and location of transhipment,
   e) the geographic location of the SBT catches.

12. The LSTLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag State / Fishing Entity, not later than 15 days after the transhipment, the CCSBT transhipment declaration, along with its number in the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List, in accordance with the format set out in Annex 2.

Receiving carrier vessel:

13. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall complete and transmit the CCSBT transhipment declaration to the CCSBT Secretariat and the flag Member or Cooperating Non-Member of the LSTLV, along with its number in the CCSBT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive transhipment at sea, within 24 hours of the completion of the transhipment.

14. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, transmit a CCSBT transhipment declaration, along with its number in the CCSBT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive transhipment at sea, to the competent authorities of the State / Fishing Entity where the landing takes place.

Regional Observer Program

15. Each Member and Cooperating Non-Member shall ensure that all carrier vessels transhipping at sea have on board a CCSBT observer, not later than 1 January 2008, in accordance with the CCSBT Regional Observer Program in Annex 3. The CCSBT observer shall observe the compliance with this Resolution, and notably that the transhipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the CCSBT transhipment declaration.

16. Vessels shall be prohibited from commencing or continuing at-sea transhipping at sea without a CCSBT regional observer on board, except in cases of ‘force majeure’ duly notified to the Executive Secretary.
SECTION 4 GENERAL PROVISIONS

17. To ensure the effectiveness of the CCSBT conservation and management measures pertaining to the Catch Documentation System:
   a) In validating the Statistical Document, Flag Members and Cooperating Non-Members of LSTLVs shall ensure that transhipments are consistent with the reported catch amount by each LSTLV.
   b) The Flag Member or Cooperating Non-Member of LSTLVs shall validate the Statistical Documents for the transhipped fish, after confirming that the transhipment was conducted in accordance with this Resolution. This confirmation shall be based on the information obtained through the CCSBT Regional Observer Program.
   c) Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall require that SBT caught by LSTLVs, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party, be accompanied by statistical documents validated for the vessels on the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List and a copy of the CCSBT transhipment declaration.

18. The Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall report to the Executive Secretary 6 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of the Commission:
   a) The quantities of SBT transhipped during the previous year.
   b) The list of the LSTLVs registered in the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List which have transhipped during the previous year.
   c) A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received transhipment from their LSTLVs.

19. All SBT landed or imported into the Members and Cooperating Non-Members either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transhipped, shall be accompanied by the CCSBT transhipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.

20. Each year, the Executive Secretary shall present a report on the implementation of this Resolution to the annual meeting of the Commission which shall review compliance with this Resolution.

21. These provisions shall be applicable from 1 July 2008.

22. To avoid the duplication of the same measures, ICCAT or IOTC observers on transhipment vessels on the CCSBT Record of Carrier Vessels may be deemed to be participating in the CCSBT transhipment program, provided these observers meet the standards established in this Resolution and the CCSBT Secretariat is informed. The CCSBT Secretariat shall liaise with the ICCAT and IOTC with respect to any information submitted to those organizations regarding SBT. The CCSBT Secretariat shall also exchange information on transhipment and observer standards with other RFMO Secretariats.
ANNEX 1 - CCSBT TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATION

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<th>Carrier Vessel</th>
<th>Fishing Vessel</th>
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<td>Name of the Vessel and Radio Call Sign:</td>
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<td>Flag:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag state / fishing entity license number:</td>
<td>Flag state / fishing entity license number:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Register Number, if available:</td>
<td>National Register Number, if available:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCSBT Register Number, if available:</td>
<td>CCSBT Register Number, if available:</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>Year:</th>
<th>Agent’s name:</th>
<th>Master’s name of LSTLV:</th>
<th>Masters name of Carrier:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>[20] ___</td>
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<th>Signature:</th>
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<tr>
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<td>___</td>
<td>___</td>
<td>___</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: | ___ | kilograms

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

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<th>Species</th>
<th>Port</th>
<th>Sea</th>
<th>Type of product</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Whole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If transhipment effected at sea, CCSBT Observer Name and Signature:
ANNEX 2 - CCSBT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM

1. Each Member and Cooperating Non-Member shall require carrier vessels included in the CCSBT Record of Carrier Vessels authorised to receive transhipments at sea and which tranship at sea, to carry a CCSBT observer during each transhipment operation at sea.

2. The Executive Secretary shall appoint the observers and shall place them on board the carrier vessels authorized to receive transhipments at sea from LSTLVs flying the flag of Members and Cooperating Non-Members that implement the CCSBT Regional Observer Program.

Designation of the observers

3. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
   a) sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
   b) satisfactory knowledge of the CCSBT conservation and management measures;
   c) the ability to observe and record information accurately;
   d) a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

Obligations of the observer

4. Observers shall:
   a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by CCSBT;
   b) be nationals of one of the Members and Cooperating Non-Members and, to the extent possible, not of the flag State / Fishing Entity of the receiving carrier vessel;
   c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 5 below;
   d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
   e) not be a crew member of an LSTLV or an employee of an LSTLV company.

5. The observer tasks shall be in particular to:
   a) monitor the carrier vessel’s compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
      i. record and report upon the transhipment activities carried out;
      ii. verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transhipping;
      iii. observe and estimate products transhipped;
      iv. verify and record the name of the LSTLV concerned and its CCSBT Authorised Vessel List number;
      v. verify the data contained in the transhipment declaration;
      vi. certify the data contained in the transhipment declaration;
vii. countersign the transhipment declaration;

b) issue a daily report of the carrier vessel’s transhipping activities;

c) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the captain the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.

d) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.

e) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.

6. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the LSTLVs and of the LSTLVs owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;

7. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State / Fishing Entity which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.

8. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in paragraph 9 of this program.

Obligations of the Flag State / Fishing Entities of carrier vessels

9. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag State / Fishing Entities of the carrier vessels and their captains shall include the following, notably:

a) Observers shall be allowed access to the vessel personnel and to the gear and equipment;

b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 5:

   i. satellite navigation equipment;
   ii. radar display viewing screens when in use;
   iii. electronic means of communication;

c) Observers shall be provided accommodation, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;

d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and

e) The flag State / Fishing Entities shall ensure that captains, crew and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

10. The Executive Secretary, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the flag State / Fishing Entity of the carrier vessel under whose jurisdiction the vessel transhipped and to the Flag Member or
Cooperating Non-Member of the LSTLV, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip.

11. The Executive Secretary shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the Scientific Committee.

**Observer fees**
12. The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the flag Members and Cooperating Non-Members of LSTLVs wishing to engage in transhipment operations. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the CCSBT Secretariat and the CCSBT Secretary shall manage the account for implementing the program.

13. No observer shall be assigned to a vessel for which the fees, as required under paragraph 12, have not been paid.
AUSTRALIA’S ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE
SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY

by

P.I. Hobsbawn, J.D. Findlay, S. Rowcliffe and R. Murphy

Working Paper CCSBT-EC/0610/SBT Fisheries-Australia
presented at the Extended Commission of the Thirteenth Meeting of the
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Miyazaki,
October 2006
1. Introduction

This report summarises catches and fishing activities in the 2003–04 and 2004–05 quota years\(^1\) of the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*; SBT) Fishery. It also provides preliminary data on the 2005–06 surface fishery.

The Australian domestic SBT catches for the 2003, 2004 and 2005 calendar years were 5827 t, 5062 t and 5244 t, respectively. The 2003 calendar year catch is larger than the previously agreed national allocation to Australia of 5265 t because it represents the aggregation of catches from periods in two quota years. The 2002–03 quota year catch was 5391 t; for the 2003–04 quota year was 5120 t; and for the 2004–05 quota year was 5248 t. The 2003–04 figure is under the previously agreed national allocation to Australia because in the 2002–03 season two quota holders caught over their allocation. This was dealt with by deducting the over catch from their 2003–04 allocation. In August 2005 there was a prosecution for the illegal take of 5764 kg of SBT in the 2003–04 season. Adding the over catch of 128 t and the illegal catch of 6 t to the 2003–04 quota year catch gives a figure of 5254 t, which is under the agreed national allocation to Australia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>Catch (t)</th>
<th>Quota Year</th>
<th>Catch (t)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>4586</td>
<td>1989–90</td>
<td>4849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>4489</td>
<td>1990–91</td>
<td>4316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>5248</td>
<td>1991–92</td>
<td>4894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>5373</td>
<td>1992–93</td>
<td>5212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>4700</td>
<td>1993–94</td>
<td>4937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>4508</td>
<td>1994–95</td>
<td>5080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>5128</td>
<td>1995–96</td>
<td>5188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>5316</td>
<td>1996–97</td>
<td>4978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>4897</td>
<td>1997–98</td>
<td>5097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>5552</td>
<td>1998–99</td>
<td>5232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5257</td>
<td>1999–00</td>
<td>5257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>4853</td>
<td>2000–01</td>
<td>5247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>4711</td>
<td>2001–02</td>
<td>5262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>5827</td>
<td>2002–03</td>
<td>5391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>5062</td>
<td>2003–04</td>
<td>5120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>5244</td>
<td>2004–05</td>
<td>5248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Various time periods, such as ‘calendar years’, ‘fishing seasons’ and ‘quota years’, can be used when describing Australia’s SBT fishery. Unless otherwise indicated, we have used quota years in this report, but note that fishing seasons of the various fishery components often span quota years. The start and end dates of Australian quota years have varied and are presented in Appendix 1.
2. Operational Constraints on Effort

Regulatory Measures

Domestic operations are managed through individual transferable quotas (ITQs) granted as Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs) under the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Plan 1995*.

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) uses a risk based compliance strategy in the SBT purse seine and longline fisheries. This includes targeted compliance operations to check fishing vessels at sea, and at landing ports; a comprehensive audit trail from the time SBT are caught to the time they are exported, including random audits of fishing companies and export establishments; and then an annual review of compliance risks leading to refined strategies for the following season.

Australia has continued to use a combination of area restrictions, minimum quota holdings, fishery observers, and mandatory Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) to reduce the incidental catch and mortality of SBT caught in the domestic longline fishery. A SBT habitat model incorporating archival tag and observer data with sea surface and sub-surface temperatures, is used to predict likely areas of high SBT abundance and hence the location of restricted access zones. In the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF), areas with a high probability of SBT interactions have been determined and are referred to as the Core Zone and Buffer Zone. For the 2004–05 season, access to the Core Zone during the months of May to October was subject to 100% observer coverage, and mandatory minimum quota requirements. Access to the Buffer Zone was subject to 25% observer coverage, and mandatory minimum quota requirements. These requirements were modified for the 2005–06 season so that the level of observer coverage depended on the amount of quota carried, as per Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quota holding required to access zone</th>
<th>Level of observer coverage required (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 500 kg (core and buffer)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 500 kg (buffer)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500kg – 2 tonnes (core)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tonnes – 5 tonnes (core)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 tonnes – 10 tonnes (core)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 tonnes – 20 tonnes (core)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;20 tonnes (core)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To improve compliance and management outcomes for its domestic fishery, and to better meet international management obligations, Australia implemented a range of amendments to its *Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Plan 1995* on 1 December 2004. These included:

- revised objectives, management measures, and performance criteria;
- incorporation of the Commission's current stock-specific reference point;
- the development of a by-catch action plan and strategies to reduce broader environmental impacts;
- amendments to enhance the accountability of SBT Statutory Fishing Right holders against their allocated quota; and,
- daily at sea reporting of SBT taken and transferred into tow cages, provisional deduction of SBT quota based on at sea estimates of catch, and daily VMS or manual reporting of catch and tow vessel locations.

3. Catch and Effort

In 2004–05, 99.3% of the Australian catch of SBT was taken by purse seine with the remainder taken by longline. Australian catch by gear and State for the quota years 1988–89 to 2004–05 is shown in Table 5. Catch by season with vessel number and search hours is shown in Table 4. The Australian catch of SBT for the calendar years 2004 and 2005 is mapped in Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively.

Table 3: Catch of SBT by fishing method in 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05 Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Catch (t)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002–03</td>
<td>Purse seine</td>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>5375 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Longline</td>
<td>Western Australia and New South Wales</td>
<td>17 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003–04</td>
<td>Purse seine</td>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>4874 t (small percentage for direct export, remainder for farms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Longline</td>
<td>Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland</td>
<td>247 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004–05</td>
<td>Purse seine</td>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>5214 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Longline</td>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>35 t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Insufficient data were available to provide an estimate of the recreational catch in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Discards

During the 2004–05 and 2005–06 seasons, no discarding of SBT was observed or reported in logbooks collected in the purse seine fishery in the Great Australian Bight.

In 2004, AFMA observers monitored longline operations in the ETBF during the months and areas in which SBT are most likely to be taken incidentally (i.e. south of 30°S from May to September). Observer data showed that 61% of longlined SBT were discarded during the observed operations. In contrast, the level of SBT discards recorded in logbooks from other vessels fishing during the same period south of 30°S was only 10%. In response to this information the AFMA implemented tighter access controls and implemented 100% observer coverage for the 2005 and 2006 season in areas and at times where there is a high risk of SBT being caught (Core and Buffer Zones). Note that this definition is more restricted than the definition outlined here for when and where SBT are most likely to be taken.
Figure 1: Australian SBT catch in 2004
Figure 2: Australian SBT catch in 2005
In 2005 in the ETBF, south of 30° S and during the months of May to September (the months in which SBT are usually caught), 14 observers monitored 254 thousand hooks of a season total of 678 thousand, representing 37.5% observer coverage of longline effort. The total catch number of SBT caught while observers were on board was 327 of which 240 were retained, 65 were discarded (60 of which were released alive), 3 escaped and 19 were tagged. Note that tagged fish have not been included as discarded fish. ETBF logbooks for 2005 showed 36 tonnes (382 fish) of SBT were retained in the ETBF fishery and only 34 (8%) were discarded.

Over 2005 and 2006, Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) observers monitored longline operations in the Southern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (SWTBF). One SBT was landed in 2005 with twenty two discarded during observed operations. It should be noted that levels of effort in this fishery are very low at present (i.e. only 1 or 2 vessels are operating).

4. Historical Catch and Effort

Australian catch by gear and State for the quota years 1988–89 to 2004–05 is shown in Table 5. Catch and effort (number of search hours and number of vessels) by season, for seasons 1994–95 to 2005–06, in the purse seine fishery are show in Table 4.

Table 4: Purse seine catch and effort for seasons 1994–95 to 2005–06

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Estimated Catch (t)</th>
<th>Actual Catch (t)</th>
<th>No. Boats</th>
<th>Vessel Search Hours</th>
<th>No. Sets</th>
<th>1º Squares Fished</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994–95</td>
<td>2179</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995–96</td>
<td>2859</td>
<td>3442</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996–97</td>
<td>3134</td>
<td>2505</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997–98</td>
<td>3916</td>
<td>3629</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998–99</td>
<td>4418</td>
<td>4991</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999–00</td>
<td>4746</td>
<td>5131</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000–01</td>
<td>5100</td>
<td>5162</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001–02</td>
<td>5400</td>
<td>5234</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1309</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002–03</td>
<td>5188</td>
<td>5375</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1276</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003–04</td>
<td>5299</td>
<td>4874</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1202</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004–05</td>
<td>5225</td>
<td>5215</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1168</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005–06</td>
<td>5372</td>
<td>5189</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1281</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall the data available on recreational catch of SBT is limited but an initial review revealed high year-to-year variability in catches and the locations in which SBT were taken. For the past ten years, indicative estimates of annual recreational catches ranged between 3 and 85 tonnes with the highest catches occurring around Tasmania (Table 6). These data are indicative estimates only and are based on a range of different data sources.
Table 5: Australian catch by gear and State for quota years 1988–89 to 2004–05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quota Year</th>
<th>Western Australia</th>
<th>South Australia</th>
<th>New South Wales</th>
<th>Tasmania</th>
<th>Large Longliners</th>
<th>Australia Total</th>
<th>Total RTMP</th>
<th>Total Gears</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Albany Pole</td>
<td>Esperance Pole</td>
<td>Long-line Pole</td>
<td>Pole &amp; Purse Seine</td>
<td>Farm Cages Long-line Pole &amp; Purse Seine</td>
<td>Total Pole &amp; Purse Seine</td>
<td>Total Troll Long-line</td>
<td>Aust. Joint-venture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988–89</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>4872</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989–90</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>4199</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990–91</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>2588</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991–92</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1629</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992–93</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>1506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993–94</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994–95</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>1294</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>2864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995–96</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1447</td>
<td>3362</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996–97</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2498</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997–98</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>916</td>
<td>3488</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998–99</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4991</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5018</td>
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<td>1999–00</td>
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<td>5130</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000–01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5162</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001–02</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5234</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002–03</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5375</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003–04</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4874</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004–05</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5214</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that a further 700t of Australian quota was ‘frozen’ (not allocated) in 1990–91.

* 1997-98 and 1998-99 WA and SA non-farm catches are included in WA pole and purse seine catch, and in 1999–00 and 2000–01 WA longline catch is included in WA longline due to confidentiality guidelines.

† 1997-98 to 1998-99 NSW pole and purse seine catches are included in NSW longline due to confidentiality guidelines.

‡ 2003-04 additional SA purse seine catch that did not go into farm cages is included in SA farm cages catch due to confidentiality guidelines.
While there are insufficient data at present to quantify the total recreational catches of SBT for 2004–05 and 2005–06, high spatial catch variability was evident from anecdotal reports. 2004–05 was a good season in South Australia but poor elsewhere, especially in Tasmania where the annual southern bluefin tuna tournament produced very disappointing catches of SBT (i.e. no SBT were caught). In 2005–06, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania experienced a good season for recreational SBT catches.

**Table 6:** Indicative estimates of recreational catch (tonnes) by Australian recreational fishers, 1994 to 2005 (Source: NSW Fisheries).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recreational Catch (t)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>insufficient data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>insufficient data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
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</table>

5. **Annual Fleet Size and Distribution**

In 2004–05, a total of 23 commercial fishing vessels landed SBT in Australian waters.

**South Australia**

The one- to five-year-old SBT, which school from late spring to autumn in surface waters of the eastern Great Australian Bight, South Australia, were fished by seven purse seiners during the 2004–05 quota year, but various live bait, pontoon-towing and feeding vessels were also involved. Fishing commenced in early December 2004 and finished in mid April 2005.

**Western Australia**

Twenty three SBT were observed caught during 2005 in the SWTBF. Fish ranged in length from 167 to 182 cm. One SBT was retained during observed longline operations and observers reported about 60% were alive when the longlines were retrieved.

**New South Wales**

During 2004–05, 16 domestic longliners participated at some time in the area of the fishery for older juveniles and adults in deeper waters off NSW. Longline fishing off NSW commenced in early June 2005 and finished in mid October 2005.
Tasmania

There was limited fishing for SBT off Tasmania in the 2004–05 quota year.

Queensland

There was no fishing for SBT off Queensland in the 2004–05 quota year.

6. Historical Fleet Size and Distribution

Troll catches of SBT were reported as early as the 1920s off the east coast of Australia but significant commercial fishing for SBT commenced in the early 1950s with the establishment of a pole-and-live-bait fishery off New South Wales, South Australia and, later (1970), Western Australia. Purse seine gear overtook pole as the predominant method and catches peaked at 21 500 t in 1982. The bulk of this early Australian catch of SBT was canned. Following quota reductions in 1983–84, the Western Australian pole fishery for very small juveniles closed down and the south-eastern fishery began to target larger juveniles to supply the Japanese sashimi market. Surface catches were further reduced between 1989 and 1995 when about half of the Australian total allowable catch (TAC) was taken by Australia–Japan joint venture longliners in the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ). The joint venture ceased in late 1995. From 1992 to 1998, domestic longliners operating off Tasmania and New South Wales also took around 5–10% of the total Australian catch.

In 1990–91 about 20 t of SBT tuna were transferred to fattening cages in Port Lincoln, South Australia, to enhance their value. Utilisation of the Australian SBT TAC in ‘farming’ operations increased from 3% of the TAC in 1991–92 to 98% in 1999–00 and it has remained at similar high levels since.

Following declaration of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) in 1979, Japanese longliners fished under a range of bilateral conditions, real time monitoring program and joint-venture arrangements until 1997 when Japanese longliners were excluded from all AFZ fishing operations following failure to reach agreement on global TAC within the CCSBT. Caton and Ward (1996) provide copies of annual subsidiary agreements for the operations of bilateral-licensed longliners in the AFZ from 1979–80 to 1994–95.

7. Fisheries Monitoring

There are a series of logbooks and associated catch records that are required by law to be completed by fishers and fish receivers and sent to AFMA for the purposes of monitoring, compliance and research. The type of form used is dependent on the type of method used to catch SBT in the fishery. All of the data provided from Logbooks and Catch Disposal Records must be supplied to AFMA within specified time periods specific to each record.
**Catch Disposal Records**

Catch disposal records for SBT are for recording SBT taken by fishers for the purposes other than farming and are signed by the fishing concession holder and the first receiver immediately after unloading the catch. Catch disposal records provide a means to verify logbook data.

**Australian Daily Fishing Log and Farm Transit Log**

A logbook form is required to be completed by fishers when using pelagic longlining or when fishing with minor line methods. The Australian Pelagic Longline Daily Fishing Log is required to be completed for longline fishing. In the purse seine fishery the Master of the catcher vessel (with quota assigned) is required to complete the Australian Purse Seine and Pole Daily Fishing Log – for farmed SBT only. A specific permit called the Farm Transit Log is completed by the holder of the SBT carrier boat permit or representative, and provided to the monitoring company which undertakes the fish count when fish are transferred from tow cages to farm cages.

**Farm Disposal Record**

A specific process has been designed to obtain data to allow for research and monitoring from farming operations. An independent company is contracted annually by AFMA to monitor the farming operations. All mortalities that occur during the capture and towing operations must be recorded on the appropriate form and must be available for inspection if requested by an AFMA officer.

When SBT are transferred from tow cages to the fish farms, a video record must be carried out by the AFMA contracted monitoring company. The video recording is then used to undertake a count of the fish that are transferred into the fish farm. This count of captured fish will be multiplied by the average fish weight (derived from a 40 fish sample) and decremented from quota using the Farm Disposal Record. AFMA Compliance Officers observed at sea operations during both the 2003–04 and the 2004–05 seasons.

**Observer Program**

Observer programmes for the purse seine fishery have been in place since the 2002–03 season, and for the longline fishery (south-eastern part of the ETBF) since the middle of 2002.

The monitoring arrangements in the SBT fishery continue to be reviewed and refined in order to improve monitoring and compliance. To minimise the risk of non-quota take of SBT by longliners off New South Wales, since 2000, access to the waters through which SBT migrate has been restricted to vessels holding SBT quota.
8. Other Factors

**Import/Export Statistics**

The Trade Information Scheme that records all exported Australian fish has been implemented and refined. A Trade Information Scheme (TIS) form is completed by an authorised signatory from the export-registered establishment that is the last to handle the consignment before the product leaves Australia and validated by a Government officer. The form is used for both farmed and non-farmed SBT. This program provides a complete record of SBT exports that can be compared with the Japanese Import Statistics.

**Markets**

In 2004–05, in the order of 56 t of SBT were retained for the domestic market; approximately 82 t (processed weight) were exported to the USA; and the remainder of the Australian catch was exported to Japan. In July 2005, 232kg of SBT were imported from New Zealand.

**Observer Coverage**

The purse seine observer programme for the 2005–06 Australian SBT fishing season monitored fishing and tow operations between 33 and 35°S and 132 and 133°E in February and March 2006. One Australian and one South African observer monitored 14 purse seine sets representing 9.5% of the total sets in which fish were taken in 2005–06. From these observations an estimated 550 tonnes of SBT were caught during observed sets representing 10.2% of the estimated tonnage caught for the 2005–06 season. Observers also monitored and recorded SBT mortalities on two towing operations. Observer coverage on purse seine vessels was limited to February and March hence the data is not necessarily representative of the entire fleet over the December to March purse seine fishing season.

In 2005 in the ETBF, south of 30° S and during the months of May to September (the months in which SBT are usually caught), 14 observers monitored 254 thousand hooks of a season total of 678 thousand, representing 37.5% observer coverage of longline effort. The total catch number of SBT caught while observers were on board was 327 of which 240 were retained, 65 were discarded (60 of which were released alive), 3 escaped and 19 were tagged. Note that tagged fish have not been included as discarded fish. Individual retained fish ranged from 63–206 cm in length. The size distribution of the discarded ETBF longline catch of SBT from 2002 to 2005 is shown in Figure 1. ETBF logbooks for 2005 showed 36 tonnes (382 fish) of SBT were retained in the ETBF fishery and only 34 SBT (8%) were discarded.

In 2005, in the SWTBF, three voyages and 47 sets out of a season total of 544 were observed for a total catch of 23 SBT, with a length range of 167–182 cm. Observer coverage of hook sets for the whole year was 9%. One SBT was retained during observed longline operations in the SWTBF and observers reported about 60% were alive when the longlines were retrieved. According to logbook data, 31 SBT were retained during the 2004–05 season, with a total weight of 1195 kg.
# Appendix 1: SBT Season Dates 1988–89 to 2005–06

<table>
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<th>Quota Year</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004–05</td>
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</tbody>
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Review of Korean SBT Fishery

Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Fisheries
Republic of Korea

Introduction

Southern bluefin tuna (SBT) fishery is the most recently developed tuna fishery by Korean distant-water fishing industry. The SBT catch made by Korean longline fleet reached a maximum in 1998, followed by continuous decrease until 2005. Species composition of the catch shows that target species accounted for 17% in 2004 and 17.5% in 2005 of the total catch and remaining consisted of tunas, billfishes, sharks and other fish species. Korean longline fleet has voluntarily deployed a tori line to reduce seabird bycatch by longline fishing.

Review of SBT Fisheries

Fleet size and distribution

Korean SBT fishery commenced in 1991 with a few longliners shifted from tropical waters where they targeted bigeye and yellowfin tuna. Thus, in the early years of this fishery, SBT did not attract Korean fishing industry, but because of higher market price number of longliners rapidly increased to reach a maximum fleet size of 19 longliners in 1998. However, by the voluntary regulation of fleet size among fishing industries, annual fleet size for SBT fishery never exceeded 16 registered number since then and number of longline vessels active was 6 in 2004 and 7 in 2005. Annual number of fishing vessels for SBT largely depends on Japanese market price for SBT and fishing condition on the fishing grounds.

Distribution of catch and effort

Fishing season of Korean SBT longline fishery usually starts in March and ends by November or December. In the first half of fishing season from March to July or August, usually Korean longliners are fishing on the high seas of the western Indian Ocean off South
Africa, with occasional expanded operation to the southeastern Atlantic, while in the second half they move to the eastern Indian Ocean off the western Australia. This fishing pattern and fishing grounds have rarely been changed for the past 10 years of fishing history for SBT except for 1991, but in 2004 and 2005 some catches were also taken from the western and central fishing grounds until October.

In 2005, 7 out of 16 registered longliners fished for SBT and made a catch of 33 mt (reported as processed weight), showing a decrease by about 71% from 2004. This was mainly due to the shift of fishing ground and most of Korean longliners operated in the EEZ area of the Republic of South Africa for targeting bigeye and yellowfin tuna.

Catch per unit effort of Korean longline fishery for SBT has shown a decreasing trend from a peak at 8.4 fish/1,000 hooks in 1994. However, CPUE appeared to be more or less stable between 2.3 and 4.1 fish/1,000 hooks in recent years. CPUE in 2004 and 2005 decreased compared with that of 2003.

**Fisheries Monitoring for each fleet**

Fisheries statistics are collected and reported for a calendar year. Catch and effort data based on the logbooks are routinely collected through a fisheries data collection system which was lawful in 1977. According to this domestic regulation, distant-water fishing vessels have to submit the reports of their fishing operations within 30 days (home-based) or 60 days (foreign-based) after completion of their operations to the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI).

Korean government (MOMAF) initiated the fisheries observer program for distant-water fisheries including tuna fisheries in 2002. The purpose of this program is to meet the requirements of relevant regional fishery bodies and therefore the mission of trained observers are similar to those set out in the convention of the fishery bodies.

In 2004-2005, two observers were deployed on Korean SBT longline fishing vessel operating in the EEZ of South Africa and adjacent waters of Mozambique, respectively. Scientific observation continued for about two months starting from the mid-August 2004 and November 2005. During the trip, observers monitored catch of target and by-catch species. More observers will be deployed this year but in the case of SBT fishery scientific observation is now more difficult due to limited number of actual fishing vessels.

**Seabird**

According to fishermen, some bird species (unidentified) are usually encountered as they set longlines. However, no documentation on seabird bycatch has been available. During the
scientific observation trip, observers reported incidental catch of seabirds in spite of several on-board voluntary measures to avoid seabird bites such as hook-casting before dawn, tori line installing and defrozen baits, etc.

Other Non-target Fish

Sharks data are usually collected into a “shark” category because detailed on-board identification was difficult to fishermen without a good guide and knowledge in biology. According to fishermen’s identification, it seems that blue sharks and mono sharks are dominant species among shark bycatch. During the scientific observation trip, blue sharks and mako sharks were dominant.

Table 1. Species composition (%) of the Korean longline fishery targeting southern bluefin tuna

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>SBT</th>
<th>ALB</th>
<th>YFT</th>
<th>BET</th>
<th>BUM</th>
<th>STM</th>
<th>SWO</th>
<th>SKJ</th>
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<td>41.8</td>
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<td>0.1</td>
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</table>


**Marine Mammal and Marine Reptiles**
No data is available for marine mammals or reptiles incidentally caught by Korean SBT longline fishery. During the scientific observation trip in 2004, 4 times of sighting of whales were recorded.

**Mitigation Measures to Minimise Seabird and Other Species bycatch**

**Current Measures**

**Mandatory Measures for Each Fleet**
Currently there are no mandatory measures taken by Korean Government to reduce the incidental catch of seabird by its tuna longline fishery. However, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) is developing the National Plans of Action for the reduction of seabird and shark bycatch from longline fisheries. It completed the NPOA-IUU fishing and
reported to FAO in 2005.

**Voluntary Measures for Each Fleet**

While no mandatory measures to reduce seabird bycatch was taken by the Korean Government, fishermen voluntarily adopted seabird deterrent device called tori line. Based on fishermen’s interview, it was around 1990s when Korean longliners voluntarily began to deploy tori line to deter seabirds from baited hooks. Fishermen recognize from their experiences that deterring seabirds from contacting baits during SBT longline sets is beneficial not only to reduce seabird mortality but to their fishery by reducing bait and effort loss.

In 2005 MOMAF and NFRDI published guidebooks and posters to support fisherman through recent information and identification key for bycatch species in tuna fisheries.

**Measures under Development /Testing**

**Public Relations and Education Activities**

To avoid or reduce mortality of seabird and sea turtle by tuna longline vessels, guidebooks and posters for the information and release manual of these species were distributed to fishing boats including tuna longliners in 2005.

**Education**

NFRDI opens a training session for fishing vessel captains as they make a visit to Longine Fishing Association before they begin their fishing trip. The session largely includes reporting of fishing activity, target species and implementation of international regulation. However, the importance of bycatch reporting is also emphasized and encouraged.
1. INTRODUCTION

Taiwan has been fishing for southern bluefin tuna (SBT) since 1970s. The SBT is being caught partly by seasonal target fishery and partly by the albacore fishery as by-catch. Seasonal target fishery is conducted mainly by longliners equipped with super cold freezers, in two seasons, i.e. one from June to September and the other from October to February of the following year, in the waters around 30°S-35°S. However, no year-round target fishing has yet been conducted. The total annual catch in 2005 was preliminarily estimated to be 903 mt, a decrease of 395 mt compared to 2004. To make up the overuse of quota of 158 mt in 2004, a catch limit of 982 mt was set for 2005.

2. OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS ON EFFORT

Regulatory Measures
Taiwan became a member of the Extended Commission of CCSBT in 2002, and agreed to limit its annual catch of SBT to 1,140 mt. Fishing vessels for seasonal target fishery and by-catch on SBT are differentiated and individual quota has been allocated to each of the vessels in the two fisheries. Every vessel is required to register with the Taiwan Tuna Association, whether for target or by-catch fishery, and obtain prior approval from the government before catching SBT. In 2005 about 98% of the annual catch limit was allocated to the seasonal target vessels, while the remaining 2% to the by-catch vessels.

In order to collect SBT catch information in a timely manner and to control the total SBT catch not to exceed the catch limit, as from 1996 every vessel that catches SBT was required to submit weekly report on its catch of SBT by weight as well as its fishing location to the fisheries authorities. This system was refined in 2002 to obtain more accurate catch information, including the length measurement of each fish caught. In June 2000, Taiwan began to implement a Trade Information Scheme (TIS) for the export of SBT, meeting the requirement of TIS as adopted by CCSBT. As from 2002, all vessels fishing for SBT have been required to be installed satellite-based Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for transmitting the positions of vessels in timely manner to the monitoring center. Fishing in spawning area of SBT as suggested by Scientific Committee is prohibited and document of TIS will not be issued to any fish caught from the spawning area to protect the spawning stock.

3. CATCH AND EFFORT

In the 2005 fishing season, SBT catch limit was set at 982 mt, and the actual catch was 903 mt caught by 65 active vessels, including seasonal target and by-catch fishery. About 94% of the Taiwanese SBT catch was caught in the southern and central Indian Ocean, and remaining 6% in the southwestern Indian Ocean extending to the eastern boundary of the Atlantic Ocean.

4. HISTORICAL CATCH AND EFFORT
In the early 1980s, the annual catch of SBT was relatively small, with a catch of less than 250 mt. Following the expansion of tuna long-line fleet and exploration of fishing grounds, there has been a prominent increase in the annual catches. Between 1989 and 1992, a significant increase in the annual catch of SBT was observed, with a record catch of exceeding 1,100 mt, 1/4 of which was from drift net fishery. Following the prohibition of drift-net fishery on the high seas in 1993 in compliance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/215 calling for global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas of the world’s oceans and seas by 31 December 1992, the annual catch of SBT decreased to a stable level, fluctuating between 800 and 1,600 mt during the last decade (Table 1).

5. ANNUAL FLEET SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

In 2005, there were 65 longline vessels fishing for SBT, of which most vessels operated in the Indian Ocean. Their fishing grounds were mainly in the waters of 20°S - 40°S, seasonally distributed in the southern and central Indian Ocean from June to September, and in the southwestern Indian Ocean extending to the eastern boundary of the Atlantic Ocean from October to February of the following year.

6. HISTORICAL FLEET SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

Following the prohibition of drift-net fishing in 1993, SBT was caught only by longline fishery in the three oceans, but mainly in the Indian Ocean. According to the weekly reports from the fishing vessels and trader’s information, during 1998-2002 landings of SBT were carried out by about 140 Taiwanese deep-sea longliners every year, and most of them operated in the Indian Ocean.

7. FISHERIES MONITORING

Intensive efforts have been continuously exerted for better understanding and monitoring the fishery through the following measures:

1. Weekly report for SBT catch is required for submission to the Fisheries Agency through Taiwan Tuna Association. As from 2002, provision of such information as daily catch, daily fishing location and daily discards is required in the weekly report when applying for SBT statistical document.
2. As from April 2002, vessels catching SBT are required to install VMS in order to monitor the positions of the vessels.
3. An experimental scientific observer program on SBT fisheries was launched in 2002. The observer coverage in 2005 was 11.3% by catch in number.
4. TIS program has been implemented to collect updated and detailed catch information. In applying for TIS document, the applicant is required to submit the transshipment document issued by the cargo carriers. After unloading of the catch in Japan, the applicant is required to submit to Fisheries Agency the report issued by the Japanese Customs for further verification of catch statistics.
8. OTHER FACTORS

Markets
In 2005, most of SBT caught by Taiwanese vessels were exported to Japan for sashimi market. Domestic consumption was 10.5 mt.

Seabirds mitigation measures
On May 5, 2006, Fisheries Agency has promulgated the National Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (NPOA-Seabirds) and simultaneously implemented regulations on the requirement of installation of tori lines on longline vessels operating in areas south of 28°S.
Table 1. Annual SBT catches by Taiwanese deep-sea longline and drift net fisheries during 1971-2005. (Data of 2005 is preliminary.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Total</th>
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Review of New Zealand SBT Fisheries

1. Introduction
Since the start of New Zealand’s domestic southern bluefin tuna (SBT) fishery, handline, trolling and longline have been used to target SBT in the EEZ. In recent years nearly all of the SBT catch has been by surface longline with occasional small catches by trolling and a small bycatch in the mid-water trawl fishery for hoki. The domestic fishery is composed of a wide range of vessel types including many small owner-operated boats and a few large low temperature longliners purchased overseas. Two large low temperature Japanese operated distant water longliners were chartered by a New Zealand company in 2005. Both the chartered vessels and the New Zealand owner-operated vessels fished competitively against New Zealand’s SBT catch allocation until 2004.

New Zealand’s fishing year starts 1 October and finishes 30 September of the following year. SBT is seasonally present from March/April to August/September. Fishing takes place in two areas, off the east coast of the North Island north of 42 S and off the west coast of the South Island south of 42 S. Longlining off the west coast of the South Island is almost entirely targeted at SBT, yielding higher catch rates of SBT than off the east coast of the North Island.

SBT was introduced into the Quota Management System (QMS) effective 1 October 2004 with a Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) of 413 t, the remainder of New Zealand’s TAC of 420 t being allocated to recreational and customary fishers, and other sources of mortality. The introduction to the QMS has seen a change from the “Olympic” race for fish seen in previous years. This introduction has also been associated with a consolidation of the SBT longline fleet.

The most recent fishing season (2004/05) resulted in the lowest NZ catch in 10 years (264 t). This is attributed to two main factors: the absence of new recruitment into the NZ longline fishery leading to decreased vulnerable biomass and the decline in longline effort from the domestic and charter fleets.

2. Operational Constraints on Effort
Voluntary measures
Since 1994 the New Zealand fishing industry has implemented voluntary measures with respect to longline fishing that are detailed in a “Code of Practice”. Specific measures include gear specifications, environmental standards, operational practices and closed areas. The intent of the measures is to minimize:

- bycatch (eg of seabirds and marine mammals);
- catch of SBT smaller than 20 kg;
- impacts on other domestic tuna fisheries, and
- gear conflict among SBT longline vessels.

Other voluntary measures that are used but not part of the “Code of Practice” include catch limits by area, changing areas when bird bycatch reaches a specific level, using multiple “tori” lines and longer lines than specified in regulations, night-setting, and the use of pneumatic “bird-scaring” cannons.
**Regulatory measures**

New Zealand continues to impose the previously agreed national catch limit of 420 t (whole weight) but now applies this limit to all known fishing mortality in New Zealand fisheries. Prior to the 2004/05 fishing season, this catch limit was a competitive limit among all license holders. Regulations specified the annual catch limit and made it an offence to take SBT once the catch limit had been reached. The catch limit applied within and outside New Zealand fisheries waters for the “fishing year” which extends from 1 October to 30 September. In the few years when the catch limit was exceeded, it was reduced in the following year by an equivalent amount.

Until midway through the 2000/01 fishing season the SBT quota applied to the catch of both SBT (*Thunnus maccouyi*) and Pacific bluefin tunas (formerly *Thunnus thynnus*, now recognized as *Thunnus orientalis*). The quota restriction on Pacific bluefin tuna was removed late in the 2000/01 SBT season when Pacific bluefin tuna was identified as a separate species and it was demonstrated that Pacific bluefin could be readily distinguished from SBT in catches based on morphological characteristics and DNA analysis. SBT landings reported prior to June 2001 distinguished between northern and southern bluefin despite the fact the catches of both were counted against the SBT quota. Catches reported as northern bluefin were most likely Pacific bluefin. The quota restriction on northern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) was removed in 2002.

SBT was introduced into the New Zealand QMS effective 1 October 2004. There have been a number of improvements in the management of New Zealand’s SBT fishery as a result of this move to QMS management. Three forms of catch reporting are required (catch, effort and landing, catch against quota and reports by receivers of fish) to improve the monitoring of catches. Significant financial penalties apply to fishers who do not cover catch of SBT with quota thereby limiting the potential for over catch. Further, a rationalisation of fishing effort has occurred in conjunction with an extension of the fishing season to focus on periods when SBT are in the best possible condition for capture.

Pacific bluefin tuna were also introduced into the QMS on 1 October 2004 with a total allowable commercial catch of 116 t.

### 3. Historical Catch and Effort

The New Zealand SBT fishery was initially a handline and troll fishery. With the advent of domestic longline fishing however (starting in 1990), longline effort has almost completely replaced fishing effort by trolling and handline. Small amounts of SBT continue to be caught by trolling, and there is a small SBT bycatch in the mid-water trawl fishery. Total SBT catches are summarised by calendar year and fishing year (1 October to 30 September) in Table 1.

Effort for the charter fleet by calendar year and region are provided in Figure 1. Most effort occurs off the west coast of the South Island. Over the period 2001-2004 there has been no targeting of SBT (and no catches of SBT) off the east coast North Island fishing grounds. In 2005, the two charter vessels did fish the later part of the season off the east coast of the North Island and experienced higher catch rates than they had off the west coast of the South Island. Longline effort for the domestic fleet by calendar year and region are provided in Figure 2. While effort increased dramatically in both regions from 1995 to 2003, it has decreased since then, particularly off the west coast of the South Island.

Nominal CPUE by fleet across all regions is provided in Figure 3. Charter CPUE averaged around 3 SBT per 1000 hooks over 1997-2002. Associated with a lack of new recruitment, CPUE declined dramatically in 2003 and has stayed at these historically low levels in 2004 and 2005. A small increase in CPUE has occurred in 2005, this is attributed to the increased effort on the east coast North Island fishing grounds. The domestic CPUE has followed a similar pattern over time to the charter CPUE, although it is traditionally not as high.
4. Annual Fleet Size and Distribution

The charter fleet primarily operates off the west coast of the South Island south of 42º S while smaller domestic owned and operated vessels primarily operate off the east coast of the North Island north of 42º S. SBT also comprises a bycatch in the bigeye target fishery in the Bay of Plenty. The fishing season for SBT is essentially the same for both areas and begins in March/April and generally finishes in July.

The spatial distribution of fishing effort and SBT catches from the charter fleet are provided in Figures 4 and 5. Most of the charter catch and effort occurs off the west coast of the South Island, though there was some effort off the east coast of the North Island in 2005 due to the low catch rates experienced off the west coast.

The spatial distribution of fishing effort and SBT catches from the domestic fleet are also provided in Figures 4 and 5. While most target effort occurs off the east coast of the North Island, a substantial domestic fishery has previously operated off the west coast of the South Island—mostly due to one large domestic vessel. Historically most of the east coast effort has been south of East Cape, but after the introduction of SBT to the QMS in 2004, the effort was more distributed around the East Cape region and occurred slightly later (a month or so).

There is also a substantial domestic fishery that operates outside the SBT season. The effort in this fishery is more northern in its distribution and has low SBT bycatch. The distribution of catches is similar to that of target effort, though proportionally more catch (compared to effort) was taken in the west coast South Island fishery compared to the east coast North Island fishery prior to 2005.

The number of vessels catching SBT peaked in 2002 and has since declined to only 58 vessels in 2005. We expect that it will have declined even further in 2006 (Table 2). In 2005 only two charter vessels fished for SBT in New Zealand fisheries waters, which is less than recent years.

5. Historical Fleet Size and Distribution

The New Zealand SBT fishery began off the west coast of the South Island as a winter small boat handline and troll fishery in the early 1980s. Most fishing by these vessels was in July and August. Since 1990, however, these methods have comprised only a minor component of the fishery as the SBT quota, when fished competitively, has generally been caught by longline vessels by the time the handline fishery started. During the 1980s to mid-1990s most longlining was conducted by foreign licensed longliners from Japan. However, declining catch rates, shortened seasons of availability and reports of increased operating costs in the EEZ resulted in the foreign licensed fleet ceasing operations in 1995. Domestic longlining began in 1991 and steadily increased to over 150 vessels in 2002 before declining to the current low of 58 vessels.

6. Fisheries Monitoring

Observer coverage

New Zealand has a Scientific Observer Programme that covers both domestic and charter longline vessels. All trips on charter vessels are covered by at least one observer, while the target coverage level for the domestic fleet is 10% of the effort to reflect 10% of the catch.

In 2004, 12 observers were briefed and deployed (4 charter vessel and 10 domestic vessel deployments); in 2005, 10 observers were deployed (2 charter vessel and 9 domestic vessel deployments). Coverage is measured in two ways, proportion of catch (in numbers of fish) observed and proportion of hooks observed. In terms of catches, over 98% of the catch was observed (and measured) in the charter fleet in 2004 and 2005. For the domestic fleet, 15% of the catch was observed in 2004, but only 9% in 2005. In terms of effort, over 90% of hooks were
observed on the charter vessels. For the domestic fleet 15% of the effort was observed in 2004 and 12% in 2005.

**RTMP coverage**

Prior to the management of SBT in the QMS, MFish operated an in-season catch monitoring system for SBT. This system required that on-shore processing companies and freezer vessels (including all of the chartered fleet) report their catch by e-mail or fax during the season to MFish. Weekly reporting was required once 25% of the catch allocation was reached and daily reporting required when 50% of the catch allocation had been reached. Reports were collated and analysed by MFish with the season being closed as close as possible to reaching our national allocation. All SBT permit holders were then notified that the season was closed and that it would be an offence to take SBT for the remainder of the fishing year.

From 1 October 2004 the catch monitoring and catch balancing systems in place for all other NZ quota species applied to SBT. All fishers are required to furnish monthly returns of catch and these are then matched to individual holdings of quota entitlement. Financial penalties apply to fishers (on a monthly basis) who catch SBT other than under the authority of quota. Fishers have the opportunity to reconcile their catch and quota entitlements up until the end of the fishing year and if they do not do so the financial penalties increase. The total fishery catches are assessed annually and any adjustment will be made to future years to balance the catch from the fishery and the NZ national allocation as required.

**Biological information**

Observers from the MFish Scientific Observer Programme are responsible for collecting biological data on SBT and bycatch data for catch characterisation. Length, weight (both processed and whole weights) and sex are recorded regularly for SBT and all major fish bycatch species.

Observers onboard the charter vessels also collect otoliths from as many SBT caught as possible. Due to the smaller size of the domestic vessels and the different processing practices, it is not feasible to collect otoliths from the domestic fleet at this time. In 2004, 1153 otoliths were collected from SBT, but only 429 were collected in 2005. The lower number is because only two charter vessels fished in 2005 compared to 2004. A sub sample of the otoliths from 2004 has already been aged while those collected in 2005 are currently archived and will be aged later in the year.

7. Other Factors

**Import/export statistics**

Statistics on the export of SBT are compiled by Customs and summarized by the Department of Statistics. Export statistics are further summarized by the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council and maintained as a database for economic evaluations of New Zealand fisheries.

**Markets**

The only market for SBT caught in the EEZ is the Japanese sashimi market and domestic consumption is negligible.

**Mitigation**

New Zealand regulations specify that all tuna longline vessels shall use seabird-scaring devices (“tori-lines”). The minimum standard for “tori lines” is the same as initially specified by CCAMLR. The domestic fishing industry has a voluntary code of practice advocating night setting for all tuna longlining and for the large tuna longline vessels a limit on total incidental mortality of “at risk” seabirds has been set. New Zealand is currently implementing an approved National Plan of Action for Seabirds in response to the FAO International Plan of Action for Seabirds.
Recreational and Customary Catches of SBT
Recreational fishing for SBT in New Zealand waters is limited. There are records of recreational catch from both the North and South Islands. There are no estimates of SBT catches by Maori non-commercial fishing. However, a proportion of New Zealand’s national allocation is provided as an allowance to cover both recreational and customary catches.

Resolution on IUU fishing and establishment of CCSBT Vessel record
New Zealand provides a list of authorised vessels to the CCSBT Secretariat and has put in place routine systems to update the record as required. The list includes all New Zealand flagged and registered fishing vessels all of which are technically authorised to fish for SBT in New Zealand fisheries waters. Any catch of SBT is recorded and monitored by routine systems established as part of the New Zealand Quota Management System and New Zealand has no information to suggest that any of its registered fishing vessels have an involvement in IUU fishing. Procedures have been put in place to ensure that foreign owned vessels fishing under charter to New Zealand companies may only fish for SBT if they are from a member state of the Extended CCSBT. Individual assessments of the compliance history of foreign owned vessels are required prior to the approval of their registration as New Zealand fishing vessels.
Table 1: Recent catches of SBT in New Zealand fisheries waters (tonnes whole weight) by Calendar year and New Zealand fishing year (1 October to 30 September).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Calendar year catches</th>
<th>Fishing year catches</th>
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<td>2005</td>
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Table 2. Number of vessels catching SBT in New Zealand fisheries waters (tonnes whole weight) by Calendar year and New Zealand fishing year (1 October to 30 September).

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<th>Fishing year vessel numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>57</td>
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Figure 1. Effort (thousands of hooks) for the charter fleet off the east coast North Island (solid line) and the west coast South Island (dashed line). Note that this includes some non-SBT target effort on the east coast North Island.

Figure 2. Effort (thousands of hooks) by the domestic fleet off the east coast North Island (solid line) and the west coast South Island (dashed line). Target effort represent hooks from sets that either targeted or caught SBT.
Figure 3. Catch per unit effort (number of SBT per thousand hooks) by calendar year for the charter (solid line) and domestic (dashed line) longline fleets based only on effort from sets that either targeted or caught SBT.

Figure 4. Distribution of longline effort (thousands of hooks per 1 degree square) for the charter fleet (left) and domestic fleet (right) for 2005.
Figure 5. Distribution of longline catches (number of fish per 1 degree square) for the charter fleet (left) and domestic fleet (right) for 2005.
Review of Japanese SBT Fisheries in the 2005 Fishing Season

1. Introduction

In the 2005 fishing season, the total catch of SBT by Japanese tuna vessels was 7,855 MT, and this resulted in exceeding our national allocation by 1,790 MT. We considered this sincerely, and we have established a new management system to prevent over catch any more in the future. The new management system introduced an individual SBT quota system for individual fishing vessels. It includes a tagging system that requires Japanese fishermen to tag each individual SBT caught. It also requires Japanese fishermen to land their SBT only at eight designated ports, and all SBT landings are inspected by governmental-official inspectors from the Fisheries Agency. This system was implemented from 1 April 2006 (see Appendix 3).

For the 2006 fishing season, we set a voluntary catch limit at 4,523 MT, which is 1,542 MT less than 6,065 MT.

2. Operational Constrains on Effort

In the 2005 fishing season, the Japanese fishing industry has voluntary set starting days for three sub-fishing areas (high seas area off Tasmania/Sydney, off Cape Town and in Southern Indian Ocean) and limited the total number of vessels for each sub-fishing area. Furthermore, to monitor Japanese tuna vessels, GOJ dispatched its fishing patrol vessels for the three sub-fishing areas before and after the areas were closed.

3. Catch and Effort

The fishing operations for the three sub-fishing grounds on high seas were closed on 31 July of 2005 with the catch of 879 MT by 45 vessels off Tasmania/Sydney, closed on 27 August with the catch of 3,687 MT by 119 vessels off Cape Town and closed on 13 December of 2005 with the catch of 2,603 MT by 58 vessels in Southern Indian Ocean, respectively.

No discards by Japanese tuna vessels were reported. No SBT catch by recreational fishing was reported. All SBT caught by Japanese tuna vessels were presumed to be consumed domestically.

4. Historical Catch and Effort

(1) In the 2000 fishing season, GOJ set the voluntary catch limit as 4,578MT, 1,487MT less than 6,065MT, which was the national allocation to Japan agreed in 1997. However,
since the provisional measures prescribed by ITLOS were revoked in August 2000, the voluntary catch limit was changed to 6,065MT in September 2000. The actual catch in the 2000 season was 6,027MT.

(2) In the 2001 fishing season, fishing operations were started with a tentative catch limit of 6,065MT, and GOJ set the voluntary catch limit of 6,421MT after the consultation with the relevant Members. The actual catch in the 2001 season was 6,647MT.

(3) In the 2002 fishing season, fishing operations were started with a tentative catch limit of 6,065MT, and the actual catch was 6,192MT.

(4) In the 2003 fishing season, GOJ set the voluntary catch limit as 5,839 MT, which were subtracted 226 MT from 6,065MT, and the actual catch was 5,770 MT.

(5) In the 2004 fishing season, GOJ set the voluntary catch limit as 6,007 MT, which were subtracted 127 MT from 6,065 MT and added 69 MT, and the actual catch was 5,982 MT.

5. Annual Fleet Size and Distribution

The number of fishing vessels selected for targeting SBT in the 2005 fishing season was 168. The number of vessels on the high seas off Tasmania/Sydney was 45, the number of vessels on the high seas off Cape Town was 119, and the number of vessels in Southern Indian Ocean was 58 respectively.

6. Historical Fleet Size and Distribution

(1) In the 1999 fishing season, 227 fishing vessels (30 vessels less than the 1998 fishing seasons) operated, since Japan cut the number of far-seas tuna longliners following the Plan of Action agreed by FAO.

(2) In the 2000 fishing season, the number of vessels for SBT was reduced to 172 in accordance with the reduction of the catch limit based on the provisional measures prescribed by ITLOS. However, since the provisional measures were revoked, 27 vessels were added to the original, and, consequently 199 vessels operated for SBT based on the increase of the catch limit in September.

(3) In the 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 fishing season, the number of vessels for SBT was 227, 224, 221 and 222 respectively.

7. Fisheries Monitoring

(1) GOJ issued a notification to the industry that every vessel targeting SBT must submit catch and effort report to GOJ every 10 days for the management of the catch limit.

(2) GOJ took necessary measures to control and monitor the fishery, which include dispatching enforcement vessels to the fishing areas, dispatching scientific observers onboard randomly selected from SBT operating vessels, and requesting to install VMS for all the SBT targeting vessels and to report theirs positions to GOJ on daily basis.
(3) Three of the enforcement vessels were allocated to the SBT fishing grounds.
(4) 16 scientific observers were dispatched. Observer coverage of Japanese SBT tuna vessels were: 9.9% in the number of vessels, 4.9 % in the number of hooks used and 4.0% in the number of SBT caught. The total cost of these observers was US$395,000.

8. Others Factors

Import/Export Statistics
The amount of imported SBT in 2005 was 9,774 MT (product weight), less than 1,599 MT compared with the year of 2004. Most of SBT imported to Japan was from CCSBT members (1: Australia, 2: Taiwan, 3: New Zealand, 4: Republic of Korea, 5: Philippine, 6: Indonesia). In particular, SBT imported from Australia was 8,740 MT, which accounted for 89.4% of the total SBT imported to Japan.
## Trend in catch and fishing effort in Japanese SBT fisheries

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<td>6,065mt(**1)</td>
<td>6,421mt(**3)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Actual catch</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Number of vessels</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>227vessels</td>
<td>224vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>199vessels(**2)</td>
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</table>

Note: Japanese Fishing season of SBT is from March to February

(**1) Original allocation of catch was revised because of the provisional measures prescribed by ITOLS were revoked by the arbitral tribunal.

(**2) Original numbers of vessels were revised because of the provisional measures prescribed by ITOLS were revoked by the arbitral tribunal.

(**3) Original allocation of catch was revised after consultations with the relevant members.
### SBT Import Statistics of Japan

#### Japanese Import of SBT by Country/Area (Fresh・Chilled and Frozen)  (unit: kg)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Area</th>
<th>1995 from January to December</th>
<th>1996 from January to December</th>
<th>1997 from January to December</th>
<th>1998 from January to December</th>
<th>1999 from January to December</th>
<th>2000 from January to December</th>
<th>2001 from January to December</th>
<th>2002 from January to December</th>
<th>2003 from January to December</th>
<th>2004 from January to December</th>
<th>2005 from January to December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3,195,903</td>
<td>6,125,027</td>
<td>6,256,201</td>
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<td>8,185,820</td>
<td>8,237,206</td>
<td>8,368,352</td>
<td>9,748,627</td>
<td>8,740,606</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
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<td>1,611,250</td>
<td>1,357,906</td>
<td>1,478,751</td>
<td>1,005,656</td>
<td>991,599</td>
<td>1,089,597</td>
<td>765,758</td>
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<td>1,056,953</td>
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<td>954,285</td>
<td>491,446</td>
<td>138,277</td>
<td>51,752</td>
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<td>128,249</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>4,857,804</td>
<td>8,059,491</td>
<td>10,203,543</td>
<td>10,599,691</td>
<td>10,356,694</td>
<td>10,926,605</td>
<td>10,865,548</td>
<td>8,244,836</td>
<td>11,372,834</td>
<td>9,774,126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Japan Trade Statistics, Ministry of Finance

*These figures are believed to be northern bluefin tuna so they should not be considered part of the global SBT catch.
Appendix 3

Japanese New SBT Fishery Regulation

The followings are outline of our new regulation which executed from 1 April 2006.

- The new regulation introduced an individual SBT quota system for individual fishing vessel. 142 vessels have been allocated individual quota for 2006 fishing season.

- It includes a tagging system that requires Japanese fishermen to tag each individual SBT caught, and the tag must have a serial number and fishing vessel's call sign.

- It also requires Japanese fishermen to land their SBT at eight designated ports only, and all SBT landings will be inspected by governmental-official inspectors from the Fisheries Agency.

- In the new regulation, not only the fishermen, but also companies (i.e. buyers and sellers) that knowingly purchase or process illegally caught and landed SBT will be considered to have committed a criminal offence and will be subject to penalties. The penalties could be up-to 2-years imprisonment and/or up-to five hundred thousand yen fine.

- In case of serious offenses, the concerned fishermen will be deprived all SBT quota for over the next five years.
Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Scientific Committee

15 September 2006
Tokyo, Japan
Issues of Concern Related to Catch Characterization

- Scientific and management implications of possible past over-catches brought to light by the market and farm anomaly reports far outweigh any other catch characterization concerns.

- The suggested magnitude of past over-catches jeopardizes many of our key indicators, undermines the basis upon which the SBT Operating model is designed and conditioned, and will require the proposed SBT MP to be re-evaluated.

- Efforts must be made to reduce uncertainties regarding the magnitude and source of any past over-catches, and to provide reasonable estimates of past catch and CPUE trends with which to condition the Operating Model.

- It is particularly important to ensure that accurate catch data and CPUE indices are obtained from the main SBT fishery sectors in future, for use as fisheries indicators, and to provide reliable indices of abundance for possible future use in an MP.
Review of Fisheries Indicators

Impact of Catch Anomalies on Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Influence of Catch Anomalies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimates of past total SBT catch</td>
<td>Affected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPUE trends in Japanese LL fishery</td>
<td>Affected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPUE by year/age class in Japanese LL fishery</td>
<td>CPUE affected, Proportions by age potentially affected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length frequency in Japanese LL Fishery</td>
<td>Potentially Affected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional tagging (LL reporting rates)</td>
<td>Potentially affected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPUE and length frequency for New Zealand domestic and charter LL fisheries</td>
<td>Unaffected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian catch, age composition, and CPUE</td>
<td>Unaffected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishery independent aerial survey</td>
<td>Unaffected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial spotting index</td>
<td>Unaffected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acoustic index</td>
<td>Unaffected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troll survey</td>
<td>Unaffected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SBT Distribution Range: 1975 - 2004

The reported number of 5° blocks fished has decreased by about one third since 1975. It is not known to what extent this represents a range contraction, or results from under-reporting of SBT catches.

SBT Migration Patterns: 1990s and 2000s

a) Release and recapture locations for longline tag returns for different ages at recapture from the RMP conventional tagging in WA and SA in the 1990s, showing substantial eastwards migration of SBT.

b) Release and recapture locations for longline tag returns from the SRP conventional tagging in 2000 - 2005 in WA and SA, showing almost no eastwards migration of SBT to the Tasman Sea.
Recruitment Indicators

- **Aerial Surveys**: The aerial spotting survey and commercial spotting index are both consistent with a reduction in average recruitment below 1994-1998 levels.
- **Longline CPUE**: Japanese nominal LL CPUE shows poor 2000 and 2001 year classes, but with an increase in juveniles after the 2002 year class.
- **Size Frequency**: Size distribution in the NZ LL fishery and the Japanese LL fishery* continue to indicate poor 2000 and 2001 recruitments.
- **Tagging Data**: High mortality rate estimates for age 3 and 4 from recent SRP tagging are consistent with low recruitments in these years.

In summary, recruitment indicators continue to support previous evidence for poor recruitment in the 2000 and 2001 year class, and ongoing recruitment below the 1994-1998 levels.

Spawning Biomass Indicators

- **Longline Catch Rates**: Reported catch rates of fish aged 12 and older in the Japanese LL continue to indicate a drop in spawning stock biomass in about 1995, but this is potentially impacted by catch anomalies. Since the Japanese LL CPUE is the primary indicator of stock abundance the potential anomalies make the spawning stock status less certain than last year.

- **Indonesian Catches**: Increase in tonnage of Indonesian catch as well as the increase in proportion of SBT in the Indonesian catch was associated with a shift in the behaviour of the Indonesian fleet to target SBT south of the spawning ground. This change in behaviour complicates the interpretation of the age and size structure of catches from the spawning stock.
Nominal CPUE of Japanese LL SBT catches by age group, showing recent declines in catches of 6-7, 8-11 (since 2002) and 12+ (since 1994)*.

Following a sharp decline over the period 2001/02 – 2003/04, Indonesian SBT catch and proportion of age 8-16 fish have increased. This is partially due to changes in fishing area and targeting.

Spawning Biomass Indicators

Exploitable Biomass Indicators

• Longline CPUE*: Reported Japanese LL CPUE for all ages combined suggests that the exploitable biomass for these gears has remained fairly constant during the past 10 years, though this level is low compared to historical values.

• Reported CPUE indicates increases in the CPUE of ages 8-11 since about 1992, but a slight decline in 2003 and 2004, with a slight increase in 2005.

• Reported CPUE of fish aged 4-7 has increased since the mid 1980s but has been declining in recent years.

Confidence in this indicator has diminished considerably due to the uncertainty associated with catch anomalies.

Advice Requested by the Commission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Options</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm Anomaly</td>
<td>Case 1: 1992 - 2005 Status quo = 0 overcatch, 10% overcatch, 20% overcatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Case 2: Table 7.18 of the Australian Farm Review Report, with the overcatch range of 18% to 49.5%, which applies to 1999-2005, extrapolated back to 1992.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal CPUE</td>
<td>0-100% of Longline Anomaly used to scale the existing nominal CPUE series</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The SAG/SC would not be limited to providing advice based only on these scenarios and is encouraged to provide advice on alternate scenarios that it considers may be more plausible than those outlined.*
2006 ‘Scenario Modelling’ Approach

- There is high uncertainty regarding the plausibility of various alternate past catch scenarios, and the Commission provided no guidance on the source of past over-catches, or the impact on CPUE.
- Given this uncertainty, the SAG could not conduct a formal assessment in 2006. Rather, a range of alternate ‘scenarios’ was evaluated, using the Operating Model under different assumptions about past catches and CPUE.
- Advice requested by the Commission potentially represented over 100 scenarios, once combinations and technical interpretations were considered. These could not all be evaluated in the available time.

Selection of Scenarios for Advice

- Initially, three of the Commission scenarios (plus no-overcatch) were selected to span the range of behaviour seen across many scenarios evaluated before the SAG.
- Additional scenarios were then evaluated to deal with technical requirements related to interpretation of the Commission scenarios for input to the Operating Model.
- Of these, 5 were chosen to span the range of behaviour as the basis for management advice:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario Reference</th>
<th>CPUE 2004 &amp; 2005</th>
<th>Surface Age Composition</th>
<th>70-30 Lagged LL1 Unreported Catch</th>
<th>Juvenile M₀ Weights</th>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scenario Evaluation Results

- Distributions of estimated spawner biomass in 2006 (left panel) and $B_{2008} / B_{0}$ (right panel) under No Overcatch (0), and the five scenarios considered.

Scenario Evaluation Results

- Comparison of predicted median $B_{2014} / B_{2004}$ for the five final scenarios under three future constant catch levels: 4,925t, 9,925t and 14,925t.
Conclusions Regarding Stock Status

- Results of scenario evaluations are generally consistent with the 2005 assessment, and indicate that the SBT spawning biomass is at a low fraction of its original biomass, well below the 1980 level, and below the level that could produce MSY.

- All scenarios show median spawning biomass levels in 2006 (110,000t - 170,000t) well above 2005 median biomass estimate (50,000t) as a result of the incorporation of catch anomalies.

- However, all scenarios still show substantial depletion, with median B2006/B0 levels between 10% and 13%.

Management Advice

- The discovery of large past catch anomalies led to a reconsideration of the advice provided last year. The 2006 management advice is based on results across the range of alternate past catch scenarios evaluated.

- The scenarios evaluated were reasonably consistent with each other in terms of current stock status, recruitment trends, and projected stock biomass under specific constant catch levels and, under the current circumstances, represent the basis for best available scientific advice.

- The scenarios show that, in order to reduce the short term risk (to 2014) of further declines in stock size, a meaningful reduction in catch below 14,925t is required, in addition to assurance that all unreported catches are eliminated.

Conclusions Regarding Stock Status

- Continuation of catches in excess of 14,925t is likely to result in continuing decline of spawning biomass.

- A catch level of 14,925t does not lead to longer term rebuilding, or to meeting an objective of a 50% probability of B2014>B2004 for any of the scenarios, and will likely result in continuing declines.

- The estimated catch levels that will result in a short term target of a 50% probability of B2014>B2004, lie in a relatively narrow range from ~9,900t to ~12,100t.

- However, even under a constant catch of 9,925t, projections indicate a 40% chance of further spawning stock reductions by 2014, without some other feedback mechanism to cut catches further should low recruitment occur.

2006 Basis for Management Advice

- The discovery of large past catch anomalies led to a reconsideration of the advice provided last year. The 2006 management advice is based on results across the range of alternate past catch scenarios evaluated.

- The scenarios evaluated were reasonably consistent with each other in terms of current stock status, recruitment trends, and projected stock biomass under specific constant catch levels and, under the current circumstances, represent the basis for best available scientific advice.

- The scenarios show that, in order to reduce the short term risk (to 2014) of further declines in stock size, a meaningful reduction in catch below 14,925t is required, in addition to assurance that all unreported catches are eliminated.
2006 Basis for Management Advice

- Constant catches over the range examined (4,925t - 14,925t) still have a high risk of further spawning stock declines.

- Given the current low stock status and recent low recruitments, there is a risk that further stock decline could jeopardize recovery prospects.

- In the absence of reliable data and a rapid feedback system (such as an MP), the TAC would therefore need to be much lower to ensure a reasonable probability of rebuilding under future constant catch levels.

- The larger the level of immediate catch reductions, the lower the risk of further spawning stock declines.

2006 Management Recommendations

To ensure a high probability of sustainability and rebuilding of the SBT spawning stock, three steps are required:

1. An immediate reduction in total catches to below 14,925t to decrease the probability of further stock declines.

2. Immediate action to restore confidence in estimates of total catch and CPUE series. Monitoring of recruitment and of the Indonesian fishery must continue, and where possible, be improved.

3. An interim management procedure needs to be adopted within the next 3-5 years, with a full management procedure thereafter designed to ensure a high probability of stock rebuilding.

(If recruitment indicators in the next few years revert to the low levels of 2000 and 2001, further substantial catch reductions will be required.)

Short-Term Performance Statistics

Short term (to 2014) performance statistics at different future constant catch levels, averaged across the range of scenarios evaluated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Future Catch (t)</th>
<th>Short-Term Performance Statistics</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14,925</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12,425</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9,925</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,425</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,925</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Implications of catches between the levels shown can be ascertained by interpolation)
**Management Procedure Implications**

- The success of management to achieve rebuilding of the spawning stock depends on the ability to monitor trends in abundance, and to reduce future catches if the stock continues to decline. This is the role of an MP.
- The design of the SBT MP proposed in 2005 was based on past catch and effort data reported up to then, and used LL1 CPUE as the index upon which the MP decision rule was based.
- Past overcatch implications in the Market and Farm Anomaly reports will now require this MP to be completely re-designed and re-evaluated. This process could take ~5 years.
- As proposed, the MP would use LL CPUE as the best index of exploitable biomass, and would therefore remain dependant on future availability of a reliable LL CPUE index.

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**Interim Management Procedure**

To provide for responsive management, an “interim management procedure” (IMP) therefore needs to be put into place within the next 2-3 years. An inter-sessional workshop is proposed:

- To consider the possible use of the existing operating model, as implemented for scenarios developed at SAG7, as the basis for testing candidate IMPs.
- To generalize the projection software to provide future values for indices (such as the Great Australian Bight aerial survey) that might perhaps be inputs to an IMP, and to specify appropriate statistical characteristics for these indices.
- To discuss the structure of potential simple control rules for candidate IMPs, and to specify appropriate performance statistics for evaluation purposes.

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**Review of the SRP**

- It was originally intended to fully review the SRP in 2006. However, this was deferred to devote efforts to evaluating the implications of catch anomalies.
- The implications of possible past over-catches are such that various components of the SRP need to be critically reviewed at the 2007 SC meeting.
- In particular, it is necessary to review catch characterization, CPUE modeling, the observer program and the conventional tagging program, and links between these SRP components.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Approximate Period</th>
<th>Budgetary Implications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report to other RFMO’s and FAO</td>
<td>November 2006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface fishery tagging program</td>
<td>Dec 2006 - March 2007</td>
<td>$660,000 for tag deployment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat coordination of the tagging program, including rewards</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>$183,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data exchange</td>
<td>October 2006 - June 2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPUE Modelling Workshop, Shimizu, Japan</td>
<td>5 days, prior to SAG, early May 2007</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim Management Procedure Workshop, Seattle, USA</td>
<td>4 days, prior to SAG, late May 2007</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Stock Assessment Group Meeting</td>
<td>5 days, 1st week in September 2007</td>
<td>$332,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Scientific Committee Meeting</td>
<td>5 days, 2nd week in September 2007</td>
<td>Included in SAG cost above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of SC report to Extended Commission at CCSBT14</td>
<td>Oct 2007</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group

20-23 February 2006
Kaohsiung, Taiwan
**CCSBT WORKPLAN 2007**

This workplan does not include ongoing routine work of the Secretariat.

* Includes all issues listed on the agenda which are of a fishery management measure - eg catch monitoring, SBT tagging, international observers, improved data collection, etc