ERSWG Data Exchange

(Revised at the Thirty-Third Annual meeting, 8 October 2026)

Introduction

The ERSWG Data Exchange is divided into three sections:

1. Data to be provided;
2. Frequency & timeframe for data provision; and
3. Confidentiality.

The Data Exchange described here is intended for the sharing of information for "general" ERSWG purposes. It is expected that the ERSWG will conduct assessments from time to time that will require more detailed information and CCSBT Members have expressed their willingness, in principle, to share more detailed information on a case by case basis with those who have been tasked with leading such assessments.

1. Data to be provided

ERSWG 9 made three important recommendations to the Extended Commission that form the basis of this data exchange proposal. These are that:

- For the purpose of the ERS Data Exchange, the SBT fishery is defined as all fishing effort by authorised vessels[1] for shots/sets where SBT was either targeted or caught[2]. Data for the full SBT fishery as defined here is to be provided as part of this data exchange. Data should not be provided for fishing that does not match this definition.
- Data are to be provided by year, quarter, and 5x5 degree square..
- The specific data items to be provided are:
    - Country/Fishing Entity (*suggest using 2 digit country code, e.g. "JP"*)
    - Calendar year
    - Quarter
    - Species (*or group[3]*)
    - Fishery (*defined by a combination of gear and fleet – see Attachment A*)
    - Human observer / Electronic monitoring
    - Stratum (*5x5 degree squares[4]*)
    - Total effort[5]
    - Total observed effort[5]
    - Fate of observed captures (*number*), separated into 3 categories:
        - Retained (dead)
        - Discarded (dead)
        - Released (live)
        - Other[6]
    - Proportion of observed effort with specific mitigation measures

  For the actual exchange of data, the above data items will be provided in two separate tables as outlined in **Attachment A**. This style of data provision would prevent double counting and possible confusion in relation to the effort information.

[1] Authorised vessels are vessels on the CCSBT authorised list of vessels during the relevant calendar year.

[2] For clarification, it is intended that the only information that would be included in the exchange is information from those shots that targeted **or** caught SBT. Hence, if a bycatch vessel only caught 1 SBT for the year, it would only be data from that one SBT shot that would be included in the exchanged information.

[3] Information should be provided by species (including the scientific name) wherever practical. For species where species specific reporting is not practical (e.g. due to insufficient data, or the high level of work involved), then the level of taxonomic reporting should be at least to the level specified in Table 3. The ideal way to provide species information would be to use the 3 alpha FAO Species Code. If this is not possible, provide a code for the species and provide a separate lookup table that gives the species code, scientific and common names, family name etc.

[4] Provide top left coordinates of 5x5 degree square. Use integer format with a minus sign for south latitudes and west longitudes, e.g. -120, -35.

[5] For longline provide number of hooks, for purse seine provide number of sets.

[6] All other captures not included in the columns for Retained (dead), Discarded (dead), and Released (live), e.g. released with undetermined life status.

To be consistent with standard practise of the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC):

- Data will be provided for the most recently completed calendar year (e.g. the 2018 data exchange would provide data for the 2017 calendar year); and
- The data exchange will include any updates for the previous calendar year (i.e. the 2018 data exchange would also include revised data for 2016).

For the very first exchange of data:

- Data for 2010 and 2011 will be provided by 30 April 2013 for all species[7]; and
- Data for 2012 will be provided by 31 July 2013.

For an initial period after the first data exchange (possibly 3 years, but still to be determined), Members will work towards improving the quality of their data and they will be able to revise any submitted data with improved information during this period. After this initial period of data improvement, changes to past data should be accompanied by an explanation of the changes.

2. Frequency & timeframe for data provision

Consistent with standard practise of the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC), it is proposed that:

- The ERS data exchange occurs on an annual basis, regardless of whether there is an ERSWG meeting in that year[8].
- The required ERS data is submitted to the Secretariat by 31 July.

3. Confidentiality

The data will be treated in accordance with the "Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the CCSBT" and will be rated as "low risk". This means that the data will not be publicly available but are available to Members and CNMs without specific approval and may be placed on the CCSBT Data CD and on the private area of the CCSBT web site. Under certain defined conditions these data may also be shared with other RFMOs

It is envisaged that the Secretariat would load exchanged ERS data to a special section of the private area of the web site titled "ERSWG Data Exchange" that Members and CNMs can access.

[7] It may be useful to have a longer time-series of data, but there will almost certainly be problems in the first data submission so it makes sense to keep the initial time-series short while these problems are "ironed-out". Discussion on whether or not a longer time-series is necessary could take place at an ERSWG meeting after the initial data submission.

[8] For data required as part of the CCSBT Management Procedure, the ESC decided that these data should be provided every year despite these data only being required every third year. This was to ensure that the skills and knowledge required to provide the necessary data were retained and so that there would be very few problems in provision of that data when required. This has proved to be a successful strategy for the ESC that makes equally good sense for an ERS Data Exchange.

Attachment A

Proposed Format for Providing Data for the ERSWG Data Exchange

The information should be provided in electronic form in two separate tables (e.g. 2 MS-Excel spreadsheets) as described below. The common columns in the two tables are highlighted in yellow.

Table 1: Total fishing and observed effort per country, year, fishery and strata.

Country / Fishing Entity[9]	Calendar Year	Quarter	Fishery		Human Observer / EM[10]	Area[11]		Total & Observed Effort		Proportion of observed effort with specific mitigation measures								
			Gear Code[12]	Fleet Code[13]		Longitude	Latitude	Total Effort[5]	Total Observed Effort[5]	TP + NS[14]	TP + WB[14]	NS + WB[14]	TP + WB + NS[14]	TP[14]	NS[14]	WB[14]	NIL[14]	Others (add additional columns if required)

Table 2: Observed and estimated captures/mortalities for each species, by country, year, fishery and strata.

Country / Fishing Entity[9]	Calendar Year	Quarter	Fishery		Human Observer / EM[10]	Area[11]		Species Code *(or group code)*[3]	Species Scientific Name or Species Group Name	Observed Captures			
										Fate (numbers)			
			Gear Code[12]	Fleet Code[13]		Longitude	Latitude			Retained (dead)	Discarded (dead)	Released (live)	Other[15]

[9] Use the two digit country code (e.g. AU, EU, ID, JP, KR, NZ, TW and ZA).
[10] Use codes OBS = human observer, EM = Electronic monitoring. The ERSWG recognised that there was no agreement that EM replace the requirement for 10% observer coverage, and that the proposed inclusion of the option to report on EM results was not intended to imply any such agreement but only to clarify the source of any data that were reported
[11] Provide top left coordinates of 5x5 degree square. Use and integer format with a minus sign for south latitudes and west longitudes, e.g. -120, -35.
[12] Use the gear codes described in the CCSBT CDS Resolution (e.g. "LL" for longline, "PS" for purse seine, "TROL" for troll, etc.).
[13] In most cases, this is just the two digit country code, followed by "D" for domestic for the domestic fleet (e.g. AUD, IDD, JPD, KRD, NZD, TWD, ZAD and PHD). In some cases, the final letter is different, such as for the New Zealand Charter Fleet, which has the code "NZC". Contact the Secretariat if in doubt.
[14] TP = tori poles, NS = night setting, WB = weighted branchline, NIL = no mitigation measures used.
[15] All other captures not included in the columns for Retained (dead), Discarded (dead), and Released (live), e.g. released with undetermined life status.

Table 3: Minimum taxonomic level at which information should be reported in Table 2 (providing that such taxonomic detail is available)[16]. Information should be provided to species level where this is practical. Reporting of any of the following species and/or groups within table 2 should include an appropriate stratification of the data.

Species/Species Group	Comments
Sharks	
Blue Shark	
Shortfin Mako Shark	
Porbeagle	
Other sharks	
Turtles	For sea turtles, the number of species is small (approximately 7), so it is feasible to report data by stratum for each species.
Species specific	*Data should be provided separately for each species*
Seabirds	For seabirds, there are a large number of species, and it is often difficult to separately identify species by pictures only. Reporting of seabird data by species would contain identification errors.
Large albatrosses	*Including: Wandering, Tristan, Gibson's, Antipodean, Southern Royal, and Northern Royal*
Dark coloured albatrosses	*Including: Sooty and Light-mantled*
Other albatrosses	*Including: Black-browed, Campbell, Grey-headed, Atlantic yellow-nosed, Indian yellow-nosed, Buller's, Shy, Salvin's, Chatham and White-capped*
Petrels	*Including: Giant petrels, White-chinned petrel, Grey petrel, Flesh-footed shearwater etc.*
Other seabirds	*Including: Skua etc.*
Marine mammals	For marine mammals, there are a large number of species, and it is often difficult to separately identify species by pictures only. Reporting of marine mammal data by species (except Orca/Killer whale) would contain identification errors.
Mysticeti	Including: blue whales, fin whales, right whales, pygmy right whales, etc.
Physeteroidea	Including: Sperm whale, Pygmy sperm whale, Dwarf sperm whale
Ziphiidae	Including: Beaked whales
Delphinidae	Including: Oceanic dolphins such as Common dolphin, Bottlenose dolphin, False killer whale, Pilot whale, etc.
Phocoenidae	Including: Porpoises
Other cetaceans	Including: Other or unidentified cetaceans
Phocidae	Including: True seals such as elephant seals
Otariidae	Including: Sea lions and fur seals such as New Zealand fur seal, South African fur seal, etc.
Other pinnipeds	Including: Other or unidentified pinnipeds
Orca/Killer whale	

[16] The minimum taxonomic level will be subject to improvement (become more species specific) in future. Furthermore the ERSWG might recommend specific species to be reported based on risk assessments or based on advice it may seek from organisations with the necessary expertise.