

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

Report of the Fourth Annual Meeting First Part

**8 – 13 September 1997
Canberra, Australia**

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The representatives of the Governments of Australia, Japan and New Zealand convened the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT4) from 8 to 13 September 1997.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting

1.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for CCSBT4

The Secretariat noted that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission had been elected immediately prior to the conclusion of the resumed third annual meeting. However, New Zealand had since advised that the Chair had fallen vacant. In accordance with Rule 4 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, New Zealand had selected Mr Royce Elliott as Chair. New Zealand's nomination was approved by the Commission. The Vice Chair for the meeting was Mr Yasuo Takase (Japan), as elected at the resumed third annual meeting.

1.2 Welcoming Address

The Chair welcomed delegates from Australia, Japan and New Zealand, and observers from the Republic of Korea and Taiwan. Mr Hermes from Australia was identified as the observer from the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). Mr Morishita from Japan was identified as the observer from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda

The agreed agenda and list of participants are at **Attachments A** and **B**, respectively.

1.4 Appointment of Rapporteurs

Rapporteurs were appointed as follows: for Australia, Mr Barrington and Ms Wallace, for Japan, Mr Komatsu and Mr Morishita, and for New Zealand, Ms Futschek and Ms Robinson.

A list of documents tabled at the meeting is shown as **Attachment C**.

Agenda Item 2: Opening Statements

2.1 Australia

Australia's opening statement is included in full at **Attachment D**.

2.2 Japan

Japan presented an oral summary of its opening statement, which is included in full at **Attachment E**.

2.3 New Zealand

New Zealand presented an oral summary of its opening statement, which is included in full at **Attachment F**.

2.4 Other States and Entities

2.4.1 The Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea's oral summary of its opening statement is included at **Attachment G**.

2.4.2 Taiwan

The representative from Taiwan thanked the CCSBT for the invitation to attend CCSBT4 as an observer. He hoped that this meeting would have excellent outcomes; he thought it very important for the Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan to join next year's Commission meeting as members.

2.4.3 Indonesia

The Members expressed disappointment that Indonesia had been unable to send an observer to the meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Application by Greenpeace International for Independent Observer Status at CCSBT Meetings

The Executive Secretary advised that the Commission had received a request for an invitation for Greenpeace International to attend the fourth annual Commission meeting as an observer. However, Japan had not supported the application. In accordance with Rule 3.5 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the Commission considered the objection at this meeting.

Japan stated that it did not support the application because Greenpeace was known to use radical methods to achieve its goals and to act against the provisions and spirit of the Convention. Japan stated that in light of the Commission's objective to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna, it would be inappropriate to assign observer status to Greenpeace.

New Zealand noted the clear movement to ensure transparency in international fora through the participation of observers. New Zealand was firmly of the view that the Commission's proceedings should also be transparent. It stated there were good reasons to facilitate observation of the meeting by non-government organisations (NGOs) with a legitimate interest in the management of SBT. Active exclusion of outside parties

inevitably led to mistrust. From its experience in domestic fora, New Zealand believed that the participation of groups with an interest in the fishery led to a clearer understandings of the issues by all parties. New Zealand stated that it would continue to support the involvement of Greenpeace as an observer at the Commission meetings.

Australia associated itself with the comments by New Zealand and affirmed its support for transparency in the Commission's dealings through the involvement of both industry and environmental NGOs.

The Chair noted that observers can only participate in Commission meetings if the Commission offered an explicit invitation to attend. In the absence of consensus within the Commission about extending such an invitation to Greenpeace, the chair concluded that Greenpeace could not be invited to the meeting. The Commission noted Australia's concerns that such a rejection should not be seen as establishing a precedent for future applications for observer status by NGOs.

Agenda Item 4: Report from the Secretariat

The Executive Secretary introduced the Report of the Secretariat (**Attachment H**) which summarised the Secretariat's activities since the last Commission meeting. The Commission noted the Report, thanked the Secretariat for its work, expressed its appreciation for the presentation and usefulness of the report.

Agenda Item 5: Report from the Finance and Administration Committee

Mr Iino (Japan) was elected as Chair of the Standing Committee for Finance and Administration. The Committee adopted an agenda for the Committee meeting (Attachment I) and considered the following papers:

- Report from the Secretary (CCSBT/9709/5);
- Proposed Procedure to Finalise and Adopt the Japanese Version of Reports (CCSBT/9709/6);
- Revised Budget for 1997 (CCSBT/9709/7);
- Draft Budget for 1998 (CCSBT/9709/8).

The Committee Chair presented a report to the Commission which was adopted. The report of the Committee is at **Attachment I**. It included a revised budget for 1997 (**Attachment J**).

The Executive Secretary spoke to the Secretariat's paper CCSBT/9709/8. The Committee gave qualified endorsement of the draft budget for 1998, noting that a revised budget may need to be prepared depending on the outcome of decisions by the Commission on data management, costs of meetings outside Canberra, and 1998 work plan. The Finance and Administration Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised 1998 budget for consideration intersessionally or at any resumed Commission meeting in 1997 once decisions had been made on these three items.

Agenda Item 6: Compliance Issues

6.1 Terms of Reference for the Compliance Committee

The Commission adopted the draft terms of reference (TOR) for the Compliance Committee (**Attachment K**). The Commission agreed that the Committee would hold its first meeting in conjunction with CCSBT5.

6.2 Implementation of Article 8(9) of the Convention, Monitoring

The Commission agreed to defer this matter to the first meeting of the Compliance Committee which will be held in conjunction with CCSBT5.

Agenda Item 7: Review of SBT Fisheries

The Commission considered the Review of SBT Fisheries reports prepared by Australia (CCSBT/9709/11) (**Attachment L**), Japan (CCSBT/9709/12) (**Attachment M**), New Zealand (CCSBT/9709/13) (**Attachment N**) and Taiwan (CCSBT/9709/27) (**Attachment O**) and an oral presentation by the Republic of Korea.

The Commission asked that observers from Taiwan and the Republic of Korea present information about their respective fisheries in the same written format used by Commission Parties.

The Commission adopted a proforma for the preparation of the Review of SBT Fisheries. The Commission asked the Secretariat to seek information from non-members using the pro-forma for subsequent meetings.

Australia requested that Japan advise of details of actual catch in its report, as well as planned catch. Australia reiterated its request for clarification of how Japan arrived at a figure of 55 per cent survival rate for non-retained SBT and the level of non-retained catch in 1995 that Japan stated it would supply at CCSBT3. Australia queried what was Japan's policy in relation to non-retention for 1997 and what was the magnitude (in tonnes) of the non-retained catch in 1996. Australia also sought feedback from Japan on the arrangements that had been developed to strengthen compliance, following the issues that arose in 1996.

Japan advised that the provisional catches by area for the calendar year 1996 were as outlined below:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Provisional Catch (tonnes)</u>
eastern AFZ	73
high seas off Tasmania	341
high seas off eastern AFZ	874
high seas off South Africa	2,590
high seas on the Indian Ocean	1,831
other (research vessel catch, by catch after <u>season and fishing in other areas</u>)	minor
<u>Total</u>	<u>6,012</u>

Japan reported that, as of 1997, Japan no longer had a policy of releasing small SBT. Japan agreed to respond in detail to the remaining Australian queries out of session.

New Zealand noted that the three members have their own observer programs. It considered there would be benefits for the Commission, if the members harmonised their respective observer programs in regard to SBT. This would include collaboration about issues such as determining the nature and extent of information to be collected and appropriate levels of observer coverage for stock assessment purposes.

Japan noted that it has a statistically appropriate level of observer coverage and it believed its current level of observer coverage was sufficient. It reported that data collected under the Real Time Monitoring Program (RTMP) had been extended to all Japanese vessels taking SBT. Japan stated that rather than examining the level of observer coverage, the value of the current observer data should be appreciated in the light of overall information provided and its value to the Scientific Committee.

Japan reported that import statistics from the Ministry of Finance, indicated that when the conversion factor of 1.15 was applied to the 1996 SBT import statistics from Taiwan, Taiwan had exceeded its voluntary catch limit of 1,450 t. Taiwan reported that a vessel had caught 110 t of SBT in December 1995 which was not landed until January 1996, resulting in the apparent overcatch of the 1,450 t catch limit for 1996.

Taiwan reported that most fishing for SBT occurred on the high seas in the Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean off southern Africa, and these vessels are required to report catches of SBT. The representative has been unable to confirm as yet through interviews with fishing vessel masters whether the Atlantic Ocean catch was SBT or northern bluefin tuna (NBT). While most catch of SBT was as a by-catch, 16 of the 145 fishing vessels had caught more than 10 t of SBT during 1996. The Taiwanese authorities monitored the catch and once 1,450 t had been caught, fishers were required to return SBT to the ocean.

New Zealand expressed concern at the use of such a practice as a mechanism to limit total catch.

Japan refuted the assertion that the Taiwanese fleet fished in areas where SBT would only be taken as a bycatch. The fishing areas identified in the Taiwanese report were largely south of other tuna fishing grounds and were, in fact, at latitudes where SBT was a target species.

The Republic of Korea reported that Korean fishing for SBT had begun in the early 1990s with annual catches varying by year, season, and vessel numbers. Korean longliners targeting yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna, had moved progressively into the SBT grounds. In recent years fishing for SBT occurred during most of the year. From 1992 the catch of SBT had increased such that in 1996, eight Korean longliners caught 1,179 t of SBT (around 147 t of SBT per vessel). To June 1997, thirteen Korean longliners had caught 886 t of SBT in an area of operation which now extended from south west Australia to the south east Atlantic. Of the Korean SBT catch 70 to 80 per cent was exported to Japan, with the remainder consumed domestically. The level of

domestic consumption of SBT was increasing. Within the ICCAT area Statistical Document Forms were completed for all northern bluefin tuna (NBT) catch.

Each member sought clarification on some of the points raised in other members' reports or presentations. Members agreed to respond to each other's queries in a timely manner. A response from Australia to questions from Japan was tabled at the meeting (**Attachment P**).

Agenda Item 8: Relationship with Other Parties

8.1; 8.2 The Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan; Other Parties

The Commission agreed on the need for urgent action to facilitate the accession of the Republic of Korea and Indonesia to the CCSBT and to secure Taiwan's cooperation. The catch of these non-members had risen rapidly over the past few years to the point where it threatened the recovery of the SBT stock. Such action is contrary to their international obligations to cooperate in conservation and management of the SBT stock.

The Commission also noted the increasing number of other non-members fishing for SBT. All members expressed their concern at this trend and recognised the need to collect more information and to facilitate accession to the CCSBT or cooperation of non-members.

The Commission had substantial discussions in relation to concerns over non-member catch of SBT, the need for non-members to accede to the Convention or apply its conservation and management measures, and the need for non-members to immediately reduce the level of fishing for SBT. Resolution on this matter was deferred to the Resumed Fourth Annual Meeting.

8.3 Reports from Meetings of Relevant Fisheries Management Organisations

Australia reported that the IOTC at its last meeting had recognised the CCSBT as having primary responsibility for the management of SBT. Australia undertook to circulate the text of the relevant meeting to New Zealand and Japan.

8.4 Relevant Organisations and International Instruments

The Executive Secretary introduced the paper Relationship with Other Parties - Relevant Organisations and International Instruments (CCSBT/9709/16) which set out proposals for establishing relationships between the CCSBT and other international organisations and compliance with international instruments.

Australia and New Zealand asked that the Secretariat prepare a detailed analysis of provisions in the UNIA, as the Agreement is of direct relevance to the Commission. Japan requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper on the timing and appropriateness of establishing collaborative management arrangements with relevant international organisations and arrangements that purported competence over SBT.

The Commission noted and thanked the Secretariat for preparing the paper and agreed

to provide written comments out of session. The Secretariat was asked to complete the tasks identified by the members and report intersessionally.

8.5 FAO - Co-ordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics

After considering a report from the Secretariat (CCSBT/9709/17), the Commission recognised the general merits for CCSBT to cooperate with the FAO Coordinating Working Party (CWP) on Fishery Statistics. Recognising the importance of cooperating with the CWP, Japan supported the recommendation by the Secretariat that the CCSBT join the CWP. While the Commission agreed that the Secretariat should initiate steps necessary to apply for membership of the CWP, Australia and New Zealand asked the Secretariat to provide additional information to members about the responsibilities and obligations of a member, noting that the level of involvement should be determined by the Commission in light of budgetary and other priorities.

8.6 IGOs Attendance at Scientific Committee Meetings

Japan stated that it had submitted an interpretation of Article 14 of the Convention in relation to IGO attendance at Scientific Committee meetings to the Commission Secretariat out of session. Japan considered that while a strict interpretation of the Convention precluded IGOs from being invited to participate at Scientific Committee meetings, other options for inviting participation should be developed out of session.

New Zealand noted Japan's position, but considered that in the absence of agreed Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee, the Commission's Rules of Procedure would apply. Rule 3(1) of these provide with the consensus of the parties for the attendance of IGOs. Australia considered that the Commission should be able to invite relevant IGOs to attend Scientific Committee meetings as such participation provided tangible benefits. The Commission recognised and agreed that there were benefits in inviting relevant IGOs to meetings of the Scientific Committee and agreed to consider inviting them to the 1998 Scientific Committee Meeting, using a mechanism acceptable to all the members.

Agenda Item 9: Trade Issues for Southern Bluefin Tuna

9.1 Certification of Trade in Southern Bluefin Tuna

Australia strongly supported the immediate introduction of a statistical document program to provide accurate information on the origin and volume of SBT entering international trade. Australia indicated that there were good international precedents, and advocated a scheme along the lines already implemented by ICCAT.

Australia proposed that a certification scheme be devised by 30 November 1997 and implemented by 1 March 1999 as a necessary part of a coordinated approach to documenting and controlling rapidly expanding non-member catch.

The Commission noted that more detailed SBT trade information was a key issue to be addressed.

Australia and New Zealand stressed that the development of a trade certification scheme would be a decisive action in the face of the dramatic increases of non-member SBT catch. The members made a strong commitment to intersessional work, with the objective of evaluating such a scheme as soon as practicable.

Agenda Item 10: Scientific Committee Meeting

10.1 Report from the Scientific Committee

Dr. Annala, Chair of the Third Meeting of the Scientific Committee (Canberra, 28 July to 8 August 1997) provided a summary of the outcomes contained in the Report of the Meeting (CCSBT/9709/Rep 2) (**Attachment Q**) and some personal comments on the Scientific Committee process (**Attachment R**).

The Commission thanked Dr. Annala for his contribution to the work of the Scientific Committee and acknowledged the work of the external scientists. The heads of the scientific delegations provided statements about this year's Scientific Committee meeting (**Attachment S**). The members agreed to respond intersessionally to queries raised in this session.

Commission scientists present at the Annual Meeting met informally during the meeting to develop a work plan for the Scientific Committee for 1997/98 (**Attachment T**). Australia and New Zealand sought the approval of the Commission to adopt the report. Japan did not support the proposed approach, because it considered there had not been sufficient time to discuss it. The Commission noted the report and deferred further consideration until the Resumed Fourth Annual Meeting.

10.2 Report from the Ecologically Related Species Working Group

The Chair invited Australia as chair of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) to provide a summary of the Second Meeting of the Working Group (CCSBT/9709/Rep 2). The Commission agreed to adopt the recommendations in **Attachment U**.

New Zealand noted that the 1997 Scientific Committee recognised the necessity for improving the effectiveness of the ERSWG by strengthening its capacity for technical evaluations of information. New Zealand asked that the parties give serious consideration to this issue and endeavour to complete work on the draft technical papers, with the objective of allowing consideration of final versions of those papers at CCSBT5.

10.3 Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee

The Commission noted the Draft Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee (CCSBT/9709/19). The Members agreed to exchange comments intersessionally on the revised draft.

The Commission also agreed that the Scientific Committee should continue implementing the procedures and approaches developed at the Scientific Process

Workshop at Coogee in May 1997, noting that these had already contributed to improved effectiveness at the 1997 Scientific Committee meeting.

Agenda Item 11: Review of Scientific Process Workshop

11.1 Late Data

The Commission agreed that the provision of late data was a serious issue and acknowledged that data required for feeding into the scientific process were consistently late. The scientists had suggested lack of time as being one reason for not reaching conclusions in the Scientific Committee. The Commission urged the members to ensure the Scientists had the data in time to complete the assessments with which the Commission had tasked them. New Zealand considered that one response to late data was to defer the time table accordingly. This would ensure that the Scientists had adequate time to complete their analysis following receipt of the data. It was agreed that the Secretariat would forward communications to those providing their data late.

11.2 Two Year Stock Assessment Cycle

The Commission agreed that a stock assessment should be conducted every year for the time being. Japan noted that there are some instances where a two-year stock assessment is adopted in other international organisations, but in each case the condition of the stock was stable. Australia and New Zealand agreed that a two-year stock assessment cycle might be a possibility within the context of a well defined management strategy for the future, noting that such a two-year cycle was inconsistent with Article 9(3) of the Convention.

11.3 Fine Scale Data

Australia acknowledged the cooperative access already provided for Australian scientists to fine scale data in Japan. Australia explained the desirability of the members making the fine scale data more easily accessible to the members' scientists, as the current arrangements constrain the analyses that can be completed. Australia suggested that a possible compromise solution would be the exchange of data at the level of 1 degree squares. However, Japan felt there was insufficient basis to support this point and that provision of 1 degree square data could infringe on the confidentiality of commercial/private data. Japan also believed cooperation from industry might be difficult to obtain. New Zealand supported Australia's views, and noted there was a need to develop mechanisms to expeditiously and practically exchange fine scale data between members.

New Zealand strongly supported continued and improved provision of fine scale data, and this would go some way to improving scientific results. New Zealand added that if there were a good intent there were ways to overcome commercial confidentiality issues.

11.4 Other Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

**Agenda Item 12: Role of Secretariat in Data Management
(including Implementation of Article 8(1) of the Convention, Data Collection)**

The Commission accepted that there was a role for the Secretariat to maintain data for the purposes of information exchange with other organisations and providing information to the public.

It was agreed that the nature, scale and format for the data and arrangements for its maintenance would be developed in close consultation with scientists from member countries. A draft data base format to be maintained by the Secretariat was prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with Japan (**Attachment V**). Australia and New Zealand expressed concerns about the scope, scale and cost of the proposed data base, and potential duplication with the Scientific Committee. The Commission agreed that the members would provide comments on the draft intersessionally.

Agenda Item 13: Proposal for an Experimental Fishing Program

New Zealand noted that Steps 1 & 2 of the process to evaluate experimental fishing were to identify and narrow the range of uncertainty in the stock assessment as much as possible; assign objective weightings to those uncertainties; and determine the risk which catch in addition to 11,750 t would pose to the recovery of the stock. This work has not been completed. Although it is important to take steps to resolve uncertainty, the Commission could not evaluate the risks and benefits of resolving uncertainties in CPUE associated with implementing experimental fishing, particularly in comparison with resolution of other sources of uncertainty. New Zealand considered that there are serious risks associated with increased catch levels and it would be irresponsible to implement an Experimental Fishing Program (EFP) at this time.

Japan expressed its regrets that the Third Scientific Committee meeting could not fulfill its mission of completing Steps 1 & 2. It also noted the lack of progress on the issue of an Experimental Fishing Program (EFP) (CCSBT/9709/22) since the proposal was first made in 1995. Japan emphasized the need to implement the EFP as soon as possible, because the EFP would, in its view, definitely contribute to the resolution of one of the major uncertainties, i.e. CPUE hypothesis, and presents, logically, no risk to the recovery of the SBT stock under the proposed pay-back system. Japan also presented a new analysis that if the EFP can rule out the Variable Square hypothesis, the model projections for recovery of the stock to 1980 levels would be improved as follows;

	Including Variable Square hypothesis %	Excluding Variable Square hypothesis %
Aust.	46	65
Japan	77	86
NZ	37	81

Australia pointed out that it was inappropriate for Japan to be presenting projections which other delegations and the Scientific Committee had not had the opportunity to

consider. Australia considered that, given the current stock status and prospects for recovery, the risks associated with experimental fishing were too great and therefore Australia did not support Japan's proposal to implement a pilot experimental fishing program.

Agenda Item 14: Total Allowable Catch and Quota Allocation

Japan renewed its proposal to increase the TAC by 3,000 t or more, referring to the high stock recovery probabilities of more than 60 per cent by the Japanese VPA analysis, using both Japanese and Australian weightings. Japan also stressed that managers should not use uncertainties or a lack of perfect information as an excuse for not making decisions, based on the currently available information, because the available information provides a basis for making a decision.

New Zealand noted the depleted status of the stock and, as estimated by New Zealand and Australia, the low probability of stock recovery to the 1980 level of parental biomass by the year 2020. Several other factors concerned New Zealand including the high exploitation rate on recruiting year classes, the sharp increase in non-member catch and the optimistic bias of projections undertaken to date. Given the status of the stock and the uncertainty in the stock assessment, New Zealand urged the Commission to give serious consideration to the application of conservation measures to better ensure the recovery of the stock. New Zealand considered that this could only be achieved through a reduction to the current TAC of 11,750 t and the adoption of urgent steps to restrain non-member catch. New Zealand considers such action would be in line with the precautionary approach specified in Articles 5 and 6 of UNIA. These articles specify that "States shall be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate. The absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures."

Australia considered that the SBT stock remained in a severely depleted condition and noted the 1996 Scientific Committee Report stated that the parental biomass was only 8 per cent or lower, when compared with the 1960 parental biomass. The recent rapid increase in non-member catches of SBT, meant that Australian assessment of the probability of the recovery of the stock to 1980 levels by 2020 had further declined. Australia therefore strongly favoured a precautionary approach in setting the global TAC.

This item generated considerable debate but has yet to be concluded.

Australia expressed its concern that it would soon set its national SBT quota allocation for 1997-98. In the absence of a global TAC for SBT, Australia confirmed that it would restrain its SBT catch to a level no higher than that agreed for Australia in 1996-97 by the Commission. New Zealand stated that, it would restrain its catch in 1997/98 to the 1996-97 national catch allocations under the global TAC. New Zealand was strongly of the view that this was the only responsible action to take, in the absence of a global TAC for 1997-98.

Japan was of the view that the decisions of both Australia and New Zealand on voluntary catch restrictions should reflect their respective views on stock status.

Agenda Item 15: Future Quota Allocation Mechanism

Japan commented on the paper 'A Future Quota Allocation Mechanism for Parties in accordance with the Provisions of the Convention (CCSBT/9709/23)'. The proposal sought to review the national allocations of SBT to Members in light of the entry into force of the Convention and to see whether the current allocation mechanism, which was established before the Convention came into force, was appropriate. Japan stated that the paper proposed amended shares for the Members' national SBT allocations, based on six factors, outlined in the paper. A calculation of the allocations, using the six factors was completed and the results are included in the paper.

Australia and New Zealand did not support Japan's interpretation of criteria described in Article 8(4) of the Convention or the weightings used by Japan. They stated that at this time, Commission efforts should focus on priority issues such as non-members and certification of SBT trade. New Zealand noted that the proposed criteria did not take into account the current mechanism for future quota allocation. In reply, Japan sought a detailed response from New Zealand and Australia on their concerns in relation to the Japanese weightings and factors and a commitment to a serious discussion on this matter at some stage.

The Commission agreed to consider this matter in the future, but that it be set aside in the interim to allow the Commission to focus on other significant priorities.

Agenda Item 16: Conversion Factors

In 1996 the Scientific Committee advised that the historically applied conversion factor of 1.15 was unsatisfactory over all areas. New Zealand and Australia believe that the Scientific Committee concluded at their 1996 meeting that the most reasonable global conversion relationship was:

$$\text{whole weight} = (1.155 * \text{processed weight}) + 1.39$$

New Zealand and Australia considered that the 1996 Scientific Committee had identified an appropriate global conversion factor. However, the Commission decided that the management implications, including those relating to the TAC and allocations, meant the Commission deferred consideration of changing the conversion factor at this time.

Japan stated that the report of the Scientific Committee does record differences of opinion on an appropriate conversion factor. Japan noted that the proposed conversion factor, if and when it were to be used, would necessitate an increase in the national SBT allocations since the current stock assessments are conducted on the basis of number of fish, not weight.

Australia and New Zealand understood that the Scientific Committee had undertaken considerable work on this matter and were reluctant to return it to that forum for further consideration. However, they acknowledged the link identified by Japan between the conversion factors and the Commission's global SBT TAC and national allocations.

Agenda Item 17: Confidentiality of Commission Documents

Japan thanked the Secretariat for the revised paper [Confidentiality of Commission Documents (CCSBT/9709/24 Rev1)] that took into account discussion on the matter in previous Commission meetings. It considered that the paper should be edited to ensure that it clearly stated that the reports of Subsidiary Committees would only become public after the adoption of the relevant Commission meeting report.

The Secretariat agreed to amend the text accordingly, and suggested a minor amendment such that Subsidiary Committee reports would be available once the Commission meeting report had been adopted.

Members undertook to provide comments on matters they had identified in relation to the paper to the Secretariat out of session.

The Commission agreed to the Secretariat preparing a revised paper out of session.

Agenda Item 18: CCSBT Management Strategy

The Commission noted that at CCSBT3 it would convene the Management Strategy workshop, at a venue (to be decided) from 27 - 30 October 1997. Papers to be considered at the workshop include: SBT Management Arrangements 1997 (CCSBT/9709/26) and the Draft Management Strategy prepared by Australia (Version February 1997) (CCSBT/9709/27).

Agenda Item 19: Program of Work for 1997-98

The Commission agreed to an Australian request that meetings of the Scientific Committee would be held at least five weeks prior to meetings of the Commission, in order to meet Australian Ministerial briefing requirements.

The Commission prepared a draft Program of Work for 1997-98 (**Attachment W**) to be considered at the resumed Fourth Annual Commission Meeting.

New Zealand advised that as the next meeting would be a resumed meeting, New Zealand would retain the Chair, and it is highly likely that the meeting would be convened in Canberra because it would be required to meet the additional cost of the meeting in New Zealand.

Agenda Item 20: Other Business

There was no other business.

Agenda Item 21: Close of the Meeting

21.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 1997-98

The meeting did not close, therefore the elections did not occur.

21.2 Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

The meeting approved and adopted the report of the meeting.

21.3 Closure of the Meeting

The Commission acknowledged the excellent work of the Chair during the course of the meeting. All delegations acknowledged the interpreters and the Secretariat for their hard work.

New Zealand acknowledged the Secretariat especially Ms Maree Tuohy who would be leaving the Commission shortly. New Zealand regrets the lack of progress on many of the key issues at this meeting. In particular, New Zealand noted the disparate positions in the Commission on key issues such as accession or cooperation of non-members, the setting of a global TAC and consideration of observer status of non-government organisations in Commission meetings. At CCSBT4 the members developed a Communique calling for the immediate accession or cooperation of non-members and substantial reductions of their SBT catch. For its part, New Zealand pressed strongly for the Communique to be released and passed directly to non-members at CCSBT4 and to finalise plans for demarches to non-members to negotiate accession or cooperation. Given the lack of progress in this and other key areas, New Zealand looked forward to resolving those issues at the reconvened meeting, which should be held as soon as practicable.

Australia recorded its great disappointment at the lack of progress on the resolution of the core issues of quotas, accession of non-members and certification. It regarded these matters as crucial to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of the SBT fishery and the integrity of the Commission and committed itself to work with the other members to resolve these issues at the resumed meeting.

The Japanese delegation joined the other members in thanking the Chairman, the observers from Taiwan and the Republic of Korea for their patience, and the interpreters for their hard work. Japan asked the observers to commit themselves to attending subsequent meetings of the Commission and to the early accession to the Convention or cooperation with the conservation and management measures of the Commission. Japan regretted that the meeting had not been able to finalise the TAC, review of national allocations, EFP to contribute for resolving uncertainty of the SBT stock assessment and early accession or cooperation of non-members. Japan hoped that the meeting would resume as early as possible and be able to finalise the outstanding work.

The Commission agreed to adjourn the meeting. The Commission agreed that the agenda of Resumed CCSBT4 would comprise unresolved agenda items from CCSBR4(1). These were:

Non-members;
Trade information issues;
Total Allowable Catch and national allocations;
Proposal for an experimental fishing program;
Work program; and
1998 Budget.

The Commission agreed CCSBT4 should be resumed as soon as possible.

Royce Elliott
Chair
14/9/1997

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AGENDA

8 September 1997

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 - 1.4 Appointment of Rapporteurs

Meetings of Subsidiary Bodies:

- Finance and Administration
- Other Bodies

9 - 12 September 1997

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 - 2.2 New Zealand
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3. Application by Greenpeace International for Independent Observer Status at CCSBT Meetings
4. Report from the Secretariat
(including finalisation of the Japanese version of the report from the Resumed Third Annual Meeting - 18 - 22 February 1997)
5. Report from Finance and Administration Committee
6. Compliance Issues
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 - 6.2 Implementation of Article 8(9) of the Convention, Monitoring
7. Review of SBT Fisheries
8. Relationship with Other Parties
 - 8.1 Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan
 - 8.2 Other Non-Members
 - 8.3 Reports from Meetings of Relevant Fisheries Management Organisations
 - 8.4 Relevant Organisations and International Instruments
 - 8.5 FAO - Coordinating Working Party (CWP) on Fishery Statistics
 - 8.6 IGO's Attendance at Scientific Committee Meetings

9. Trade Issues for Southern Bluefin Tuna
 - 9.1 Certification of Trade in Southern Bluefin Tuna
10. Scientific Committee
 - 10.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
 - 10.2 Report from the Ecologically Related Species Working Group
 - 10.3 Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee
11. Review of Scientific Process Workshop - Discussion
 - 11.1 Late Data
 - 11.2 Two Year Stock Assessment
 - 11.3 Fine Scale Data
 - 11.4 Other Matters Arising
12. Role of Secretariat in Data Management
(including Implementation of Article 8(1) of the Convention, Data Collection)
13. Proposal for an Experimental Fishing Program
14. Total Allowable Catch and Quota Allocation
 - 14.1 Total Allowable Catch
 - 14.2 National Allocations
15. Future Quota Allocation Mechanism
16. Conversion Factors
17. Confidentiality of Commission Documents
18. CCSBT Management Strategy
19. Program of Work for 1997-98
20. Other Business

13 September

21. Close of the Meeting
 - 21.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 1997-98
 - 21.2 Adoption of the Report of the Meeting
 - 21.3 Closure of the Meeting

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List of Documents

CCSBT/9709/

- 1 Preliminary Agenda*
- 2 List of Participants
- 3 List of Documents
- 4 Greenpeace Application to be an observer at CCSBT
- 5 Report from the Secretariat
- 6 Proposed Procedure to Finalize and Adopt the Japanese Version of Reports
- 7 Proposed Amendment of the 1997 Budget
- 8 Draft Budget for 1998
- 9 Cost for the Meeting (in the case when the meeting is held out of Canberra)
- 10 CCSBT Revised Draft Terms of Reference for the Compliance Committee*
- 11 Overview of 1996/97 Australian SBT Season*
- 12 Review of SBT Fisheries - Japan*
- 13 Annual Review of New Zealand SBT Fisheries*
- 14 Relationship With Other Parties - Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan
- 15 Relationship With Other Non-Members
- 16 Relationship with Other Parties - relevant Organizations and International Instruments
- 17 The Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics
- 18 IGO's Attendance at Scientific Committee Meetings
- 19 Draft Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee*
- 20 Review of the Scientific Process Workshop
- 21 Role of Secretariat in Data Management
- 22 Joint Pilot Plan for Experimental Fishing Program for SBT (presented to the resumed third meeting of the Commission)
- 23 A Future Quota Allocation Mechanism for Parties in accordance with the Provisions of the Convention*
- 24 Confidentiality of Commission Documents
- 25 Draft Management Strategy for Southern Bluefin Tuna prepared by Australia (presented to the resumed third annual meeting of the Commission)
- 26 Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Arrangement - 1997
- 27 Review of SBT Fisheries - Taiwan*

CCSBT/9709/OS-

Australia
Japan*
New Zealand
Taiwan
Korea

CCSBT/9709/Rep.

- 1 Report of the Scientific Process Workshop
- 2 Report of the Second Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group*
- 3 Report of the Third Scientific Committee Meeting*
- 4 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

Note:

* - Japanese version available

Opening Statement: CCSBT4
Australia

I would like to welcome all delegations to the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Commission.

Australia is convinced that urgent and decisive action is required at this meeting to secure recovery of SBT stocks and to achieve sustainable management of the Southern Bluefin Tuna fishery.

Australia is deeply concerned that the Commission's management efforts to halt the decline in SBT stocks and to build a stable framework for stock recovery are in jeopardy.

Some differences of view remain on aspects of the stock assessment, but on many basic points the scientists are in agreement. The SBT stock is depleted far below safe levels of parental biomass, and the expansion in unregulated catch outside the Commission regime is seriously prejudicing recovery of the SBT stock.

There is increasing and justified international scrutiny of both SBT stock status and environmental impacts in the global SBT fishery, such as seabird bycatch. This Commission has a strong mandate to deal with both issues and must be prepared to explore new mechanisms for securing a sustainable and environmentally responsible future for the SBT resource and the fishing industries which depend on it.

There are clear international standards and principles which need to be recognised and met by both members and observers at this Commission. The CCSBT Convention, the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks all demand cooperation amongst all those who fish for SBT.

New measures, such as the swift introduction of a scheme for certification of international trade in SBT, are vital to strengthen that cooperation and underpin responsible management action so as to secure sustainable and responsible use of global stocks of SBT.

Australia is committed to working closely with all delegations to use this week to deliver substantial, tangible improvements to our collective management of the Southern Bluefin Tuna fishery.

Attachment E

Opening Statement by Japan at the Fourth Annual Meeting of CCSBT

September 1997
Canberra

Mr. Chairman, Country Representatives, Observers,

At the outset of the 4th Annual Meeting of CCSBT, I would like to say a few words.

I am informed that Dr. Turner, who has guided us as the chair of the Commission meeting for the last few sessions, has been promoted to a new position. I would like to take this opportunity to praise the enormous contribution she made to CCSBT and at the same time express my deep appreciation. I would like to congratulate Mr. Elliott from New Zealand on the appointment as the new chair. I also wish to thank the Australian Government for making various arrangements to host this meeting. I wish to welcome Mr. Mae, who has assumed his duties as Deputy Executive Secretary from May this year. Mr. Mae's participation, together with the efforts made by Mr. McGregor, Executive Secretary, have strengthened the role of the Secretariat and made the smooth functioning of the duties possible. I also wish to welcome the observers from Korea, Taiwan, ICCAT and CCAMLR.

Now I would like to talk about Japan's basic position on some of the major issues facing this meeting.

Non-Party Issue

One of the major developments in SBT fishery since the last year's Commission Meeting in September, is the rapid expansion of SBT catch by non-parties. It is thought that the estimated annual catch of 2,000 to 2,500 tonnes by non-parties during 1989 to 1995 has suddenly increased to over 4,000 tonnes in 1996. This is a situation which can seriously impact on the SBT stock, which is finally starting to show a trend towards recovery. At the same time, this situation can potentially nullify all the efforts made by the contracting parties under years of stringent catch restriction measures, which we endured in the hope to rebuild the stock.

Therefore, Japan recognizes the early formulation of plans concerning non-parties and its fulfillment to be the most important issue facing this year's annual meeting. To be more specific, it is necessary to collect more accurate data on fishing activities by non-parties and to encourage them to accede to or co-operate with CCSBT. In order to achieve these goals, it is important to consider the effectiveness and outlines of a system, which enables us to collect more accurate fishing information through international trade, and to immediately start working on setting up direct negotiation opportunities with non-parties with an aim to facilitate their accession and co-operation.

In reference to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the United

Nations Implementation Agreement, it is prescribed that non-parties involved in SBT fishery are obliged to accede to CCSBT, which is the regional fisheries management organization, or co-operate with its conservation measures. Not only is this their obligation as members of the international community, but an important prerequisite to engage in SBT fishery.

I would like to repeat the previous statement that Japan recognizes the issue of non-parties as the most important issue at this Annual meeting. We are willing to co-operate with other parties and make all possible efforts to achieve this goal.

EFP, Scientific Committee

Moving on to the Experimental Fishing Program. Based on the agreement at the resumed meeting of the Third Annual Commission Meeting, held last February, this year's Scientific Committee Meeting did not conduct its usual stock assessment work, but instead, worked intensively on Step 1 and 2 of the EFP. The respective steps involved the identification of uncertainties in the stock assessment and narrowing down of their ranges with a view to conduct EFP and the evaluation on the impact of additional catch by EFP on stock recovery. Having dedicated the time to these tasks, there was substantial progress in the area of cross-verification of VPAs. However, at the last stage of the meeting, problems arose in working out the projections, and much to our regret, Step 2 could not be completed.

This development, however, made us feel even more strongly about the need to conduct EFP at an early timing. What I mean by this is, there are a number of uncertainties identified, and it is clear that EFP can most certainly provide new knowledge relevant to hypotheses on the interpretation of CPUEs, which is one of the more important issues. The Pilot Program which was submitted at the resumed Commission meeting included a pay-back system, and without extensive deliberations, it is apparent that the impact on stock recovery is negligible. Under such circumstances, we view CCSBT's inability to conduct an experimental fishing program as a serious concern over its responsibility as a regional fisheries management organization. In this light, we strongly hope to see constructive discussions on this matter at this meeting.

TAC

Since the Third Annual Commission Meeting, Japan has been proposing an increase in the Total Allowable Catch by 3,000 tonnes or more. Our nation's fishers have been operating under stringent catch restrictions over a prolonged period and the emerging trend of stock recovery, which is becoming clear in recent years, is the fruit of their efforts. Such efforts should be rewarded by an increase of the quota, and Japan will continue to seek an increase in the TAC at this year's meeting.

VPA

The Scientific Committee of CCSBT has been using VPAs in the stock assessment of SBT. Currently, VPAs discussed by scientists from Japan, Australia and New Zealand incorporate various parameters, and compared to VPAs used world-wide, they are fairly

complex. Because of this, problems associated with those VPA are also becoming apparent. In other words, in order to address various uncertainties in the stock assessment, models are becoming increasingly complicated, and slight modifications to certain parameters can change the entire picture of the stock, and errors are occurring frequently. In addition to this, looking from a layman's perspective, it appears that while there is a heavy reliance on computer programs, not enough time and energy are directed at collecting biological information and conducting research work. Furthermore, the effort by scientists over the year's to produce elaborate programs has not shown any definite outcomes. And to be honest, we do not feel very optimistic about the prospect of achieving something in the near future by continuing this path. Therefore, although the work on VPAs needs to be maintained, we believe that we have reached the point where we should consider a shift in the focus of the Scientific Committee which includes a change over to new methods of stock assessment. What is important here is that the outcomes of the deliberations of the Scientific Committee are derived from principles which can be comprehended by the non-scientific population of the society, and not from a black box. By making this proposal, I am not hinting at lowering the level of scientific discussions. It is based on the belief that, as a responsible regional management organization, it is our obligation to present our decisions in a manner which can be explained to and appreciated by the general public.

Increased attention from Environmental Groups

Lastly, as we can see from the recently published report by WWF and Traffic Oceania, as well as the application for the observer status from Green Peace International, the general public's interest in CCSBT's activities is increasing. Claims made by these groups are based solely on pessimistic information. We are concerned that not only do they fail to reflect CCSBT's views with fairness, but run the risk of creating misunderstanding and confusion within the society by stirring up excessive sense of crisis. Faced with this situation, Japan believes that CCSBT needs to demonstrate that we are a regional fisheries management organization which is functioning effectively. In this context, it is critical for us to swiftly achieve substantive progress on major issues I talked about earlier, which will, in turn, increase the credibility of our forum.

In concluding my opening remarks, I look forward to constructive discussions and many fruitful outcomes.

Thank you.

OPENING STATEMENT - NEW ZEALAND

- The New Zealand delegation appreciates the opportunity to meet and work with the delegations from Australia and Japan, and the staff of the Secretariat, at this, the fourth annual meeting of the Commission. In addition, we welcome representatives from Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan
- For the sake of brevity I will summarise New Zealand's country statement, but will provide a copy of the full statement for inclusion in the record.
- In recent years, meetings of the Commission have been difficult and protracted affairs as the parties sought to reconcile differences in approach. While progress has been made both within the Commission and in recent working group meetings, a number of outstanding issues remain. To resolve these issues, the Commission parties will need to listen carefully to the perspective of the other parties, and commit to cooperative work at this meeting and subsequently.
- Our primary management objective must be an improved stock status-even taking into account the different views, the parental biomass is severely depleted and there are risks for security of future harvests. We strongly advocate that the Commission needs to critically examine both its ability and obligations to respond to the scientific differences that exist and the resulting uncertainty. New Zealand is very of aware not only our own interests in retrieving the stock situation, but the increasing scrutiny applied by both international and domestic fora to the performance of the CCSBT.
- The hope of the New Zealand delegation is that all parties will build on the working relationship and understanding developed in recent meetings to constructively progress a number of matters, some of which are outlined below.

Non-Party Accession or Cooperation

- Non-party catches and their involvement in the Commission must be a high priority. The integrity and function of the Commission is compromised by the current situation. New Zealand remains extremely concerned about increasing SBT catch by Indonesia and the Republic of Korea. Such expansion is inappropriate given the catch restraints applied by Commission parties, in contrary to responsibilities under international law and ignores the perilous stock position. New Zealand is encouraged by Taiwan's statement in 1996 that Taiwan would restrain its catch level to no more than its 1995 level of catch (1 447 tonnes). We believe this is a useful step towards the development of a cooperative arrangement with the Commission. We strongly urge Indonesia and the Republic of Korea to work with the parties with a view to accession to the Convention as soon as is practical.

Status of the Stock

- New Zealand retains considerable concern about the status of the stock and the prospect of stock recovery in the future. The Scientific Committee has estimated that the parental stock is 25-38% of the 1980 level of parental biomass and 5-8% of the 1960 level of parental biomass. New Zealand scientists believe it is unlikely that the sequential increases in juveniles which we have observed in recent years will contribute to the parental stock because of the high exploitation rate applied to these year classes.
- Given this situation, New Zealand strongly advocates that the Commission consider adopting management action to enhance the probability of stock recovery. This can only be achieved through ensuring overall reductions in the take of SBT through restraint of catch taken by non-parties and Commission members.

Experimental Fishing

- The Commission undertook to consider experimental fishing at this meeting. This consideration was dependent on scientific work in advance of this meeting to be done to evaluate the risk which catch in addition to 11 750 tonnes would pose to the recovery of the stock. This work has not been completed.
- New Zealand considers that completion of the planned work is essential before the Commission further considers the implementation of experimental fishing with catch in addition to 11 750 tonnes. We question the priority of this issue relative to alternative pressing scientific and management issues. Given the disparity of view evident in the stock assessment, we fully support the continued efforts of the Scientific Committee to address uncertainty and more closely align the approaches taken by the respective parties.

Scientific Processes

- In August there was less procedural controversy in the Scientific Committee meeting than in recent years. Undoubtedly, the workshop on scientific processes contributed to that improvement. However, we have real concerns about the approach taken to what should be scientific and objective discussions.
- Different outputs and uncertainty in the stock assessment are only part of the difficulty. We need to change our approach and examine the process to move forward.
- In addition to a full stock assessment, the Commission needs to carefully consider work that can be undertaken in the coming year to collaboratively advance efforts to resolve uncertainty. Such work should be a high priority.
- However, fishery assessments will always have a degree of uncertainty. The Commission needs to carefully consider how it takes management decisions in the face of uncertainty and the lack of consensus in the Scientific Committee.

- New Zealand strongly advocates that the Commission apply the precautionary approach-to be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate, and that the absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.

Ecologically Related Species Working Group

- The June workshop on ecologically related species served to give direction to the work which the three parties can undertake collaboratively to address the issue of seabird captures in SBT longline operations. New Zealand strongly advocates that continued efforts are made to complete the work of the June workshop. In particular, the completion of the eight draft technical papers. A programme of work to allow that work to be done in a timely manner should be developed at this meeting.
- The working group developed a number of recommendations for the consideration of the Commission. New Zealand notes that the three parties now require the mandatory use of tori lines in their SBT fisheries. New Zealand suggests that the Commission adopt a conservation measure to reflect this action. We also strongly support that the Commission encourage all non-parties to adopt the mandatory use of tori poles during setting operations at least south of 30°S.
- We note that the Scientific Committee recognised the necessity for improving the effectiveness of the working group by strengthening its capacity for technical evaluations of information. Certainly, New Zealand hopes the Commission will also consider this issue at this meeting.

Fisheries Subsidies

- On a more generic matter, New Zealand remains concerned at the level of over-capacity, and associated subsidies, in world fisheries and the threat that this poses to the achievement of fisheries conservation and management. The issue continues to pose a real threat to the fulfilment of the management objectives of organisations such as the CCSBT's.
- New Zealand is please to see that progress on the issue of over-capacity is taking place and recognises the important contribution that Japan and the USA have made to progressing the establishment of a Technical FAO Working Group on the over-capacity issue.

- The New Zealand delegation looks forward to a productive week during which we can focus on priority areas with a view to be able to report real progress for our efforts.

Thank you.

Opening Statement - Republic of Korea

Thank you, Mr Chairman and distinguished delegates from the member countries and non member country.

On behalf of the Korea government, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mr Chairman and the member countries of CCSBT for inviting us to participate in the momentous conference as an observer.

In recent years, the effectuation of UNCLOS and the adoption of the Fish Stocks Agreement has made regional organisations play an important role for the conservation and management of marine living resources.

Therefore, we hope that CCSBT will become an exemplary fishery organisation for making efforts to promote common interest of relevant countries and to manage and conserve rationally southern bluefin tunas.

We are well aware that CCSBT has been strenuous to manage rationally southern bluefin tunas from the past. My country has also wanted to be a CCSBT member country to join this organisation. However, Korea can not have membership to CCSBT because the member countries of CCSBT have closed their door and they are not willing to open.

Member countries suggested a quota allocation formula for us to accede to CCSBT, but we think that the suggestion is unreasonable for a new entrant to join the organisation.

We are facing great difficulties because there is no conclusion between the government authorities and the business circles on the quota allocation model suggested by CCSBT.

Korea has considered the accession to CCSBT, if we can secure an appropriate quota which would amount to at least about 1,000 MT a year.

I would like to ask for your deep understanding and cooperation to ensure the fishing quota proposed by Korea through several channels.

Korea has a keen interest in tuna and tuna-like species, because tuna fisheries comprises an important portion in the fishing industry.

Korea has obtained memberships of many international fishery organisations for example IOTC, ICCAT, CCAMLR etc and has actively participated in conserving and managing fishery resources. Korea also has performed its duties and obligations sincerely as a member country. In particular, my country made a great contribution to the establishment of IOTC, as an international fishery organisation by depositing the tenth instrument of acceptance.

Korea, as one of the major fishing nations in the world, wants to cooperate with the CCSBT member countries for the purpose of making sustainable management for fishery resources.

Even though we are a non-member country, we have submitted scientific data such as CPUE, catches, etc which are necessary for managing southern bluefin tunas and have despatched Korean scientists to the scientific committee of CCSBT.

We also intend to have cooperation with the member countries, with the aspects of joining the rational conservation and utilisation of southern bluefin tunas.

Finally, I hope this conference will get a great success to be more cooperative between member countries and non-member countries.

Thank you

Report from the Secretariat

Purpose

1. To **submit** to the Commission a report on the activities of the Secretariat since its last meeting and **propose** an amendment to the report of the Resumed Third Annual Commission Meeting - 18 - 22 February 1997.

Amendment to Meeting Record

2. Page 3, Agenda Item 2, second last paragraph, amend "1996/97" to read "1997/98".

Summary Report of Secretariat Activities

3. A schedule of the program of major activities for the Secretariat has been prepared and distributed to members.
4. The schedule sets out the decisions and action arising from the Resumed Third Annual Meeting, the Scientific Process Workshop and issues outstanding from CCSBT3 (first session). Also included in the schedule is other agreed projects being undertaken by the Secretariat.
5. The following is a summary of the major activities of the Secretariat since the Resumed Third Annual Meeting:
 - (a) Mr Akihiro Mae, who was appointed as the Commission's Deputy Executive Secretary, commenced work with the Secretariat on 12 May.
 - (b) Financial Statements for 1996 were cleared by the Auditor and Audit recommendations implemented. These included the purchase of a computer to be dedicated to managing Email and Internet services.
 - (c) members of the Secretariat have organised arrangements for, and provided services for the following meetings/workshops:

Accession of Non-Parties Meeting	13 May 1997
Scientific Process Workshop	14 - 16 May 1997
Ecologically Related Species Working Group Meeting	3 - 6 June 1997
Informal Meeting of Canberra Based CCSBT Representatives	17 July 1997
Scientific Committee Meeting	28 July - 8 August 1997
 - (d) the Executive Secretary represented the Commission at the 17th Meeting of the FAO - Coordinating Working Party (CWP) on Statistics, held in Hobart from 3-7 March 1997. A report from the Executive Secretary on the costs and benefits for the CCSBT to join the CWP as a member is scheduled for

consideration at the Fourth Annual Meeting, document number CCSBT/9709/17.

- (e) the Secretariat revised the draft Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee to reflect proposals developed at the Scientific Process Workshop. The revised draft was circulated to heads of delegations for comment on 10 June 1997, and consideration at CCSBT4, document number CCSBT/9709/19.
- (f) as agreed at the Resumed Third Annual Meeting, the Secretariat revised the draft Current Management Strategy Document, which was distributed to members for comment on 8 April 1997. To be considered in more detail at the Fourth Annual Meeting, document number CCSBT/9709/26.
- (g) as agreed at the Resumed Third Annual Meeting the Secretariat, in consultation with Japan, sort advice from relevant international fisheries organisations which collect fishery data, on the origins of fishing fleets reported to be taking SBT. To be considered in more detail at the Fourth Annual Meeting, document number CCSBT/9709/15.
- (h) as agreed at the First Session of the Third Annual Meeting the Secretariat has compiled a report on the relevant organisations and international instruments which could affect the conservation and management of southern bluefin tuna. The report is scheduled for consideration at the Fourth Annual Meeting, document number CCSBT/9709/16.
- (i) a proposal on confidentiality of Commission documents, taking into account examples received from five other international organisations has been prepared by the Secretariat. To be considered at the Fourth Annual Meeting, document number CCSBT/9709/24.
- (j) a letter was sent to IUCN on 27 February 1997 concerning the IUCN resolution on seabirds, however, no response has been received.
- (k) the CCSBT was represented by a representative from Australia at the annual meeting of CCAMLR, and by a representative from Japan at the annual meetings of ICCAT and IATTC.
- (l) the translation of the report from the Resumed Third Annual Meeting, incorporating comments from Japan, has been finalised and arrangements made for the translation of other relevant Commission documents in a timely manner.
- (m) the CCSBT site on the World Wide Web has been in operation for several months (URL = <http://www.home.aone.net.au/ccsbt>). Documents and reports which are available to the public have been made available on this site for on-line computer access.
- (n) a summary document on SBT, the Commission and its dual aims of

management and optimum utilisation was prepared by the Secretariat, and is now available on the CCSBT's internet site.

- (o) the Secretariat has been working on a paper describing the history of the SBT fishery and the establishment of the Commission. The paper draws on the existing publications in this area, and to a small extent, on information from persons directly involved in drafting the Convention. A draft will be circulated to members for comment when available.
- (p) the CCSBT logo agreed by the Commission at the Resumed Third Annual Meeting is being widely used on Secretariat correspondence. Logo stick pins for member countries will be distributed at the Fourth Annual Meeting.
- (q) an application was received from Greenpeace International to extend an invitation to it to attend Commission meetings as an observer. An objection to that application, and subsequent response received from Greenpeace, is to be considered at the Fourth Annual Meeting, document number CCSBT/9709/4.

Prepared by the Secretariat

**Report of the Committee on Finance and Administration Meeting
8 and 13 September 1997**

Agenda Item 1: Opening

A list of attendees appears at **Attachment A**.

Agenda Item 2: Election of Chair

Mr Kenro Iino from the Japanese delegation was elected as Chair for this Committee meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Appointment of Rapporteurs

The Secretariat was appointed to act as rapporteur to this meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Adoption of Agenda

The agenda, as circulated by the Secretariat, was agreed by the Committee, with the following amendments:

Under Agenda Item 6: *Proposed Procedure to Finalise and Adopt the Japanese Version of Reports*, the following matters be considered:

- 6.1 Reports of Annual, Resumed and Special Commission Meetings;
- 6.2 Reports from all other meetings, including the Scientific Committee; and
- 6.3 Past Reports not translated to date.

Under Agenda Item 9: *Other Matters*, add the following:

- 9.1 Preparation of Secretariat Papers for Commission Meetings;
- 9.2 Confidentiality of Commission Documents (for initial discussion at this stage, noting that this issue will be considered by the Commission); and
- 9.3 Costs of meeting outside Canberra.

The adopted agenda appears at **Attachment B**.

Agenda Item 5: Report from the Secretariat

The Secretariat proposed that document CCSBT/9709/5, Report from the Secretariat, be considered initially by the Finance and Administration Committee for comment, if necessary, prior to consideration by the Commission.

The Committee did not wish to make specific comment on the Report from the Secretariat, however, it noted that the Commission would still have an opportunity to

speak to this item in plenary, if they wished.

Agenda Item 6: Proposed Procedure to Finalise and Adopt the Japanese Version of Reports

6.1 Reports of Annual, Resumed and Special Commission Meetings

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission that the proposed procedure for the report of the Commission Meeting tabled in document CCSBT/9709/6 be adopted.

6.2 Reports from Other Meetings, including the Scientific Committee

The meeting agreed to the following procedure:

- a. In the case of Scientific Committee and any other meeting held less than five weeks prior to the Commission meeting, the Secretariat would use its best endeavours to arrange translation and editing, but not finalising, the report of such a meeting prior to the Commission meeting.
- b. If meetings are held between twelve and four weeks prior to the Commission Meeting, reports from such meetings would be translated and edited by the Secretariat, but not finalised, prior to the Commission Meeting. This is based on the proviso that meetings would be held at similar intervals as present, and reports of such meetings would be a similar length to those produced at present.
- c. If meetings are held more than twelve weeks prior to the Commission Meeting, the Secretariat will take the procedure stipulated 6.1 above.

6.3 Past Reports

The Committee agreed that past Commission reports including the report from CCSBT1, be translated within the budget and manpower of the Secretariat as a non urgent task as time permitted.

It was agreed that as a principle, all formal reports from Commission meetings should be translated into both Commission languages.

Agenda Item 7: Proposed Amendment of the 1997 Budget

The Executive Secretary spoke to the Secretariat's paper CCSBT/9709/7.

The Committee endorsed the revised 1997 budget as detailed in the Secretariat's paper, noting that many of the changes resulted from decisions by the Commission on work programs after the original 1997 budget had been approved. The Committee also noted that while the Commission's approval of the program implied that the necessary approval of expenditure, this approval did not comply with budgetary guidelines (Attachment G of the Resumed CCSBT3 Report). The Committee reaffirmed that these

guidelines should be followed by the Secretariat when revising Commission budgets, including funding for new Commission initiatives.

The Committee requested where budget amendments were sought, the Secretariat should provide the following information in future to the Finance and Administration Committee:

- a. Comparison of both the originally agreed budget and the revised budget;
- b. List of items increased by over 10 percent from original budget; and
- c. Reasoning behind changes in each budget item.

The Committee noted that an additional Commission meeting may be held in 1997 and that the Secretariat was authorised to draw appropriate funds to cover this meeting in a revised 1997 budget. The Finance Committee requested the Secretariat to provide a revised 1997 budget to be approved out of session if the additional Commission meeting is held.

Agenda Item 8: Draft Budget for 1998

Agenda Item 9: Other Matters

9.1 Preparation of Secretariat Papers for Commission Meetings

New Zealand suggested that papers prepared by the Secretariat for consideration at Commission meetings should be distributed well in advance of Commission meetings so that they can be considered fully by members prior to the meeting.

In line with New Zealand's suggestion, the Secretariat agreed to distribute papers as far in advance of Commission meetings as was practicable.

It was suggested that the Commission should reduce as far as practical the number of the documents to be submitted to the meeting.

The Secretariat requested that Japan priorities the papers which they would like to be translated and distributed by the Secretariat prior to the meeting.

9.2 Confidentiality of Commission documents

This item was not considered by the Finance Committee and was referred to the Commission.

The Meeting finalised its business on 13 September 1997.

Kenro Iino
Chair of the Committee

Attachment A

Attendees

Chair	Mr Kenro Iino
Australia	Mr Neil Hermes Ms Catherine Wallace Mr Jonathon Barrington
Japan	Mr Masayuki Komatsu Mr Joji Morishita Ms Naoko Hamaguchi Mr Kazuo Hiraishi Mr Michio Iida Dr Sachiko Tsuji Mr Kazuhiko Utsumi
New Zealand	Ms Lee Robinson Ms Lisa Futschek Mr Jim Nicholson Dr Talbot Murray
Secretariat	Mr Campbell McGregor Mr Akihiro Mae Ms Maree Tuohy

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Election of Chair
3. Appointment of rapporteur
4. Adoption of agenda
5. Report from the Secretary
6. Proposed procedure to finalise and adopt the Japanese version of reports
 - 6.1 Reports of Annual, Resumed and Special Commission Meetings
 - 6.2 Reports from all other meetings, including the Scientific Committee
 - 6.3 Past Reports not translated to date
7. Proposed amendment of the 1997 budget
8. Draft budget for 1998
9. Other matters
 - 9.1 Preparation of Secretariat Papers for Commission Meetings
 - 9.2 Confidentiality of Commission Documents
10. Closing

Attachment J

**BUDGET FOR THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA FOR 1997
(Revised as at July 1997)**

INCOME

Contributions from members			
Japan	247,314		
Australia	221,763		
New Zealand	<u>67,023</u>	536,100	
Reserve Funds from 1996 committed to 1997 Expenditure		25,000	
Staff Assessment Levy		13,000	
Interest on investments		15,000	
TOTAL GROSS INCOME			589,100

EXPENDITURE

ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING - Meeting CCSBT 3R

Interpreter Costs		13,000	
Hire of venue		3,000	
Hire of equipment		3,000	
General catering & sundry costs		1,000	
Additional support staff	n/a		
Translation of documents		6,000	
Publications, including reports		<u>2,000</u>	28000

ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING - Meeting CCSBT 4

Hire of venue, interpreters and other support			44,000
Additional Sub committees / workshops			28,000

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Hire of venue		5,500	
Interpretation		24,000	
Hire of equipment		4,000	
Hire of Expert Consultants		20,000	
Sundry Expenses & photo copying		1000	
Publication and translation		<u>5,000</u>	59,500

SECRETARIAT COSTS

Executive Secretary		80,000	
Deputy Exec Secretary and Office manager		70,000	
Staff Assessment Levy		35,000	
Office Assistance		35,000	
Temp Staff or Expert Consultants		20,000	
Employer Super/Social security		35,000	
Worker's Compensation/ travel/contents Insurance		6,000	
Travel/transport - O/seas	20,000		
- Domestic	<u>5,000</u>	25,000	
Miscellaneous Translation of Commission and Committee Reports		15,000	
Training		3,000	
<u>Overseas Recruitment Costs and Annual Provisions</u>			
Initial cost of overseas appointment - travel, relocation allowance, transport of effects	18,000		
Annual provision for overseas appointee - home leave allowance, repatriation grant and removal costs	<u>10,000</u>	28,000	352,000

MANAGEMENT OF OFFICE

Office lease		30,000	
Office running costs			
-electricity	2,200		
- cleaning	2,000		
- equip maintenance	2,400		
- hire other equipment	4,000		
- photocopy costs	<u>2,000</u>	12,600	
Stationery		4,000	
Provision for new/replacement assets		15,000	
Telephone/communications		6,000	
Miscellaneous		<u>10,000</u>	77,600

GROSS EXPENDITURE			589100
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**Terms of Reference
for the Compliance Committee**

1. To review the southern bluefin tuna (SBT) fishing activities of each Member of the Commission, including compliance with national quota allocations and associated fishery management arrangements.
2. Develop cooperative systems, which can be implemented under the Convention, relating to monitoring and compliance for SBT fishing activities, taking into account international initiatives.
3. To review matters and prepare an annual report relating to implementation of conservation and management measures decided by the Commission, including:
 - (a) exchange of information on the activities by which each Member ensures compliance by vessels flying its flag; and
 - (b) exchange of information on measures including legislative and administrative arrangements and penalties; and
 - (c) exchange of views on practical and cost effective measures for improving monitoring and compliance.
4. To exchange information on flag State SBT enforcement activities including outcomes, where appropriate, of judicial and administrative proceedings and the development of measures to ensure compliance with Commission measures and recommendations.
5. Examine ways of cooperating in the undertaking of surveillance including arrangements for the exchange of information of sightings and other information about activities of vessels.
6. Develop educational material to promote the Commission's conservation and management measures.
7. To exchange information on activities for taking SBT by nationals, residents or vessels of any State or entity not party to the Convention.
8. To report the results of discussions, including making recommendations as appropriate, to the Commission.

OVERVIEW OF 1996/1997 AUSTRALIAN SBT SEASON

1. Introduction

The Australian SBT Fishery continued to comprise a combination of domestic and Japanese effort. The Australian catch for 1996/97 is expected to almost reach the national catch allocation of 5265 tonnes by the end of the season (1 December 1997). The Japanese quota taken in the AFZ is less than in previous years as Japan chose to take only 200 tonnes from Tasmania (down from 400 tonnes in recent years) and a further 200 tonnes was set aside for bycatch in the Eastern Tuna & Billfish Fishery (ET&BF). The 200 tonne Tasmanian catch has been taken. As the ET&BF is still operating a final SBT catch figure is not yet available, however the 200 tonnes is not likely to be reached.

2. Operational constraints on effort

Voluntary measures

The ET&BF bycatch limit of 200 tonnes is a voluntary catch limit for Japan given effect through the Bilateral Agreement between Japan and Australia.

Regulatory measures

Domestic operators are managed through ITQs granted as Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs) under the Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Plan 1995. The Plan also sets the domestic TAC in line with the decision of the Commission; 5265 tonnes for 1996/97. For 1996/97, the fishing year will be 16 December 1996 to 30 November 1997 following an amendment to the fishing season start date which is now 1 December.

The catching of Japan's quota in the AFZ is managed through the Bilateral Agreement. Japan is able to take up to 200 tonnes of SBT from Tasmanian waters and a further 200 tonnes from the ET&BF. For 1996/97 Japanese vessels were not permitted to fish within 17nm of Tasmania, an increase from 12nm from 1995/96.

3. Catch & Effort

Recent years show major shifts in the structure of the Australian SBT Fishery. Prior to 1990 almost no Australian quota was taken by longline, however more than half was taken by longlining during 1990 to 1994 under the Joint Venture (JV). The JV ceased in 1995 and surface fishing operations (purse seine/pole & line) have accounted for more than 90% of the SBT catch since then. Catches for 1995/96 (5,148 tonnes) and 1996/97 (currently ~ 5,000 tonnes) have come close to the TAC of 5,265 tonnes. The bulk of the catch, slightly over 3,000 tonnes, has gone into tuna farming, with a further ~1,600 tonnes taken by pole and line fishing. The average fork length at capture of these fish is around 100cm.

The remaining SBT (several hundred tonnes) is taken by longline. Catch rates in the

longline sector have been good during winter months (up to 100 SBT per set) with small quantities being caught through to September. Weights of fish were commonly 40 to 60kg (~ 140cm) and of high quality.

Observer data from Tasmania shows increased representation of small (around 105cm) SBT compared with the four previous years, however, very small SBT were absent from most catches. This is fourth successive year of decline in representation of very small SBT.

4. Current fleet size and distribution

The domestic fleet is stable with a relatively small number of purse seine and pole and line vessels operating from South Australia (around 20 vessels). The bulk of their catch is taken in the Great Australian Bight during warmer months (November to March) for tuna farming (purse seine) or chilled export (pole & line) to Japan.

Domestic longline vessels (commonly 20 to 30) are generally not dedicated SBT catchers and usually fish SBT seasonally and/or along with other tuna species. Catches are taken from the east coast of Tasmania up to northern NSW. The fishery is predominantly a winter fishery (May to August) and overlaps with Japanese activity.

Japan operated eight vessels round Tasmania during June and July 1997. Up to 52 Japanese vessels have been operating in the ET&BF targeting yellowfin, big-eye and broadbill swordfish, and taking incidental catches of SBT.

5. Historic fleet size and distribution

Historically, SBT has been taken by domestic boats adjacent to the western, southern and eastern coasts of Australia. However, there has been no significant catch of SBT off Western Australia since 1991/92 and catches adjacent to NSW remain low. This is part due to the ITQ system which has led to a redistribution of quota ownership and encouraged value adding. Since the advent of tuna farming in South Australia in 1992, there has been a progressive domestication of the catch. Pole and line fishing and a relatively small amount of longlining continue adjacent to southern and eastern states.

The substantial decline in TAC and the introduction of ITQs in the 1980s led to a reduction in the number of operators and fleet size which have now stabilised.

6. Fisheries Monitoring

In-port inspections of domestic longline and pole and line vessels, and monitoring of transfers of SBT to tuna farms, continued in 1997. There has been a focus on compliance with tori pole regulations (operation albatross) which was successful and will likely be repeated in 1998. The length monitoring programme continued both at sea and in port with coverage of all fishing areas and methods. This has been extended in 1997 to include the collection of SBT otoliths

Observer coverage of the Japanese fleet operating adjacent to Tasmania increased to

50% in 1997. Although this is higher than in previous years and must be viewed in the light of a reducing number of vessels (10 in 1996; 8 in 1997) and catch (400 tonnes in 1996; 200 tonnes in 1997). Pre and post fishing inspections were also maintained. Data collection by observers was similar to previous years, with SBT measurements/weights and seabird bycatch priority areas.

Compliance with quota allocations has been good to date with all operators remaining within quota or leasing quota to cover any unintentional overcatch. The management advisory committee for the SBT Fishery recently commenced a review to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of compliance and monitoring arrangements. The review is expected to be completed by March 1998.

7. Other Factors

Import/export statistics

Australia is working to reconcile apparent inconsistencies between Japanese import statistics for SBT from Australia and Australian production.

Markets

The major market for Australian SBT remains Japan with more than 95% of the catch sold there. This is almost all fresh chilled SBT with a small amount of frozen longline catch. Recently, several hundred tonnes of farmed SBT was transferred to a Japanese freezer vessel for export to Japan.

Mitigation

Australian regulations require that all longline vessels (domestic and Japanese) operating in the AFZ carry and use tori poles when operating south of 30 degrees South. In 1995 longlining was recognised as a key threatening process for the survival of albatross in the AFZ. A draft Threat Abatement Plan will be released for public consultation later in 1997 and be implemented in mid 1998.

Review of SBT Fisheries - Japan

1 1996 fishing year (from 1 March 1996 to 28 February 1997)

- (1) To fully utilize the Japanese national allocation of 6,065 tonnes, periods of operations, numbers of vessels and planned catch limits by fishing areas were adjusted as set out below. As a result, the total number of long distance tuna longliners which operated for southern bluefin tuna was about 266* (the actual number was about 211).

(*: the number summed up the numbers by fishing areas; the actual number means the number reduced by the number of vessels which operated in more than one area.)

Fishing Area	Period of Operations	No. of Vessels	Planned Catch Limit (tonne)
Off Tasmania within AFZ	from 4 May to the day reaching planned catch limit	10 (condition by Australia)	400
Outside Tasman AFZ (High Seas)	from 15 May to 24 June	80	1,000
Off South Africa (High Seas)	from 1 May to 31 July	108	3,000
Southeast Indian Ocean (High Seas)	from 1 September to 30 November	68	1,345
		266	5,865
(By-catch quota for operations off east coast of Australia within AFZ)			200
			6,065

- (2) The 1996 fishing year was ordered to be closed after the setting of longlines on 30 November. The recorded catch was 6,012 tonnes against the catch limit of 6,065 tonnes (53 tonnes were not used.). However, after the close of the fishing season, the activities of the forty fishing vessels, which were prosecuted for operating contrary to the domestic regulation regarding the management of the Japanese national allocation on the high seas of the south Indian Ocean (South Indian Ocean Fishing Ground) in December last year, led to the national allocation of 6,065 tonnes being exceeded by 308 tonnes.

This is as reported in the Commission meeting held in February this year, and the excess amount will be reduced from the Japanese national allocation of the 1997 fishing year.

2 1997 fishing year (from 1 March 1997 to 28 February 1998)

Periods of operations, numbers of vessels and planned catch limits by fishing areas are adjusted as follows. The total allowable catch for the 1997 fishing year is set at 5,757 tonnes, after reducing the above 308 tonnes from the national allocation of 6,065 tonnes.

Fishing Area	Period of Operations	No. of Vessels	Planned Catch Limit (tonne)
Off Tasmania within AFZ	from 4 June to the day reaching planed catch limit	8	200
Outside Tasman AFZ (High Seas)	from 21 April to the day reaching planed catch limit	77	1,229
Off South Africa (High Seas)	from 1 May to the day reaching planed catch limit	111	2,850
Southeast Indian Ocean (High Seas)	from 1 September to the day reaching planed catch limit	65	1,278
(By-catch quota for operations off east coast of Australia within AFZ)			200)
			5,757

3 RTMP Scientific Observer

- (1) In the 1996 fishing year, 15 trips were covered by Japanese observers and the total days of observers on board was 869. The total number of trips was same as the previous year. However, the total days covered by observers decreased substantially compared to the 1995 fishing year because of the shorter period of operations in the South Indian Ocean Fishing Ground caused by the early entry into ports of Australia for provisioning in the mid October as the difficulties encountered in the fisheries consultation between Japan and Australia made the port call to Australia difficult after November.

Breakdown	Outside Tasman AFZ	2 vessels
	Off South Africa	5 vessels
	Southeast Indian Ocean	<u>8 vessels</u>
	Total	15 vessels/trips

- (2) Arrangements in the 1997 fishing year will be similar to those in 1996; there will be no research activity outside the normal fishing periods. However, it is intended to achieve more observer coverage than in the previous year against the total days of operations. For the first half of this fishing year, Japanese observers covered three trips outside Tasman AFZ and four trips off South Africa. It is planned that observers will cover eight trips in the South Indian Ocean Fishing Ground where fishing operations are currently conducted.

Translated by the Secretariat

Annual Review of New Zealand SBT Fisheries

1. Introduction

Longlining was the predominant method used to take SBT in the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone, although domestic owned and operated vessels also spent a limited time trolling and handlining for SBT. Domestic SBT fishing was conducted from March to mid-August 1997 with the total catch 331 tonnes (as at 25 August 1997).

Standardised and nominal CPUE for the domestic fishery show a decline in 1996 (of about 40%) relative to 1995 with preliminary information from 1997 suggesting that CPUE is similar to that in 1996.

2. Operational constraints on effort

Voluntary measures

Regulatory measures

Regulations specify an annual catch limit for SBT and make it an offence to take SBT once the catch limit has been reached. The New Zealand fishing year extends from 1 October 1997 to 30 September of the following year. The SBT catch limit for the 1996-97 fishing year was 420 tonnes.

3. Catch and Effort

Domestic fishing effort exhibited a regular increase in effort from 1992 to 1995 with a subsequent drop in 1996 attributed to very poor catch rates and low fish quality. The subsequent decrease in fishing effort in 1997 has been attributed to economic constraints on the domestic fishery although catches have exceeded 330 tonnes.

4. Annual fleet size and distribution

Whereas New Zealand domestic catches of SBT prior to the advent of longlining were largely restricted to June to August, the domestic season now extends from March to August or September. SBT fishing is still largely a winter fishery, despite some fish being caught throughout the year, with over 90% of all domestic landings being made from June to August. The domestic fishing pattern contrasts with that of Japanese foreign licensed vessels, which no longer fish in the EEZ, whose New Zealand fishing season continually contracted during the 1980s and 1990s.

Since the early 1990s nearly all fishing for SBT (> 99%) has been conducted either off the West Coast of the South Island or off East Cape (east coast North Island).

Early in the 1997 season, some fishing was also conducted off the South Canterbury-Otago coast, an area not fished since the mid-1990s. Catches were reported as good.

5. Historical fleet size and distribution

The New Zealand domestic fishery (Charter and domestic owned and operated vessels) continues to be dynamic, exhibiting substantial changes each year. In 1997, vessel number declined substantially, reportedly because of economic constraints, despite the reactivation of charter arrangements between New Zealand and Japanese companies. About 30 domestic vessels fished for SBT in 1997 compared with 60 vessels in 1996. No foreign licensed longliners fished in the EEZ in 1996 or 1997.

6. Fisheries Monitoring

Observer coverage in 1997 was over 60% with 424 longline sets observed on chartered and domestic owned and operated vessels. This is a substantial increase over the previous two years (7% in 1996 and 10% in 1995) observer coverage of the domestic fishery.

RTMP coverage declined in 1997 owing to a decrease in domestic fishing effort (31 boats in 1997 compared 50 in 1996 and 57 in 1995). This represents a decline in days fished to less than 800. Weight and length measurements supplied by RTMP vessels remain high with 3410 SBT weighed and 3409 SBT measured for length.

Biological information is collected by the Ministry of Fisheries Observer Programme. In 1997 samples were collected for genetic reference material to distinguish southern bluefin from northern bluefing tuna. Genetic samples were also collected from swordfish for a Japanese research project to delineate stock structure. Observers also facilitated the recovery of tags from a CSIRO tagging programme.

The New Zealand SBT fishery is managed by a competitive catch limit. The Ministry of Fisheries uses two sources to monitor the SBT catch limit. The first is a programme which requires licensed fish receivers and larger vessels which freeze their catch to submit weekly reports of catch to the Ministry. Catch reported by this system is verified the Ministry's catch and effort system.

7. Other factors

Import/export statistics

Markets

Mitigation

New Zealand regulations specify that all tuna longline vessels are required to use seabird scaring devices. The minimum standard for the bird scaring devices that specified by CCAMLR for tori lines. The New Zealand fishing industry have a voluntary code of practice advocating that tuna longline gear is set at night.

Review of SBT Fisheries - Taiwan

1. Taiwan still set the catch limit for SBT.
The annual catch limit for 1996 was 1,450 MT.
2. All the SBT caught by Taiwan fleet was exported to Japan.
According to the document which was circulated in this conference, in 1996, the volume was 1,397 MT for Taiwan exporting to Japan.
3. Attached please find one figure which is the SBT CPUE distribution of 1996 and one table which is the SBT Catch per Vessel and Number of Vessels 1994 - 96.
4. The detail report is under proceeded. We will send the report to the Commission when it is finalized.

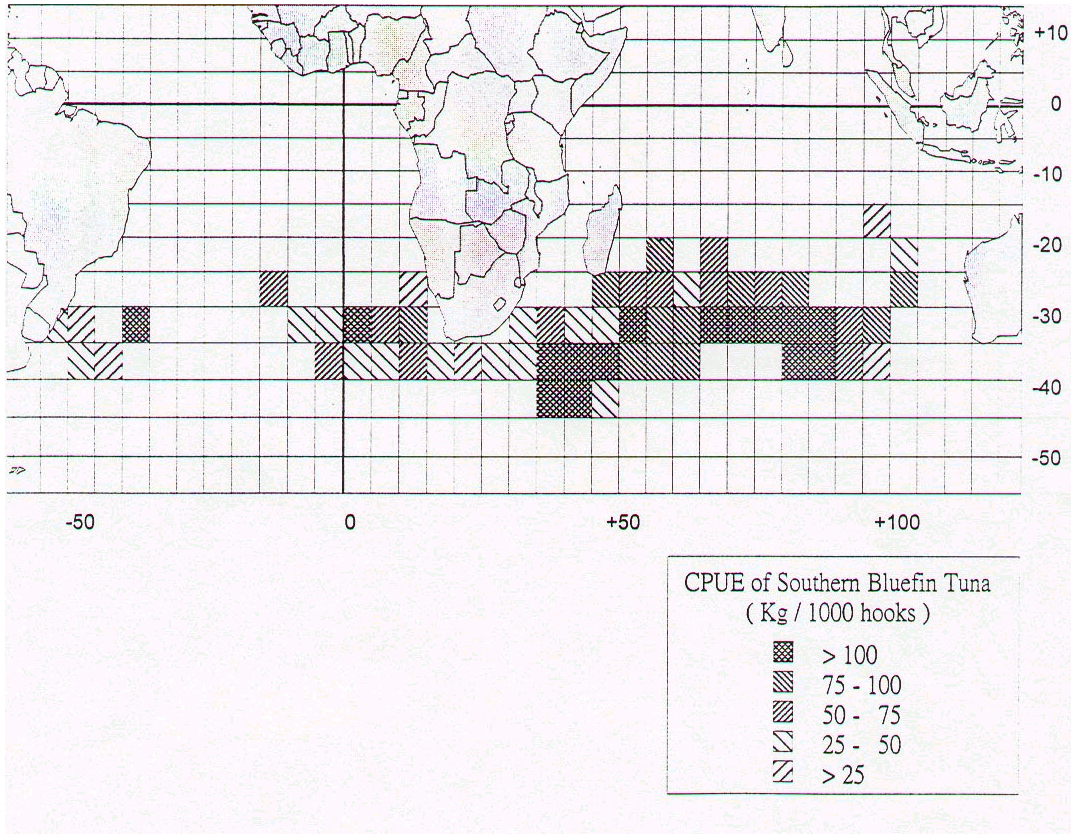


Fig.3 SBT CPUE distribution of 1996

Table: **SBT Catch per Vessel and Number of Vessels 1994 – 96**

	1994	1995	1996
0 – 5 T	82	111	106
5 – 10 T	4	31	23
10 – 20 T	26	34	4
20 – 30 T	6	12	6
30 – 40 T	2	1	4
40 – 50 T	1	0	2
over 50 T	0	0	0
	121/35	189/47	145/16

**Responses to questions raised by Japan at CCSBT 4 (September 1997) regarding
Australian SBT fishing operations**

1) What is the breakdown of purse seine/pole and line catch from 1991/97?

SBT catches (kg) Calendar year			
Source Log books			
Year	Purse seine	Pole	Total
1991	732,900	1,330,360	2,063,260
1992	20,000	1,490,364	1,510,364
1993	464,500	887,258	1,351,758
1994	1,247,000	829,426	2,076,426
1995	1,998,500	863,149	2,861,649
1996	3,053,000	1,623,052	4,676,052
1997	2,790,869	1,943,649	4,734,518

2) What is the survival rate of SBT in the farms as sourced by pole and line/purse seine?

The figures for pole and line/ purse seine are not distinguishable. After counting into the farms the average mortality is about 5%. Average time in pens between 3-5 months. Losses are mainly due to seals, parasites and storms. (Source TBOAA).

3) What are the survival rates in the catching/towing process?

Mortalities declared by operators before fish count as supplied by Protec

Season	Counted live	Declared dead	Total used for CR3	Declared dead as a % of total
1994/95	62,567	875	63,442	1.37
1995/96	163,744	3,948	167,692	2.35
1996/97	165,608	1,663	167,271	1.00

***1996/97 figures are provisional**

4) What is the observer coverage for the domestic fleet?

There is no formal at-sea observer program for the domestic SBT fleet, although the length monitoring program has an at-sea component. AFMA runs a farm monitoring program where all the transfers from towing cages to fish farms are observed. The compliance review of the SBT Fishery (reported in agenda item 7, CCSBT 4) will be considering the need for more formal observer programs to monitor off-shore SBT operations.

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

Report of the Third Scientific Committee Meeting

**28 July – 8 August 1997
Canberra, Australia**

**Chair of the Scientific Committee
Personal Comments regarding Scientific Committee Process**

- I was often disappointed and frustrated at the slow progress and lack of agreed outcome at the Scientific Committee.
- There often appeared to be a lack of goodwill between the Parties and the lack of desire to reach an agreed outcome.
- I am concerned because I believe that the slow progress and lack of agreed outcome could jeopardise the continuation of the scientific process of the Commission, and perhaps jeopardise the continued existence of the Commission in its present form.
- CCSBT needs to make progress in the stock assessment and management of SBT to retain its credibility in this area.
- Other international fisheries agencies can and do reach agreement in the assessment and management of shared stocks.
- CCSBT needs to take steps to ensure that the slow progress and lack of agreed outcomes of the Scientific Committee are overcome.
- The Scientific Processes Workshop held in May 1997 made positive suggestions to address some of the problems experienced by the Scientific Committee.
- However, there needs to be the will and commitment of all parties to CCSBT to make the scientific process more effective.
- New Zealand is reviewing its current level of commitment to the Scientific Committee, and unless substantive progress can be made, it will consider substantially reducing its involvement in the Scientific Committee in the near future.

Dr John Annala
Chair, Scientific Committee

Australia's Statement on the Scientific Committee Report (Agenda Item 10.1)

Australia thanked Dr. Annala and the external scientists for their contribution to the Scientific Committee. It noted that agreement that had been reached on otolith collecting and age estimation and hoped that the Commission would endorse the proposed work.

Australia noted its concern that the focus on Steps 1 & 2 meant that inadequate consideration was given to information that did not directly fit within the VPA and projection framework. In particular, it noted that

- a) juvenile CPUE which had started increasing in 1987-88 had peaked in 1993 and was now declining;
- b) that although the catch rates for recent juvenile cohorts were higher than any cohorts since 1980, the catch rates for these cohorts has declined rapidly as they aged. As such, their potential to contribute to future rebuilding of the spawning stock is less than initially anticipated. These rapid declines in CPUE by cohort have occurred even though substantially less catch has been taken from them.

Australia noted that some progress had been made since the end of the Scientific Committee meeting but was disappointed that Steps 1 and 2 had not been completed. It noted the progress and commitment made to resolving the computational problems that had occurred at the end of Scientific Committee Meeting and considered that the collaborative efforts to resolve these problems should continue as part of the intersessional work program for 1997/98.

Australia noted that the reliability of any stock assessment ultimately depends upon the completeness and integrity of the underlying catch and effort data. Australia is increasingly concerned about the growing uncertainty and level of reliability of the catch and effort data. Australia also shared the Scientific Committee Chair's concern about the scientific process at the Scientific Committee meeting. It was also concerned about the lack of consideration given to whether all of the various VPA models were consistent with the available data (i.e. lack of reality checking).

Japan's Statement on the Scientific Committee Report (Agenda Item 10.1)

Japan thanked the Scientific Committee Chair and acknowledged the contribution made by the external scientists. At the end of the process discrepancies between the Australian and Japanese models had meant that Steps 1 & 2 were not completed. Post-meeting informal processes had sought to narrow the discrepancies and had seen some convergence of views for some areas but not all. Japan tends to continue to seek to solve these technical problems to achieve a harmonised approach by CCSBT5.

In order to progress Steps 1 & 2 Japan seeks advice from the Commission:

- a) with respect to differences in the calculation of results;
- b) on resolving weightings (which are influenced by individual scientists and parties)
- c) on modifying the current process of undertaking independent calculations then collaboratively examining discrepancies and attempting to reconcile these (a collaborative approach towards calculation is merited);
- d) on pursuing alternative approaches (other than VPA) to improve the robustness of the model.

Japan was disappointed with the inability of the Scientists to complete Steps 1 & 2 and agreed with many of the personal comments express by Dr Annala. It sought a commitment from the Scientists to a timetable and work plan to complete Steps 1 & 2.

New Zealand Statement on the Scientific Committee (Agenda Item 10.1)

New Zealand has serious ongoing concerns about the status of the SBT stock. We also have continuing concerns about our ability to adequately model trends in SBT stock status. Reconciliation of differences in VPA modelling will be an area of ongoing development for the Parties. We are also concerned to ensure that the models used adequately reflect the signals observable in the fisheries for SBT.

We noted with interest Japan's comment in their opening statement that a wider range of stock assessment methods than are currently used should be considered. While New Zealand has supported this approach for some time, we also consider that changes to stock assessment approaches must be considered in the context of the information requirements of the Commission.

We are also concerned that the Commission in its current reliance on VPAs and focus on projections doesn't lose sight of the fact that many of the scientific papers prepared for the last meeting of the scientists contained signs that cause us to continue our concern over stock status.

Of key concern to us are the following indicators of stock status which we observed in the papers presented to the scientific meeting:

- a) Parental abundance indices (8+ year olds) have steadily declined from 1969 to 1996 to about 17% of their former level. This trend is independent of assumptions about unfished areas. CCSBT-SC/9707/14 and CCSBT-SC/9707/19.
- b) Increases in CPUE in the global Japanese fishery in the early 1990s have not persisted and CPUE has steadily declined to 1996. CCSBT-SC/9707/11.
- c) Juvenile abundance indices are dependent on assumptions about abundance in unfished areas and most models indicate an increase from about 1990 to 1993. Since 1993, however, there is no evidence of continuing increases in juvenile

abundance. CCSBT-SC/9707/14 and CCSBT-SC/9707/19.

- d) The abundance of juveniles appears to have declined in all fisheries off eastern Tasmania resulting in a failure of the troll fishery in 1996 and 1997. CCSBT-SC/9707/6.
- e) In the New Zealand area SBT abundance appears to be fluctuating at about 20% of 1980 levels. CCSBT-SC/9707/9.
- f) Recruitment into the New Zealand fishery evident in the late 1980s and early 1990s has declined from the mid-1990s through to 1997 to very low levels (<1-5%). CCSBT/96/2, CCSBT-SC/9707/9 and CCSBT-SC/9707/10.

We are concerned that unlike previous meetings, we were only able to detect some hopeful signs in model results, and then only in those models which were in our view less likely. Whatever modelling approach(es) the Commission takes we consider it essential that reality checks be applied to ensure that the results are not misleading. There was insufficient time to apply such checks during the last scientific meeting and the ones we have applied subsequently raise grave concerns for us not only with respect to the parental stock but also with respect to the potential for the juveniles to replenish the severely depleted parental biomass.

Scientific Committee Workplan for 1997-98

1. A workplan was developed by considering a range of issues including completion of step 1 and 2 and carrying out a full stock assessment for 1998.
2. A range of problems were identified in order to complete steps 1 and 2 within the next 6-9 months. If these problems are not resolved within this time frame, new data and scientific developments would have to be included to be able to provide the Commission with the best available scientific advice.
3. The problems and their potential resolution were:
 - (a) Computational and model implementation problems that can be solved. The workplan includes intersessional work that should resolve these by February 1.
 - (b) Not all the uncertainties can be included in the analyses conducted by all parties (eg alternative catch histories)
 - (c) Parties can presently provide their own interpretation for weightings based on the same data and information and no method has been developed to objectively integrate these to provide an overall answer.

Because (b) and (c) are constrained by factors outside of the scientific process, the group concluded that there was little prospect of completing steps 1 and 2 before the next scientific committee meeting.
4. A timetable leading up to next year's stock assessment group and scientific committee meetings has been developed.
5. The otolith collection and archiving program as agreed in the 1997 Scientific Committee meeting is included in the workplan.

Scientific Committee Workplan for 1997-98

The following workplan presents the main collaborative work required by CCSBT to meet the objectives of completing the computational and implementation problems relevant to steps 1 and 2 and providing a full stock assessment for 1998. It does not include the extensive program of research which will be conducted to support the assessments or the related SBT research to be conducted intersessionally by individual members.

Intersessional work

The following work was identified as high priority and includes agreed target dates for completion:

1. Evaluate and develop output weight procedure by exchanging reviews and comments on SC/9707/29
- *by January 1, 1998*
2. Resolving remaining computational differences in VPAs and projections
- *by February 1, 1998 (starting from now until resolved)*
3. Process for handling differences in implementation
- *by February 1, 1998 (starting from now until resolved)*
4. Discuss planned stock assessment for 1998 including alternative methods for VPA and projections
- possibly telephone conference *in April, 1998* or tack on to existing meeting
5. Conduct further fine-scale analyses
- exchange of scientists *in March-April, 1998*

Timetable for 1998 Scientific meetings

12 weeks before	Exchange catch, effort, size data	April 28
11 weeks before	Exchange catch-at-age and non-parties catch and age composition	May 5
8 weeks before	Draft agendas for SAG and SC	May 26
6 weeks before	Exchange standardised CPUE	June 9
4 weeks before	Brief description of intended VPA changes	June 23
1 weeks before	All documents and list of meeting documents	July 14
8 working days	Stock Assessment Group	July 23-31
3.5 days	Scientific committee	Aug 3-5
5 days?	CCSBT5	???

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION RELATING TO
ECOLOGICALLY RELATE SPECIES**

the Commission:

1. adopts the ERSWG2 report (including attachments A-F);
2. notes and supports the position of all Commission parties in using Tori poles in all long-line SBT fisheries below 30 degrees south;
3. requires mandatory use by all Commission parties of Tori poles in all long-line SBT fisheries below 30 degrees south;
4. requests non parties to adopt mandatory use of Tori poles in all long-line SBT fisheries below 30 degrees south'
5. notes and supports the continuing cooperative work on investigating the impacts of night setting on SBT CPUE, safety, operational feasibility and other relevant issues, and the effectiveness of other mitigation measures such as underwater setting;
6. requests that members of the ERSWG facilitate such cooperative work as mentioned in point 5, and review and report progress to ERSWG3 and CCSBT5;
7. approves the holding of ERSWG3 prior to CCSBT Scientific Committee meeting and no later than June 1998;
8. adopts the draft agenda (attached) for ERSWG3;
9. requests non parties to attend ERSWG3 as observers and provide information on seabird captures in SBT fisheries to the Commission for consideration at ERSWG3;
10. notes that all parties will make their best efforts to provide comments on draft technical papers prior to ERSWG3;
11. notes that an educational package for fishers should be developed at ERSWG3;
12. notes the hard work of the ERSWG2 and in particular thanks the efforts of the chair, Dr Burke Hill of Australia

Final 11/9/97

Ecologically Related Species Working Group Meeting 3, 1998

Draft Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Appointment of Rapporteurs
3. Arrangements for the Meeting
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Developing and Testing of Mitigation Measures
 - Report on night setting and other mitigation measures
6. Research
7. Development of Educational Material for Fishers
8. Collection and exchange of data
 - Reports on other international activities
9. Future Work Program
10. Adoption of the Report
11. Close of the Meeting

The following draft papers are currently available to be discussed under the agenda items specified.

Agenda Item 5

Research Plan to Evaluate Effect of Day/Night Setting on SBT CPUE (*TechP2*)

Guidelines for Design and Deployment of Tori Poles (*TechP1*)

Agenda Item 6

Research Priorities for Mitigation Measures (*TechP3*)

Mitigation Research Plan for Parties to CCSBT (*TechP4*)

Agenda Item 7

Example List of Information to be Distributed to Fishers (*TechP6*)

Agenda Item 8

Protocol for Seabird Data Exchange (*TechP8*)

Proforma for Reporting Public Relations & Education Information to CCSBT (*TechP5*)

Scientific Process for the Collaborative Assessment of Seabird Bycatch (*TechP7*)

Final 11/9/97

**Database format maintained in the Secretariat.
(Proposal by the Secretariat in collaboration with Japan)**

The following three types of data sets are essential for the Secretariat to provide fundamental information on SBT fishery in responding to a potential range of questions from outside scholars, individuals and international and intergovernment organizations:

- Catch and effort data : SBT catch in number and weight and effort expressed in hooks number used for longline fishery and in number of operating days for the other fisheries by 5 degrees square and month, fishery and party. All catch and effort within SBT Statistical Area as well as square where SBT caught outside of SBT Statistical Area should be covered.

Format: Year/Month/Party/Fishery code/Lat./Lon./SBT Area/SBT catch in number/SBT catch in weight/Effort

- Size data : SBT size distribution of catch by SBT Statistical Area, month, fishery and party.

Format: Year/Month/Party/Fishery code/SBT Area/Size code (L or W)/Size/Frequency

- Trade statistics: All SBT trade information available should be included.

Format: Year/Month/Source code/Importing party/Exporting party/Amount of trade/Type of product

All members are required to provide the above mentioned three types of data for the most recent year as well as any revision when necessary in agreed format on annual basis.

The Secretariat should

- update data sets with data provided from all parties,
- monitor and instruct an appropriate and timely provision of data by members, and
- ask and encourage non-member SBT fishing parties to provide the same data in the agreed format.

In addition to the data mentioned above, the members and non-member SBT fishing parties should report total SBT catch made in the most recent year with the Secretariat maintaining these figures.

The expected size of data should be handled with any general database software currently available. The data should be kept in large capacity recording devices such as ZIP and MO and access to the data should be carefully monitored to secure confidentiality. When the information regarding the SBT fishery would be requested, the Secretariat should provide the necessary information in an appropriate form under the instruction and approval of the Commission. The type of information include:

- seasonal and annual change of SBT catch and effort in global as well as in specific area,

- comparison of trend in SBT catch and effort among different fisheries and different parties, and
- size of fish caught by fishery and/or by party as well as historical change in size of catch.

Costs required would be:

- purchase of data base software:	\$ 1,500
- purchase of additional hardware for large capacity recording devices:	\$ 2,000
- staff costs for annual data revision :	(\$ 3,500)
(if tasks can be covered by current staff, not necessary)	
Total additional cost	\$ 7,000
	(\$ 3,500)

**CCSBT
Draft Work Program for 1997/98**

ITEM	DATE/TIMING	PLACE
Target date for resolution of implementation and computational differences wrt Step1 and Step2.	1 February 1998	
Workshop on Step 1 and Step 2 (if agreed by the parties)	March 1998	Japan
ERS Working Group Third Meeting	6-9 April 1998	Japan
Exchange of catch effort & size data	28 April 1998	NA
Exchange catch-at-age and non-parties catch and age composition	5 May 1998	NA
Exchange standardised CPUE	9 June 1998	NA
Stock Assessment Group meeting	23-31 July 1998	Japan
CCSBT Scientific Committee	3-6 August 1998	Japan
CCSBT Fifth Annual Meeting	14-18 September 1998	Japan