

**Report of the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Commission  
18 - 21 April 2001  
Sydney, Australia**

**Agenda Item 1      Opening of the Meeting**

*Agenda Item 1.1.    Welcoming address*

1.      Mr Bill Mansfield opened the meeting, noting that the opening session was a public one and welcomed representatives from Australia, Japan, and New Zealand and observers from the Republic of Korea, the Republic of South Africa and Taiwan. At a later point in the meeting the Chair welcomed the representatives from the Republic of Indonesia.

*Agenda Item 1.2.    Adoption of the Agenda*

2.      The Agenda was adopted as circulated in **Attachment A**.
3.      The list of meeting participants is included at **Attachment B**.
4.      The list of documents tabled at the meeting is included at **Attachment C**.

*Agenda Item 1.3.    Opening Statements*

*Agenda Item 1.3.1.   Members*

5.      In introducing their position in the CCSBT, members identified those agenda items of highest priority to their delegation. Opening statements are included at **Attachment D**.

*Agenda Item 1.3.2.   Other States and Entities*

6.      The Republic of Korea, the Republic of South Africa and Taiwan thanked the Commission for the invitation to attend the meeting. The Republic of Korea, and Taiwan submitted opening statements which are included at **Attachment D**. The Republic of South Africa also expressed its interest in attaining full membership with the matter still under consideration by the government. The Republic of Indonesia subsequently expressed interest in joining the CCSBT but budgetary and financial considerations had been a major constraint.

## **Agenda Item 2. Report from the Secretariat**

7. Mr Campbell McGregor, the Executive Secretary of the CCSBT, submitted document CCSBT/0104/04, a report on the activities of the Secretariat since the Sixth Annual meeting in March 2000. The Commission noted the Report.

## **Agenda Item 3 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee**

8. The Finance and Administration Committee considered the draft budget submitted by the Secretariat and amended it to accommodate additional expenditure likely to be incurred in 2001, identified in the work plan for the Scientific Research Program, and meetings programmed for the remainder of 2001. The Commission agreed to the budget at **Attachment E**, noting that governments of members would need to consider the expenditure in the context of national budget arrangements. The Commission also noted the possibility of review of the 2001 budget at CCSBT8, based on the potential accession of the Republic of Korea in 2001, progress on the SRP from the Scientific Committee, etc. The Republic of Korea's contribution would be in the order of AUD\$70,000 if it joined the Commission in the second half of 2001.

## **Agenda Item 4. Review of SBT fisheries**

9. Reports on the SBT fisheries of members as well as, reports from the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan are included at **Attachment F**.

10. New Zealand explained that its reported SBT catch in 1999/00 quota year of 404 tonnes included 23 tonnes of northern bluefin tuna reflecting New Zealand's domestic reporting requirements which cover both northern and southern bluefin tuna species in one category.

## **Agenda item 5. Report from the Scientific Committee**

### ***Agenda Item 5.1 Outcomes of discussions on Scientific Research Program***

### ***Agenda Item 5.2 Progress towards Stock Assessment Process***

11. The Commission noted the report of the Scientific Committee which includes a report on the SRP. Mr Andrew Penny, Scientific Committee Chair, presented the report of the Scientific Committee and in particular, the 'Report of the SC to CCSBT on the Scientific Research Program', included at **Attachment G**.

12. CCSBT members thanked the Scientific Committee for their report and the input by the Scientific Advisory Panel and independent chairs. The Commission adopted the report and its recommendations including the SRP proposal.

13. In adopting the report it was agreed to accept the offer by the Advisory Panel to initiate development of a management strategy evaluation framework.

14. Japan also referred to the reference in the report that "...The data available indicate that the variable square interpretation of CPUE trends is not valid; there are many fish in areas not now being fished by Japanese longliners. This is demonstrated, at a large spatial scale, by the distribution of effort by other parties and, at a local scale, by results of past Experimental Fishing Programs....". It was confirmed that characterization of the SBT catch and scientific observer program should be carried out under the responsibility of the flag state countries in the case of high seas fishing and coastal countries in the case of fisheries within a 200-mile zone. Japan advised that it intended to conduct a tagging program using dedicated longline fishing vessels, the objectives of which included investigation of mixing of small SBT and the migratory pattern of large SBT. Japan also stressed that need for a workshop for the SRP, especially for the tagging program, before CCSBT8. While individual countries will run some of the nine components of the SRP, it was recognized that the CCSBT should be involved in all components to the extent necessary to ensure that the program progressed satisfactorily. Japan advised that it is ready to conduct a recruitment monitoring program and spawning ground research program using RV Sho-yo Maru and one other research vessel. It requested the cooperation of related countries for the successful conduct of these programs. Japan also suggested observers should cover all types of fleets of all related countries/entities and that the observer coverage should be realistic, considering similar programs in other tuna regional management organizations and cost, etc.

15. In regard to any proposals for a research program to be conducted in another country's EEZ, Indonesia indicated its understanding that any such program would be conducted with permission from the country.

16. An informal working group met outside of the Plenary to develop a work plan for initial implementation of the SRP. The 'Report of the Working Group on Implementation of the CCSBT Scientific Research Program' was adopted and is at **Attachment H**. Japan requested that the unutilised portion of the Scientific Quota be carried over for future use. The Chair of the Scientific Committee noted that there might be a need to consider a CPUE interpretation experiment in the coming year, in which case access to some research quota would be needed. The Commission agreed to keep under review the availability of the unutilised research quota for use in the SRP.

## **Agenda Item 6. Relationship with Non-members**

### ***Agenda Item 6.1 Indonesia, Korea, South Africa and Taiwan***

17. In dialogue between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Indonesia indicated that it considers its take of SBT to be largely bycatch. However, it also believed there was some targeting of SBT by Taiwanese vessels or vessels with Taiwanese fishing masters. The Republic of Indonesia's view was that about 300 tonnes of SBT were landed in the Republic of Indonesia. Given that about 500 vessels were operating out of Bali for fishing in the Indian Ocean, there was a need to clarify whether all catch has been landed in the Republic of Indonesia or whether some was transhipped.

18. The Republic of Indonesia is keen to determine two things

- (1) Where exactly spawning occurs on the spawning grounds; and
- (2) What the main spawning seasons are.

19. This information can then be used by the Republic of Indonesia to advise their fishermen and perhaps regulate their fishing practices.

20. The Republic of Indonesia had indicated funding for CCSBT membership was a problem and had wondered whether some collaborative arrangement was possible. Australia and the Republic of Indonesia have already engaged in some valuable collaborative port sampling and monitoring work and Australia is currently working with it to develop further collaborative work on its tuna fisheries.

21. The Republic of Korea advised that it is making a concerted effort to resolve those issues remaining for finalising its process for accession to the Convention. The Republic of Korea also reported its progress towards acceding to the SBT Convention with the expectancy of becoming a member of the CCSBT by the end of the year. It expressed support for the SRP proposal, and indicated its willingness to be a participant to all SRP related meetings to contribute better and effective promotion of the program in the future.

22. The Commission expressed its concern at the rate of progress of accession and requested that the Republic of Korea provide a specific timetable for its accession as soon as possible.

23. Commission members advised the meeting that following discussions with representatives from Taiwan, arrangements had been developed for the establishment of an extended Commission and an extended Scientific Committee to facilitate the participation of Taiwan in the work of the Commission, in accordance with the resolution at **Attachment I**. The Commission agreed to the resolution. In agreeing to the resolution, Japan advised that in relation to the Government of Japan its agreement was on the basis of interpreting the reference to the Exchange of Letters as not meaning an exchange of diplomatic documents.

24. Taiwan appreciated the efforts made by the Members of the Commission regarding its participation in the CCSBT. With the resolution adopted, Taiwan will expedite its domestic process before expressing its willingness to accept the arrangements. Taiwan hopes to be a part of the work of the CCSBT at the earliest possible time.

#### ***Agenda Item 6.2 Others***

25. The Commission noted that the data provided by Japan on statistics of imports of SBT to Japan (CCSBT/0104/18) indicated changes in the catch levels of a number of non-member countries, resulting in lower imports into Japan of SBT from these non-members.

#### ***Agenda Item 6.3 Action Plan***

26. The Commission noted the steps taken to inform countries and entities of the provisions of the CCSBT Action Plan (CCSBT/0104/05). In accordance with paragraph 2 of the Action Plan, the Commission agreed to identify Cambodia, Republic of Equatorial

Guinea, Republic of Honduras, and Belize as non-members whose vessels had been catching SBT in a manner which diminished the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation and management measures. It was agreed that no trade action would be taken against those countries at this stage, however, their actions would continue to be monitored with a view to negotiating arrangements consistent with the Commission's management measures if there was no cooperation from these countries in controlling the taking of SBT in the near future.

27. Dialogue was continuing between the Republic of Indonesia and the Commission and the members agreed that Australia should continue discussions with it with a view to securing its cooperation. It was therefore agreed that no action be taken under the Action Plan to identify the Republic of Indonesia at this time, but this issue would be reviewed at CCSBT8.

28. The joint action being taken by Japan and Taiwan to minimise the activities of Flag of Convenience (FOC) longline vessels was discussed. The program involved the return of Taiwan-built FOC vessels to control under the Taiwan flag and the buy-back and scrapping of second hand Japan-built FOC vessels. Japan considered that some vessels were outside the control of the government and industry organisations and this was reducing the effectiveness of the program. Taiwan acknowledged that it has been unable to implement actions as quickly as agreed with Japan because of domestic impediments and that further consultations would be held in the next few weeks.

#### **Agenda Item 7. Trade Information Scheme application and operation**

29. Japan reported that over the ten months of operation of the Scheme, SBT products have been imported from Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of Tonga. While a number of the countries exporting to Japan have overcome the initial shortcomings of incomplete accompanying documentation, problems still exist with some countries. Difficulties applying to the documentation accompanying imports from the Republic of Indonesia have included failure to show the registered validation seal in the accompanying documentation, and incomplete catch and catch location data. The official Republic of Indonesian validation seal originally registered with the Secretariat has since been changed. Japan noted that data on farmed fish is to be supplied to the Secretariat every six months and looked forward to receiving this information in respect of Australia shortly.

30. Japan requested that a letter be sent to all the relevant countries/entities to the TIS requesting them to appropriately implement the TIS and noted that under its domestic regulations regarding TIS, it is possible to hold the product received. Japan also indicated that it might have to apply this rule strictly.

31. Australia will be providing a report on SBT exports of farmed SBT to the Secretariat shortly. Australia advised that before CCSBT 8 it will carry out a scientific assessment of growth rates of farmed SBT. Australia would also provide further detailed explanation of the TIS requirements to those domestic operators exporting SBT.

32. New Zealand reaffirmed its commitment to the TIS. New Zealand also noted that the reduction of exports of SBT to Japan by some non-member countries was possibly the result of the TIS. New Zealand indicated that it would work to make the system work as efficiently as possible.

33. Japan pointed out their understanding that Taiwan had agreed to a voluntary national catch limit of 1450 tonnes. However, Japan Trade Statistics in 1999 indicated Taiwan exported the equivalent of over 1800 tonnes of live weight catch to Japan. Japan considered this apparent excess of the voluntary constraint as a serious matter. The question was raised as to whether these figures included catch taken by other countries including the possibility of catch taken by Indonesia. There is an urgent need for clarification.

34. Taiwan replied that it has fully cooperated with the CCSBT by taking voluntary catch restraint and implementing the TIS program. The figures cited by Japan includes catch in fresh form, probably from those small longliners that have entered into fisheries cooperation with Indonesia.

35. Australia found the possible link between the Republic of Indonesia and Taiwan as disturbing. From its information, it understands the Taiwanese skippers of the Republic of Indonesia/Taiwan joint fishery are targeting SBT in the SBT spawning ground and urged that this practice cease.

36. Taiwan agreed that there was a need for further investigation on the catch taken by joint venture vessels and will follow up on the problems raised by Australia. Australia urged these matters (targeting on the spawning grounds and the attribution of SBT catch taken by Taiwanese-skipped joint venture vessels in waters of the Republic of Indonesia) be treated with some urgency in a scientific way, suggesting presentation of papers on this at the Scientific Committee meeting in August 2001.

37. Japan, in supporting Australia's proposal, pointed out that while the formal meeting should be held as early as possible, the next Scientific Committee meeting had already set its priorities; suggesting it be covered at an alternative meeting. In the meantime, Japan proposed that member countries continue informal discussions with the Republic of Indonesia and Taiwan. In agreeing to these proposals regarding the TIS and the targeting of SBT on the spawning grounds, New Zealand reiterated its desire for greater clarity in regard to these matters.

38. The meeting agreed that papers on these matters be prepared for presentation at CCSBT8 in October 2001.

## **Agenda Item 8. Relationship with other organizations**

### ***Agenda Item 8.1 Reports from meetings of relevant fisheries management organizations***

39. Australia reported on the meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, from 29 January to 2 February 2001, at which an 'Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels of the Southern Hemisphere' was adopted. A copy of the Conference report was tabled for member's consideration out-of-session and discussion at the next Commission meeting.

40. Commission members recognised bycatch of seabirds as an important issue and have taken steps to mitigate such incidental bycatch. Japan noted that it had taken action to

conserve seabirds in accordance with the International Plan of Action and had taken steps to seek compliance by its industry. Commission members agreed that action on migratory birds be referred to the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG). Australia and New Zealand proposed that sharks and turtles be included in the ERSWG's work, while Japan considered the FAO to be the appropriate forum for discussion of these species.

41. Japan indicated that the interaction between cetaceans and SBT stock and SBT fisheries should also be included in the work of the ERSWG. Australia and New Zealand indicated that they did not consider that this issue was appropriate for discussion in that context.

### ***Agenda Item 8.2 Relevant Organizations and International Instruments***

42. The meeting considered that it was important to ensure that the CCSBT maintained contacts with other relevant international organisations and attend meetings relevant to the interests of CCSBT. The FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and any relevant FAO meetings should be priorities for the CCSBT. Attendance at other fora, such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), should be on the basis of the relevance of the meeting as indicated by the agenda for that meeting.

43. The Meeting noted issues relating to the actions necessary to implement the requirements of international instruments as set out in CCSBT/0104/16. Members agreed to consider these issues with their experts and to review them at the next meeting of the CCSBT.

### ***Agenda Item 8.3 Meeting of FAO and non-FAO regional fishery bodies***

44. A written report on the meeting by the Executive Secretary was noted CCSBT/0104/07.

### ***Agenda Item 8.4 IGO's attendance at the scientific committee meetings***

45. The members agreed to work to be at a position to reach a decision on this matter at CCSBT8.

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

### ***Agenda Item 9.1 Total Allowable Catch***

46. The Commission noted the contribution the Scientific Research Program it had adopted at this meeting would make to the stock assessment process. New Zealand considered that there was no basis to support a change in TAC until the relevant scientific work identified in the Scientific Research Program had been carried out and incorporated in the stock assessment process. Japan considered that the SBT stock was moving in a

favourable direction and that on the basis of their calculations it is reasonable to increase the TAC by 3000 tonnes to approximately 15 000 tonnes. Australia considered that a change to the TAC was premature. It believed it was important to support the work of the external scientists and to await the outcome of the SAG and the stock assessment before considering a change to the total allowable catch.

47. The Commission was not able to set a TAC for 2001, however, it recognised that the 2001 stock assessment process would be completed prior to CCSBT8 and would allow members to consider and adopt a TAC for 2002.

#### ***Agenda Item 9.2 National Allocation***

48. Australia and New Zealand indicated that in the absence of a TAC, they would maintain their national quota allocations, on a voluntary basis, at the levels last agreed by the Commission.

49. Japan stated that although it would continue to apply voluntary restrictions it sought the Commissions' understanding to take into account the catch of 711 tonnes it had refrained from catching in 1999 following the provisional measures issued by the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). It noted that these orders were subsequently revoked by the Arbitral Tribunal when it decided it did not have jurisdiction in the SBT dispute. New Zealand noted that the question of whether Japan was entitled to add 711 tonnes to its catch for 2001 turned on different legal interpretations of the relevant part of the Arbitral Tribunal's Award. In its view it would be unfortunate if Japan were to proceed without clarification of the legal questions involved. Australia noted that its previously stated legal position that Japan should not take up this tonnage, had not changed and in its view Japan should not undo those actions already undertaken under the ITLOS Provisional Measures.

50. Japan stated that while it recognised its baseline of 6065 tonnes as a voluntary national allocation for 2001, it would seek understanding by Australia and New Zealand with regard to the increase of 711 tonnes through various appropriate channels.

#### **Agenda Item 10. Program of work for 2001-02**

##### ***Agenda Item 10.1 Date of next ERS Working Group meeting***

51. The 'Draft Agenda CCSBT – Ecologically Related Species Working Group', was tabled. The Agenda was accepted by the Commission and is included at **Attachment J**.

##### ***Agenda Item 10.2 Other Meetings***

52. The Commission adopted a program of work for 2001, which is included at **Attachment K**.

#### **Agenda Item 11. Other business**

##### ***Agenda Item 11.1 Executive Secretary Recruitment Process***



53. The Commission noted that this matter had been concluded at CCSBT 6(3).

*Agenda Item 11.2 Appointment of Database Manager*

54. The Commission noted the advice from the Executive Secretary that Mr Robert Kennedy had been appointed to the position of Database Manager.

### *Agenda Item 11.3 Coordinating Input of Data to Database*

55. The Commission noted that this matter was included in the work plan for the SRP and would be further discussed as part of characterisation of SBT catch.

### *Agenda Item 11.4 Confidentiality of Commission documents*

56. The Commission considered the matter of confidentiality of reports of Commission meetings, reports of subsidiary or advisory bodies of the Commission and documents submitted to such meetings, and agreed to amend Rule 10 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. The agreed amended Rule 10 is included at **Attachment L**.

57. The Commission agreed that Rule 10 (as amended) would have effect from the close of the seventh annual meeting of the Commission, i.e. from 21 April 2001.

58. The Commission noted there was a number of documents in existence prior to its agreement to amend Rule 10. Commission Members agreed that such documents would be made available, on request, where both the author and the Member (if the author is a representative of a Member) had given permission for the document to be released.

59. The Commission confirmed that the reports of prior Commission meetings, except for attached reports of subsidiary or advisory bodies, would be made publicly available. Commission Members agreed that prior reports of subsidiary or advisory bodies of the Commission would be made available, on request, when the permission of all Members had been granted.

### *Other business*

#### **Western and Central Pacific Fishery Convention (WCPFC)**

60. Japan expressed concern with the WCPFC which could significantly influence the SBT issues in the future, especially in its responsibility overlapping those of CCSBT, the decision making processes and dispute settlement mechanism, etc. Japan also stressed that the current WCPFC went against the spirit of cooperation under Articles 64 and 118 of the UNCLOS and Article 8(3) of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

61. In response, New Zealand and Australia noted that the Convention adopted in the MHLC (the WCPFC) was the outcome of extended negotiation involving Pacific States and Distant Water Fishing Nations. New Zealand and Australia advised that the first Preparatory Conference of the WCPFC would be held in Christchurch the following week, and understood that discussions were being held to ensure that issues that Japan had indicated were of concern to it could be discussed at the PrepCon. New Zealand and Australia noted that the issue raised by Japan of overlapping jurisdiction in respect of SBT between the WCPFC and CCSBT mirrored the situation in other regional fisheries arrangements where the same distinction between a regionally based mandate and the species specific responsibilities of CCSBT for SBT also existed.

62. Japan replied that it was impossible to proceed fair discussion for improvement of the WCPFC under circumstances of closed membership, and this makes it impossible for Japan to participate in the conference. Japan also mentioned that at the MHLC7 it tried to have SBT excluded from the WCPFC jurisdiction. Australia and New Zealand, however, opposed the exclusion of SBT from the Convention.

### **Port ban**

63. Japan requested that Australia should open its ports to Japanese fishing vessels immediately for humanitarian, including medical checks and emergency reasons, and it explained the increase in incidents including death, after the unilateral ban on port access.

64. In response, Australia advised that it attaches the highest importance to safety of life at sea, and in accordance with Australia's international obligation, foreign fishing vessels may enter an Australian port without the need of a port permit in genuine cases of emergency.

65. Australia also stated that it hoped that arrangements for port access to Australian ports for Japanese fishing vessels could be normalized in the near future.

### **Agenda Item 12. Close of the meeting**

#### *Agenda Item 12.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for CCSBT8*

66. The meeting elected Mr ShiroYuge (Japan) as Chair and Mr Don Banfield (Australia) as Vice-Chair.

#### *Agenda Item 12.2 Adoption of Report of Meeting*

67. The Commission adopted the report of the Seventh Annual meeting.

#### *Agenda Item 12.3 Closure of the Meeting*

68. The meeting was closed at 4.30 PM.

Bill Mansfield  
Chair  
21 April 2001

## **INDEX**

### **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment A. AGENDA
  - B. THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
  - C. THE LIST OF DOCUMENTS
  - D. OPENING STATEMENT
  - E. BUDGET – 2001
  - F. REVIEW OF SBT FISHERIES
  - G. REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
  - H. THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CCSBT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME
  - I. RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN EXTENDED COMMISSION AND AN EXTENDED SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
  - J. DRAFT AGENDA – CCSBT ECOLOGICALLY RELATED SPECIES WORKING GROUP
  - K. MEETING TIME TABLE FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2001
  - L. THE AMENDED RULE 10 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMISSION DOCUMENTS

**Agenda**  
**Seventh Annual Meeting of the Commission**  
**18 - 21 April 2001**  
**Sydney, Australia**

1. Opening of the meeting
  - 1.1 Welcoming address
  - 1.2 Adoption of agenda
  - 1.3 Opening statements
    - 1.3.1 Members
    - 1.3.2 Other states and entities
2. Report from the Secretariat
3. Report from the Finance and Administration Committee
4. Review of SBT Fisheries
5. Report from the Scientific Committee
  - 5.1 Outcomes of discussions on Scientific Research Program
  - 5.2 Progress towards Stock Assessment Process
6. Relationship with Non-members
  - 6.1 Indonesia, Korea, South Africa and Taiwan
  - 6.2 Others
  - 6.3 Action Plan
7. Trade Information Scheme application and operation
8. Relationship with other organisations
  - 8.1 Reports from meetings of relevant fisheries management organisations
  - 8.2 Relevant Organisations and international instruments
  - 8.3 Meeting of FAO and non-FAO regional fishery bodies
  - 8.4 IGO's attendance at the scientific committee meetings
9. Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation
  - 9.1 Total Allowable Catch
  - 9.2 National Allocation
10. Program of Work for 2001-02
  - 10.1 Date of next ERS Working Group meeting

10.2 Other Meetings

11. Other business

11.1 Executive Secretary Recruitment Process

11.2 Appointment of Database Manager

11.3 Coordinating Input of Data to Database

11.4 Confidentiality of Commission documents

12. Close of the meeting

12.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for CCSBT8

12.2 Adoption of Report of Meeting

12.3 Closure of the Meeting

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Seventh Annual Meeting  
18-21 April 2001  
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**List of Documents of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Commission meeting**

(CCSBT/0104/ )

1. Agenda
2. List of participants
3. List of Documents
4. Report from the Secretariat
5. Reply from countries concerning Action Plan
6. The evaluation for the implementation of Trade Information Scheme by the Secretariat
7. Report of Meeting of FAO and Non-FAO Regional Fisheries Bodies or Arrangements
8. IGO's Attendance at the SAG and Scientific Committee Meetings
9. Meeting Time Table for 2001
10. Proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure on confidentiality
11. Proposal on database format for data maintained at the Secretariat of the CCSBT
12. Full implementation of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna Trade Information Scheme/Statistical Document Program? paper by Australia
13. Draft Budget for 2001
14. Invitation to attend meeting of FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics
15. Data Confidentiality – Attachment B, Term of Reference for a Database and Database Manager for the CCSBT Secretariat (Version 5, 25 July 2000)
16. Relationship With Other Parties? Relevant Organizations and International Instruments
17. Incomplete document of CCSBT TIS(Taiwan, Korea, Indonesia, New Zealand, Philippines, Australia, Tonga) ? paper by Japan
18. Import Statistics of SBT by Japan? paper by Japan
19. Draft- Report of the Working Group on Implementation of the CCSBT Scientific Research Program
20. Resolution to Establish an Extended Commission and an Extended Scientific Committee
21. Draft Agenda – CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group

**Opening Statements**

(CCSBT/0104/OS- )

Australia  
Japan  
New Zealand  
Korea  
Taiwan

**Review of SBT Fisheries**

(CCSBT/0104/SBT Fisheries- )

Australia

Japan  
New Zealand  
Korea  
Taiwan

**Information Paper**

(CCSBT/0104/info- )

1. Development of a SBT Scientific Research Program including a Scientific Fishing Component by the CCSBT External Scientists
2. Progress Report of the Working Group Established to Identify and Evaluate Sources of Difference in Projection Results Between Approaches used by Australia and Japan (16 November 2000)
3. Timing for Exchange of Data and Documents for the 2001 SAG and SC
4. Recommendation for Document Exchange

**Report Paper**

(CCSBT/0104/Rep. )

1. Report of the fifth Meeting of the Scientific Committee
2. Report from the Finance and Administration Committee
3. Report of the Working Group on Implementation of the CCSBT Scientific Research Program

**Australia's opening statement- CCSBT7**

Thank you Mr Chairman for your kind welcome and on behalf of Australia I would like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates and observers to the seventh annual meeting of CCSBT here in Sydney. In particular, we welcome the delegates of Japan and New Zealand along with observers from the Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of South Africa.

Australia would like to welcome Bill Mansfield of New Zealand to the Chair of the Commission and we are sure you will bring wisdom to the guidance of the work of the CCSBT.

Our appreciation to Campbell McGregor for a job well done as Executive Secretary and our wishes go with him for the future either in retirement or in any other avenues of endeavour that he might pursue.

Australia, along with the other Commission Members, was pleased with the announcements by the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Indonesia of their intention to accede to the 1993 Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna. We look forward to the early completion of the domestic procedures relating to the accession process and the day when we can welcome both countries as full Members of the Commission.

Australia continues to be committed to the successful operation of this Commission and through it, the long-term conservation and optimal utilisation of the global southern bluefin tuna stock. For its part, Australia remains committed to the primacy of the CCSBT in developing, implementing and reviewing effective global arrangements for SBT.

We would like to place on record our thanks to both the External Scientists and to the Member scientists of the CCSBT who have worked to bring forward a very credible SRP. This new era of cooperation and collaboration is appreciated and should be encouraged.

There is much on the table to discuss at this meeting. In particular, Australia would like the Commission's deliberations to focus on:

- Arriving at an agreement to and framework for implementation of the Scientific Research Program (SRP) amongst the CCSBT Members.
- Confirming the stock assessment arrangements for 2001 to enable a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of SBT to be set by the CCSBT for 2002 and in this context agreeing to TAC arrangements for 2001.



- Reviewing the CCSBT Action Plan in relation to non-Members. We must continue to emphasise the importance of encouraging the accession or formal cooperation of **all** SBT fishing states or entities. Australia is keen to examine what further measures Commission Members should take to ensure adherence by non-Members to the Commission's conservation and management measures and to deter SBT fishing activities that undermine the objective of the Commission.
- Reviewing the status of the CCSBT Trade Information Scheme/Statistical Document Program (TIS) and gaining the agreement from **all** Commission Members and cooperating Non-Members to provide data at a similar level of detail to that required under Trade Information Scheme (TIS). In this context we are determined to pursue the External Scientists recommendations to gain better information on the catch of all parties fishing for SBT. This will include regular reporting of all parties of their catch against their allocation through the fishing season.
- Setting a date and venue for a meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group in 2001.

As I said at the outset Australia is committed to working cooperatively with the Chair and the other delegations to achieve the conservation and optimal utilisation of the global southern bluefin tuna fish stock.

However having said that we are equally determined to see the work of the CCSBT move forward and to put the issues of the past clearly behind us. In order to do that we seek the ongoing cooperation of all parties.

[18 April 2001, Sydney]

( Translated by the Secretariat)

**Opening Statement**  
**The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna**  
**18 April 2001**  
**JAPAN**

Thank you, Chairman.

Last August, the Arbitral Tribunal decided that it did not have jurisdiction to deal with the “southern bluefin tuna case”. Since then, issues relating to conservation and management of southern bluefin tuna have been discussed under the framework of the CCSBT with the cooperation and collaboration of member countries of CCSBT. I am pleased to note that progress has been made for improvement of the stock assessment process and non-member issues.

The most urgent requirement for CCSBT is to agree upon an appropriate level of TAC through appropriate stock assessment procedures based upon scientific evidence. I am also pleased to note that improvement has been made for re-functioning of the CCSBT, including improvement of the stock assessment process.

Especially, at the Fifth meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC), held last month in Tokyo, substantial progress was made for the establishment of an appropriate stock assessment and scientific research program. In this meeting, member countries will further discuss the result of the SC meeting. Japan highly respects the recommendations of the SC and is ready to discuss this issue.

In this respect, Japan would like to express appreciation to the external scientists, independent chairs of the Scientific Committee and Stock Assessment Group for their initiatives and contributions toward improvement of the stock assessment and development of a scientific research program. Japan would like to ask their continued cooperation for further development of science within CCSBT.

At the coming meeting of Stock Assessment Group (SAG), the first stock assessment will be conducted since the 1998 SAG meeting. Japan would like to stress that member countries should make the utmost effort to conduct an appropriate stock assessment of SBT, following the recommendations made by the SC. Member countries also should make the utmost effort to set a TAC for 2002 based upon the result of the assessment.

On the other hand, progress also has been made in terms of non-member issues. For example, the Republic of Korea formally announced its intention for accession to the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

However, as a result of informal discussions with officials of the Government of Korea, it has become clear that the internal procedure of ROK for accession to the Convention has not shown progress.

I believe that the Commission needs to work further for ROK's early accession to the Convention.

It is regrettable that little progress has been made on the matter of other non-member's accession to the Convention or cooperation with the CCSBT. It is necessary for the CCSBT to decide further action under the " Action Plan " in this meeting and to make further progress on this matter.

As for the total allowable catch for 2001, Japan is planning to set a voluntary national allocation, taking into account the amount of catch which could not be used for commercial catch in 1999, because of the provisional measures prescribed by ITLOS which have already been revoked.

Now, this year, Japan is the host country for SAG, SC and CCSBT8.

SAG/SC will be held in Tokyo and CCSBT8 will be held in Miyako-city, Iwate Prefecture. Japan does hope that good progress will be made on various issues with cooperation and collaboration of member countries of CCSBT in these meetings as well as in this CCSBT7 meeting. Also, we hear that ROK which participates in this meeting still with observer status is now making every effort for early accession to the Convention. I do hope that ROK will participate in the CCSBT8 as a member country.

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Australian Government which hosts the meeting and the staff of the Secretariat of the CCSBT. Especially, I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Campbell McGregor, current Executive Secretary of the CCSBT, for his long term work for the CCSBT. I hope his future will be prosperous.

Thank you.

**CCSBT7  
NEW ZEALAND OPENING STATEMENT**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. We are looking forward to working with the delegations from Australia and Japan under the guidance of our new chairs, Bill Mansfield. We also extend a warm welcome to the representatives from Taiwan and South Africa who are with us today as well as Korea as member-designate.

We are pleased with the progress we made at our last meeting, particularly with regards to steps that were taken in relation the SRP and to non-members.

Since our last meetings much progress has been achieved. The external scientists have developed draft SRP that was discussed by the Scientific Committee. All members of the SC meeting at their last meeting accepted a final draft of the Scientific Research Programme proposal without reservation. We would like to acknowledge the effort made by the scientific delegation and the externals over the past few months to put the SRP together. It is now our duty to ensure that the SRP is adopted by the Commission and successfully implemented. We feel strongly that will be a critical step in ensuring the effective management and conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna stocks.

As noted earlier we are also especially pleased with the progress that has been made regarding non-members. Korea's formal announcement of its intention to become a member of the Commission was very good news. We look forward to Korea finalising the accession process to that it can become a full member of the Commission.

As recognised by all parties, restraint of non-member catch will contribute to an improved potential for stock rebuild. For this reason we need to continue negotiations with other non-members to determine the steps required to achieve closer co-operation.

We are confident that in the next few days we will build on the progress we achieved at our last meeting and we look forward to a successful outcome from our discussions.

We also would like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank Mr Campbell McGregor for his contribution to the CCSBT during the past few years.

Thank you.

**Seventh Commission Meeting  
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna  
Sydney Australia, 18-21 Apr., 2001**

**Statement by the Republic of Korea**

**CCSBT Opening Statement**  
Pyung-Shik Shin  
Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Korea

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, and ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning.

On behalf of my delegation, I thank Mr. Chairman and all CCSBT Member States for inviting the Korean delegation to this Commission meeting, and I'd like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Secretary and all the staff members for the successful arrangements of this important meeting.

It is frequently said that the fisheries management incorporates political, social, and economic conditions, on top of the scientific stock assessment. This proposition can be best used only when there are enough fish resources at sea.

During the last several decades, hundreds of famous fisheries have been collapsed worldwide, and even the abundance and fish size of the remained fisheries resources require special care. With the large-scale variability of climate changes, overfishing has been one of the critical factors that control the stock conditions in commercial fish species. Especially in tuna fisheries, both growth and recruitment overfishing can significantly impact on the remaining stocks. In this respect, and for the sustainable exploitation of one of our food resources, various precautionary activities that the CCSBT promotes, including the Scientific Research Program, seems very timely and appropriate.

As one of the fishing states, Korea has already recognized the importance of the resources exploitation through the adequate conservation and management of the

fisheries resources. Therefore, it has cooperated with the efforts of the world fisheries organizations by reducing fishing fleet size, eliminating IUU fishing, joining regional fisheries organizations, etc. According to our policies, Korea will also cooperate with the management, sustainability, and optimum exploitation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna resources, based on an objective and reasonable interpretation of the best scientific information available.

For the accession to the Convention, Korea delivered the Formal Letter of Intention to the Secretariat of the CCSBT last January that it will become a full member of the CCSBT, and the Korean government has made all our efforts to progress relevant domestic procedures as was scheduled. In this regard, the Korean delegation would like to have an informal meeting with the member states to discuss on the issues remained.

Once again, I thank for your generosity and long endurance for Korea to be one of your collaborative colleagues and I promise that Korea will address and discern various questions on the Stakeholders' interests in a fair and reasonable way, and will cooperate with all CCSBT activities for the common benefits of the Members and for the conservation and optimum exploitation of Southern Bluefin Tuna resources.

I hope this meeting will have a fruitful outcome after our four days' devotion and fever. Thanks.

**OPENING STATEMENT BY TAIWAN**

April 18, 2001

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Taiwan delegation, I would like to express our gratitude to the CCSBT Secretariat for inviting us to participate in this meeting.

We fully understand that CCSBT has dedicated to managing southern bluefin tuna for many years. We appreciate very much its efforts taken by the three existing Contracting Parties to the Convention. As a responsible deep-sea fishing nation, we are conscious of the need for international cooperation on the conservation and management of tuna resources in the region. For sustainable utilization of southern bluefin tuna, my government has made its best efforts to cooperate with CCSBT since its establishment in 1994.

As you are aware, over the past several years, we have taken many measures in compliance with the resolutions adopted by CCSBT in spite that Taiwan is not a member to date. The measures include, but not limited to enacting domestic regulations to implement the resolutions, imposing a self-restraint catch limit, providing catch statistics, participating in scientific research on southern bluefin tuna. I believe our efforts will be respected from all SBT fishing nations concerned.

In various occasions, we have repeatedly expressed that obligation of a fishing nation should be commensurate with its right. We have also expressed that we have the strong willingness to participate as a member on an equal basis as other members in CCSBT. CCSBT organized a delegation to visit Taipei last October, and thoroughly exchanged views with us on a new proposal presented by CCSBT to accommodate Taiwan in the regime. We thank the efforts by CCSBT, although the agreement has not yet been reached so far. My government is prudently evaluating the CCSBT's proposal because of its complicated nature and involvement in our domestic legal and political circumstances. What Taiwan intends to secure is an equal status and full participation as other parties to the Convention in the CCSBT regime. It is hoped that Taiwan and CCSBT may continue to negotiate to find out a suitable resolution acceptable by both sides.

Finally, we look forward to having a productive week during which we can resolve substantial issues and reach fruitful results. My delegation appreciates very much for the considerate arrangement and hospitality extended by the Secretariat.

<b>COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA</b>	
<b>BUDGET - 2001</b>	<b>ESTIMATE</b>
	<b>2001</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>Carry over from Previous Year</b>	<b>53,600</b>
<b>Contributions from members</b>	<b>1,057,400</b>
Japan	487,799
Australia	437,404
New Zealand	132,197
<b>Staff Assessment Levy</b>	<b>80,000</b>
<b>Interest on investments</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>TOTAL GROSS INCOME</b>	<b>1,201,000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
<b>ANNUAL MEETINGS - ( CCSBT 7&amp;8 (2001))</b>	<b>100,000</b>
Interpretation Costs	45,000
Hire of venue	22,000
Hire of Equipment	22,000
Miscellaneous Costs (Inc. Sc Cte Chair attending Annual Meeting)	8,000
Publication and Translation	3,000
<b>SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	<b>80,000</b>
SRP WG, Advisory Panel in 2001	65,000
ERS Working Group Meeting	15,000
<b>SC Mar 01 &amp; SAG/SC Aug 01</b>	<b>371,000</b>
Interpretation Costs	55,000
Hire of venue	20,000
Hire of equipment	25,000
Hire of Consultants - SAG Chair, SC Chair, Advisory Panel	260,000
Miscellaneous Costs	5,000
Publication and translation	6,000
<b>SECRETARIAT COSTS</b>	<b>548,000</b>
Secretariat Staff Costs	295,000
Staff Assessment Levy	80,000
Employer Super/Social security	54,000
Worker's Compensation/ travel/contents Insurance	10,000
Travel/transport - O/seas and domestic	40,000
Miscellaneous Translation of Commission and Committee Reports	8,000
Training	1,000
Provision for professional staff replacements - recruitment/departure, home leave allowance, repatriation grant and removal costs	60,000
<b>OFFICE MANAGEMENT COSTS</b>	<b>102,000</b>
Office lease	31,000
Office running costs	19,000
Provision for new/replacement assets	30,000
Telephone/communications	12,000
Miscellaneous	10,000
<b>TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,201,000</b>



**Review of the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery  
for the 1999/00 and Preliminary 2000/01 Seasons  
Prepared by Carolyn Robins, BRS (10 April 2001)**

**1. Introduction**

The Australian domestic SBT preliminary catch during the 1999/00 season (1 December 1999 to 30 November 2000) was 5257 tonnes. The preliminary 2000/01 catch (1 December 2000 to 30 November 2001) reported by 11 April 2001 is 5160 tonnes.

**2. Operational Constraints on Effort**

*Regulatory Measures*

Domestic operators are managed through individual transferable quotas (ITQs) granted as Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs) under the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995*. Although the global total allowable catch (TAC) has not been determined by the Commission since 1998, Australia agreed to maintain its national catch limit at 5265 tonnes, which has remained unchanged since 1989/90.

**3. Catch and Effort**

The SBT landings for the 1999/00 season were:

South Australia and Western Australia	5143 tonnes (5130 t in farm cages and 13 t longlined)
New South Wales and Tasmania	114 tonnes

SBT caught for fish farms in South Australia, using purse seine vessels, utilise most of the Australian quota (3% in 1991/92 to over 97% in 1999/00). The domestic longlining component declined from 10% in 1996/97 to less than 3% in 1999/00. There were no SBT poled off South Australia or trolled off Tasmania during the 1999/00 season.

The majority of the catches reported by April 2001 for the 2000/01 season come from the farm sector in South Australia. The season continues until 30 November 2001.

**4. Historical Catch and Effort**

Major restructuring occurred in Australia's SBT fisheries following reductions in the global TAC and national catch allocations in the late 1980s. Attachment A summarises the catch taken by each sector of the Australian industry since 1988/89. Confidentiality guidelines prevent the release of data from groups of less than 5 boats. Therefore, data are combined for some fishing methods.

**5. Annual Fleet Size and Distribution**

Fishing for SBT, by eight purse seine vessels, for the farm operations in South Australia commenced in December 1999 and continued until March 2000. Some longlining

also occurred in South Australia (2 vessels), Tasmania (2 vessels) and Western Australia (18 vessels). Longline fishing off New South Wales (37 vessels) commenced in May 2000 and continued until November.

During the 2000/01 season eight purse seine vessels caught fish for the Port Lincoln tuna farms. Fishing started in December and most of the available quota had been caught by March 2001.

## **6. Historical Fleet Size and Distribution**

Australians began fishing for SBT in the early 1950s off New South Wales and South Australia and then later (1970) off Western Australia. The Australian catch peaked at 21 500 tonnes in 1982. Historically, the bulk of the Australian catch had been used for canning.

The introduction of an ITQ based management plan in 1984 based on an Australian TAC of 14 500 tonnes resulted in the redistribution of quota ownership. Progressively over the mid to late 1980s, the Australian catch focussed on supplying the Japanese sashimi market, with an increasing amount of the catch being transhipped to Japanese freezer vessels in the Great Australian Bight.

In the late 1980s the Australian quota reductions to 5265 tonnes led to further restructuring. From 1990 to 1994 approximately half the Australian quota was taken by Australia-Japan joint venture longliners. With the termination of the joint venture arrangement in 1995 Australian catches again focused on the surface fishery with poling operations supplying the fresh chilled sashimi market and purse seiners providing SBT to farms.

Since 1992 there has been a progressive increase in the number of SBT taken for farming operations. In the 1999/00 season this component utilised over 97% the Australian quota resulting in quota being less available for other operations.

## **7. Fisheries Monitoring**

The monitoring arrangements in the SBT fishery continue to be reviewed and refined in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the procedures. To prevent the incidental bycatch of SBT off NSW, operators with insufficient quota were prohibited from operating in the zone south of Sydney from June to August 2000. The catch disposal records, including one designed to cater for farm operations, were readily adopted in 1999/00. During the 1999/00 and 2000/01 seasons AFMA Compliance Officers were deployed on farm tow vessels to observe procedures and protocols. These operations will continue in future seasons. In addition, farm monitoring procedures are reviewed annually with boat inspections while in port and the monitoring of all transfers of fish to farm cages continuing. The AFMA Compliance Program also introduced an ongoing audit of fishing records in 2000/01.

## **8. Other factors**

### *Import/Export Statistics*

The Trade Information Scheme that records all exported Australian fish has been implemented and refined. This program will provide a complete record of SBT exports that can be compared with the Japanese Import Statistics.

*Markets*

More than 95% of Australia's SBT catch is exported to Japan.

## ATTACHMENT A

Domestic southern bluefin tuna catch by Australian state, gear and quota year, 1988-89 to 1999-00.

(Prior to 1988-89 there was virtually no domestic longlining for SBT and no joint-venture arrangement.)

*Quota year	Western Australia			South Australia				New South Wales			Tasmania			Large longliners			Australia total			RTMP	Total all gears	
	Albany pole	Esperance pole	total	pole & purse seine	farm cages	long- line	total	pole & purse seine	long- line	total	troll	long- line	total	Aust. charter	joint- venture	total	domestic surface	domestic long- line	total long- line			
1988-89	204	221	425	4872	0	0	4872	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	684	684	5299	1	685	0	5984	
1989-90	133	97	230	4199	0	0	4199	0	6	6	14	0	14	0	400	400	4443	6	406	0	4849	
1990-91	175	45	220	2588	0	0	2588	0	15	15	57	0	57	255	881	1136	2865	15	1151	#300	4316	
1991-92	17	0	17	1629	138	14	1781	34	90	124	36	20	56	59	2057	2116	1854	124	2240	800	4894	
1992-93	0	0	0	716	722	68	1506	16	238	254	23	44	67	0	2735	2735	1477	350	3085	650	5212	
1993-94	0	0	0	621	1294	55	1970	0	286	286	7	105	112	0	2299	2299	1922	446	2745	270	4937	
1994-95	0	0	0	908	1954	2	2864	0	157	157	4	109	113	0	1295	1295	2866	268	1563	650	5080	
1995-96	0	0	0	1447	3362	0	4809	28	89	117	0	262	262	0	0	0	4837	351	351	0	5188	
1996-97	0	0	0	2000	2498	0	4498	7	229	236	2	242	244	0	0	0	4507	471	471	0	4978	
1997-98	0	0	^0	916	3487	^0	4403	~0	475	475	!0	219	219	0	0	0	4433	664	664	0	5097	
1998-99	0	0	^0	28	4991	^0	5019	~0	97	97	!0	116	116	0	0	0	5016	216	216	0	5232	
1999-00	0	0	^0	0	5130	13	5143	0	114	114	0	!0	0	0	0	0	5130	127	127	0	5257	
"2000-01																						"5160

\*1 October to 30 September for 1988-89 to 1990-91; 1 October 1991 to 31 October 1992 for 1991-92; 1 November to 31 October for 1992-93 and 1993-94;

1 November 1994 to 15 December 1995 for 1994-95; 16 December 1995 to 15 December 1996 for 1995-96; 16 December 1996 to 30 November 1997 for 1996-97;

1 December to 30 November for 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, and 2000-01.

#Note that a further 700t of Australian quota was 'frozen' (not allocated) in 1990-91.

^ From 1997 to 1999 WA and SA non-farm catches are included in SA pole and purse seine catch and in 1999/00 WA longliner is included in SA longliner catch due to confidentiality guidelines.

~ From 1997 to 1999 NSW pole and purse seine catches are included in NSW longline catch due to confidentiality guidelines.

! From 1997 to 1999 Tas troll catches are included in Tas longline and in 1999/00 Tas longline is included in NSW longline due to confidentiality guidelines.

" 2000-01 catches are preliminary as the season is on-going so all catches are recorded in total.

## Review of Southern Bluefin Tuna Fisheries of Japan in 1999 Fishing Season

### 1. Summary

- (1) In the 1999 fishing season (1 March 1999 - 29 February 2000), fishing for SBT by Japanese fishing vessels started on 15 April 1999 and terminated on 1 December 1999. The total Catch during the fishing season was 5,354tons.
- (2) Japanese distant-water tuna longline fishing, including fishing for SBT, faces a severe economic situation due to a decline in demand for tuna because of the long recession in Japan and a fall in the price of tuna caused by increased import of tuna.

### 2. Catch Control

- (1) The Government of Japan (GOJ) took voluntary measures to set an upper limit of catch (6,065tons), which was the Japanese national allocation agreed by CCSBT in 1997, and established a fishing plan for the 1999 fishing season. Japanese industry operated into fishing activity in accordance with the plan. However, in accordance with provisional measures prescribed by ITOLS, GOJ decreased the upper limit in the mid of the fishing season.
- (2) GOJ issued a notification to the industry, which ordered it to comply with the plan. The plan divided the fishing area into three (3) sub-fishing areas (high seas area off Tasmania/Sydney, high seas area off Cape Town and Southern Indian Ocean), and put the vessels under obligations to report to GOJ the date of entry to and departure from each sub-fishing area, and report to GOJ catch information every 10 days. GOJ also established closed seasons for each sub-fishing area for the purpose of protecting spawning stocks and juvenile stocks, etc.
- (3) GOJ took necessary measures to control and monitor the fishery, which include dispatching enforcement vessels to the fishing area, observers on board of operating vessels, as well as requirement for fishing vessels to install VMS on board vessels and to report a daily position to GOJ.

### 3. Catch and Effort

In the 1999 fishing season, GOJ took voluntary measures to set an upper limit of 6,065 tons, which was agreed as the national allocation to Japan in 1997, in the absence of a decision on TAC by the Commission. Actual catch in 1999 fishing season was 5,354tons, reducing 711tons from the catch limit, in accordance with provisional measures prescribed by ITLOS. The breakdown of the actual catch was as follows;

- high seas off Tasmania/Sydney	1,539tons
- high seas off Cape Town	2,513tons
- Southern Indian Ocean	1,113tons
- Other areas including South Africa's EEZ	189tons.

### 4. Past Catch and Effort

The catch limits planned and actual catches for recent 3 years are shown in Attachment 1.

- (1) The actual catch in 1996 exceeded the plan by 308tons. As the result, GOJ

placed under its control a total of 5,757tons (i.e. the national allocation in 1997 (6,065tons) minus 308tons) of SBT as the catch limit for the 1997 fishing season. The actual catch was within the catch limit.

- (2) In the 1998 fishing season, GOJ took voluntary measures to set an upper limit of 6,065 tons, which was agreed as national allocation to Japan in 1997, in the absence of a decision on TAC by the Commission. The actual catch in 1998 was within the catch limit.

#### **5. Total Number of Fishing Vessels and Their Distribution**

The number of fishing vessels targeting SBT in the 1999 fishing season was 227. The number of vessels on the high seas off Tasmania/Sydney was 69, the number of vessels on the high seas off Cape Town was 99, and the number of vessels in Southern Indian Ocean was 59.

#### **6. Past Fishing Vessel Numbers and Their Distribution**

Vessel numbers and their distribution to sub-fishing areas for recent 3 years are shown in Attachment 1.

The total number of fishing vessels targeting SBT in 1998 fishing season was 257. However, Japan reduced the number by 30, following a voluntary reduction of numbers of Japanese distant-water tuna longline fishing vessels by 20%.

#### **7. Monitoring**

- (1) In the 1999 fishing season, the number of observers on board was 20 and a total observed days were 1,033 days.
- (2) During the same period, Japan dispatched 5 enforcement vessels to the fishing area of SBT for a total of 576 days.

#### **8. Others**

##### **(The amount of import of SBT to Japan)**

The amount of import of SBT to Japan is shown in Attachment 2.

The import of SBT to Japan has increased steadily every year, and has more than doubled over these 5 years (1995-1999). The drastic increase was caused by the increase in imports from Australia, Korea and Taiwan. Imports in 1999 totaled 10,600tons. The biggest exporting country is Australia (66% of the total volume imported.). The major exporters (Australia, Korea and Taiwan) account for 91% of the total volume.



## Appendix 2

**Import Statistics of SBT by Japan**

Japanese Import of SBT by Country/Area(Fresh- Chilled and Frozen)

Source: Japan Trade Statistics, Ministry of Finance

( period: from January to December, unit: kg )

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Australia	1,803,284	2,515,613	3,272,990	3,195,903	6,125,027	6,256,201	6,987,421
Taiwan	537,239	962,166	1,276,474	1,396,915	516,055	1,481,378	1,611,250
Korea	102,070	127,690	75,836	562,573	671,497	1,649,851	1,056,953
New Zealand	40,362	63,461	202,636	128,249	88,640	120,176	213,576
Indonesia	244,258	281,212	207,758	317,687	368,634	282,265	310,552
Honduras		21,479	146,574	179,918	55,286	144,138	244,423
Philippines				182		4,415	69,170
China	542		9,183				373
Singapore	1,219	24,417	1,968	43,835	17,199	18,936	21,827
Guam				680	454	3,673	2,429
Fiji	1,963		445		396	181	972
EQ Guinea						130,846	32,258
Palau	1,413	886		569	690		1,073
Thailand				333	376		645
Belize			3,380	9,534	278	91,849	39,580
Combodia						17,301	4,374
Malaysia	563	497				271	836
Greece							502
Uruguay	185		342	102	1,028		186
Tonga			138				162
USA	860	102	1,320			2,062	
Panama					212,632		
Croatia					729		
F.S of Micronesia					195		
Maldives					163		
New Caledonia	3,850				119		
Portugal					93		
Vanuatu				17,855			
France				2,995			
Chile				334			
Cook Islands		111		140			
Spain	821		11,061				
S Africa	1,896						
Trinido	1,354						
Tunisia			124				
Seychel							1,129
Toral	2,741,879	3,997,634	5,210,229	5,857,804	8,059,491	10,203,543	10,599,691



## **Review of Southern Bluefin Tuna Fisheries of Japan in 2000 Fishing Season**

### **1. Summary**

- (1) In the 2000 fishing season (1 March 2000 - 29 February 2001), fishing for SBT by Japanese fishing vessels started on 15 April 2000 and terminated on 27 December 2000.
- (2) Experimental fishing was conducted by two research vessels from 1 August to 31 August 2000. This experiment was conducted within an upper limit of SBT catch voluntarily established by the Government of Japan (GOJ).
- (3) Japanese distant-water tuna longline fishing, including fishing for SBT, faces a severe economic situation due to a decline in demand for tuna because of the long recession in Japan and a fall in the price of tuna caused by increased import of tuna.

### **2. Catch Control**

- (1) GOJ originally took voluntary measures to set an upper limit of catch (4,578tons) in accordance with the provisional measures prescribed by ITOLS ("Japanese national allocation agreed by CCSBT in 1997 (6,065tons)" - "amount of SBT caught by 1999 EFP (2,198tons - 711tons)"). However, since the provisional measures were revoked by the arbitral tribunal on 4 August 2000, GOJ changed the upper limit to 6,065tons.
- (2) GOJ issued a notification to the industry, which ordered it to comply with the plan. The plan divided the fishing area into three (3) sub-fishing areas (high seas area off Tasmania/Sydney, high seas area off Cape Town and Southern Indian Ocean), and put the vessels under obligations to report to GOJ the date of entry to and departure from each sub-fishing area, and report to GOJ catch information every 10 days. GOJ also established closed seasons for each sub-fishing area for the purpose of protecting spawning stocks and juvenile stocks, etc.
- (3) GOJ took necessary measures to control and monitor the fishery, which include dispatching enforcement vessels to the fishing area, observers on board of operating vessels, as well as requirement for fishing vessels to install VMS on board vessels and to report a daily position to GOJ.

### **3. Catch and Effort**

In the 2000 fishing season, GOJ originally took voluntary measures to set an upper limit of 4,578tons in accordance with the provisional measures prescribed by ITOLS (see 2.(1) above), and established a fishing plan with this upper limit. However, since the provisional measures were revoked by the arbitral tribunal, GOJ changed the upper limit to 6,065tons and modified the fishing plan in accordance with the changed of the upper limit.

### **4. Past Catch and Effort**

Catch and effort by Japanese fishing vessels for recent 3 year are shown in Attachment 1.

- (1) In the 1998 fishing season, GOJ took voluntary measures to set an upper limit of 6,065 tons, which was agreed as national allocation to Japan in 1997, in the absence of a decision on TAC by the Commission. The actual catch in 1998 was 6,038tons.

- (2) In the 1999 fishing season, GOJ originally took the same voluntary measures as 1998 fishing season, in the absence of a decision on TAC by the Commission. However, following the prescription of provisional measures by ITLOS, actual catch in 1999 was 5,354tons. 711tons of SBT were not utilized for fishing.

#### **5. Total Number of Fishing Vessels and Their Distribution**

The number of fishing vessels targeting SBT in the 2000 fishing season was 199. The number of vessels on the high seas off Tasmania/Sydney was 52, the number of vessels on the high seas off Cape Town was 75, and the number of vessels in Southern Indian Ocean was 72. For this fishing season, the provisional measures by ITLOS and their revocation within the season adversely affected the fishing planning. As the result, the number of fishing vessels decreased compared to the previous season.

#### **6. Past Fishing Vessel Numbers and Their Distribution**

Vessel numbers and their distribution to sub-fishing areas for recent 3 years are shown in Attachment 1.

The total number of fishing vessels targeting SBT in 1998 fishing season was 257. However, in the 1999 fishing season, Japan reduced the number by 30 vessels, following a voluntary reduction of numbers of Japanese distant-water tuna longline fishing vessels by 20%.

#### **7. Monitoring**

- (1) In the 2000 fishing season, the number of observers on board was 12 and a total observed days were 867 days.
- (2) During the same period, Japan dispatched 4 enforcement vessels to the fishing area of SBT for a total of 447 days.

#### **8. Others**

##### **(The amount of import of SBT to Japan)**

The amount of import of SBT to Japan is shown in Attachment 2.

- (1) From 1993 to 1998, amount of SBT imported to Japan had significantly increased. Since 1998, it seems that the amount of imported SBT has stabilized around just over 10,000tons (product weight).
- (2) Import of SBT in 2000 totaled 10,356tons (product weight). Import from the biggest 5 exporting country/entities (1 Australia, 2 Taiwan, 3 Republic of Korea, 4 New Zealand, 5 Indonesia) account for 99.6% of the total.
- (3) Import from Australia, the biggest export of SBT to Japan has increased its export of SBT steadily, reaching 7,831tons (product weight). This amount of SBT accounts for 75.6% of the total import of SBT to Japan.



**Import Statistics of SBT by Japan**

Japanese Import of SBT by Country/Area(Fresh- Chilled and Frozen)

Source: Japan Trade Statistics, Ministry of Finance

( period: from January to December, unit: kg, % )

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Australia	1,803,284	2,515,613	3,272,990	3,195,903	6,125,027	6,256,201	6,987,421	7,831,621
Taiwan	537,239	962,166	1,276,474	1,396,915	516,055	1,481,378	1,611,250	1,357,906
Korea	102,070	127,690	75,836	562,573	671,497	1,649,851	1,056,953	785,426
New Zealand	40,362	63,461	202,636	128,249	88,640	120,176	213,576	212,316
Indonesia	244,258	281,212	207,758	317,687	368,634	282,265	310,552	127,012
Honduras		21,479	146,574	179,918	55,286	144,138	244,423	17,048
Philippines				182		4,415	69,170	15,041
China	542		9,183				373	3,738
Singapore	1,219	24,417	1,968	43,835	17,199	18,936	21,827	3,423
Guam				680	454	3,673	2,429	1,900
Fiji	1,963		445		396	181	972	526
EQ Guinea						130,846	32,258	446
Palau	1,413	886		569	690		1,073	166
Thailand				333	376		645	125
Belize			3,380	9,534	278	91,849	39,580	
Combdia						17,301	4,374	
Seychel							1,129	
Malaysia	563	497				271	836	
Greece							502	
Uruguay	185		342	102	1,028		186	
Tonga			138				162	
USA	860	102	1,320			2,062		
Panama					212,632			
Croatia					729			
F.S of Micronesia					195			
Maldives					163			
New Caledonia	3,850				119			
Portugal					93			
Vanuatu				17,855				
France				2,995				
Chile				334				
Cook Islands		111		140				
Spain	821		11,061					
Tunisia			124					
S Africa	1,896							
Trinido	1,354							
Total	2,741,879	3,997,634	5,210,229	5,857,804	8,059,491	10,203,543	10,599,691	10,356,694

**Higher-ranked five countries**

( period: from January to December, unit: kg, % )

1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
Total	5,857,804	Total	8,059,491	Total	10,203,543	Total	10,599,691	Total	10,356,694
Australia	3,195,903	Australia	6,125,027	Australia	6,256,201	Australia	6,987,421	Australia	7,831,621
Taiwan	1,396,915	Korea	671,497	Korea	1,649,851	Taiwan	1,611,250	Taiwan	1,357,906
Korea	562,573	Taiwan	516,055	Taiwan	1,481,378	Korea	1,056,953	Korea	785,426
Indonesia	317,687	Indonesia	368,634	Indonesia	282,265	Indonesia	310,552	New Zealand	212,316
Honduras	179,918	Panama	212,632	Honduras	144,138	Honduras	244,423	Indonesia	127,012
Subtotal	5,652,996	Subtotal	7,893,845	Subtotal	9,813,833	Subtotal	10,210,599	Subtotal	10,314,281
Share	96.5	Share	97.9	Share	96.2	Share	96.3	Share	99.6

## Review of New Zealand SBT Fisheries for CCSBT-7

### 1. Introduction

Three fishing methods are used to target SBT in the EEZ. By far, most fishing effort is with surface longlining although a small amount of fishing is still done by trolling and handlining. The domestic fishery is composed of a wide range of vessel types including a variable number of small owner-operated boats and 4–5 low temperature freezer longliners chartered by a New Zealand company that otherwise are part of the Japanese distant water fleet. Both the chartered vessels and the New Zealand owner-operated vessels fish competitively against New Zealand's SBT catch allocation of 420 tonnes.

As is typical in most seasons, most fishing for SBT in 1999–00 was conducted off the west coast of the South Island and the northeast coast of the North Island. Landing statistics indicate an over catch of the adjusted national allocation in 1999–00. As a result, the regulations controlling catch for New Zealand will be modified and the SBT catch correspondingly reduced for the 2000/01 fishing year.

### 2. Operational constraints on effort

#### Voluntary measures

The domestic fishing industry has undertaken a number of voluntary measures with respect to longline fishing first set out in a “Code of Practice” in April 1994. Specific measures include gear specifications, environmental standards, suggested operational practices and closed areas. While the measures are voluntary their intent is to minimize:

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

Other voluntary measures employed by specific sectors include catch limits by area, changing areas when bird bycatch reaches a specific level, using multiple “tori” lines and longer lines than specified in regulations as the minimum, night-setting, and the use of pneumatic “bird-scaring” cannons.

#### Regulatory measures

New Zealand continues to impose the previously agreed national catch limit of 420 tonnes (whole weight). This catch limit is a competitive limit among all license holders. Regulations specify the annual catch limit and make it an offence to take SBT once the

catch limit has been reached. The catch limit applies within and outside New Zealand fisheries waters for the “fishing year” which extends from 1 October to 30 September and applies to the catch of both southern and northern bluefin tunas (*Thunnus maccoyii* and *T. orientalis*). In the few instances when the catch limit has been exceeded, it has been reduced in the following year by an equivalent amount.

### **3. Catch and Effort**

New Zealand catches of SBT in whole weight have averaged about 280 tonnes per year over the last 14 years. Catches are summarised by calendar year and fishing year (1 October to 30 September) in Table 1. The trend in catches over this period has been increasing (see Figure 1) and corresponds to an increase in domestic longline effort since 1990. Longline effort has dominated the New Zealand fishery for the past decade and catches by handline and trolling are minor components of the New Zealand SBT fishery. Figure 2 shows the effort trend (in millions of hooks) for the longline fishery from 1989 to 1999. It is clear from this figure that the increase in effort is attributable to the growing number of New Zealand owned and operated longliners.

### **4. Annual fleet size and distribution**

The New Zealand longline fleet has broadened its area of operation and now fishes most areas of the east and west coasts of both the North and South Islands. Total fleet size is about 160 vessels of mostly small to medium size, there are only a few longliners equivalent to the Japanese distant water fleet.

SBT target fishing by longline primarily occurs off the west coast of the South Island and off the North Island off East Cape and the Mahia peninsula. SBT also comprises a significant bycatch in the bigeye target fishery in the Bay of Plenty.

### **5. Historical fleet size and distribution**

The New Zealand SBT fishery began off the west coast of the South Island as a winter small boat handline fishery in the early 1980s. This fleet now comprises only a minor component of the fishery. During this same period most longlining was conducted by foreign licensed longliners from Japan. However, declining catch rates, shortened seasons of availability and reports of increased operating costs in the EEZ resulted in this fleet ceasing its operations in the mid-1990s. The rise of domestic longline fishing began in 1991 and regularly increased up to at least 2000.

### **6. Fisheries Monitoring**

#### Observer coverage

Observer coverage has been 100% in the charter fleet for several years. However, owing to the small size of domestic owned and operated vessels and frequent short trips, the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) has had difficulty placing observers in this fleet. As a consequence, observer coverage has typically been low. In 1999–00 approximately half of

the total SBT catch was observed. Recent realignment of MFish observer allocation should result in a substantial increase in coverage of domestic owned and operated longline vessels from 2000–01. Observer coverage on vessels fishing by handline or trolling has not been done. The reason for this is because these methods are not used in all years, they contribute to only a small portion of the SBT catch and it has not been possible to determine in advance of a fishing trip whether handlining or trolling would be used.

#### RTMP coverage

MFish operates an in-season catch monitoring system for SBT. This system requires that on-shore processing companies and freezer vessels (including all of the chartered fleet) report catch by e-mail or fax on a weekly basis to MFish. Daily reporting is required once a trigger point is reached. The trigger point was formerly 75% of the catch allocation but has now been lowered to 25%. Reports are collated by MFish and if catch reports indicate that the limit is going to be met, all SBT permit holders are notified that the catch limit has been taken and that it would be an offence to take southern bluefin for the balance of the fishing year.

#### Biological information

Observers from the MFish Scientific Observer Programme are responsible for collecting a range of biological data on SBT and fish bycatch. In 1999–00 otoliths were collected from 149 SBT and four tagged SBT were recovered by observers. Otoliths are stored at NIWA and tag recovery data were provided to the tagging agency (CSIRO). Tissue samples were collected from SBT, fish identified as northern bluefin tuna and from swordfish. Swordfish samples were collected for scientists at NRIFS while the remaining samples were collected for NIWA scientists as part of a project funded by MFish. In addition length, weight (both processed and whole weights) and sex are recorded regularly for SBT and major fish bycatch species.

### **7. Other factors**

#### Import/export statistics

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

#### Markets

The only market for SBT caught in the EEZ is the Japanese sashimi market and all fish of suitable quality are exported. Domestic consumption is negligible.

#### Mitigation

New Zealand regulations specify that all tuna longline vessels are required to use seabird-scaring devices. The minimum standard for these, is the same as specified by CCAMLR for “tori lines”. The domestic fishing industry has a voluntary code of practice advocating night setting for all tuna longlines and for the large tuna longline vessels a limit on total incidental mortality of “at risk” seabirds has been set. Large tuna longliners have had 100% observer coverage in recent years.

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Wellington, New Zealand



<b>Fishing Year</b>	<b>tonnes</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>tonnes</b>
1986-87	59.9	1986	n/a
1987-88	94.0	1987	59.3
1988-89	437.0	1988	94.0
1989-90	529.3	1989	437.2
1990-91	164.6	1990	529.2
1991-92	59.8	1991	164.5
1992-93	216.4	1992	59.9
1993-94	277.0	1993	216.6
1994-95	435.3	1994	277.0
1995-96	140.5	1995	436.4
1996-97	333.5	1996	139.3
1997-98	331.5	1997	333.7
1998-99	457.7	1998	337.1
1999-00	381.3	1999	460.6
2000-01	n/a	2000	380.3
Average landing	279.8		280.4

Table 1. New Zealand SBT landings (whole weight) by fishing year (1986–87 to 1999–00) and calendar year (1987 to 2000).

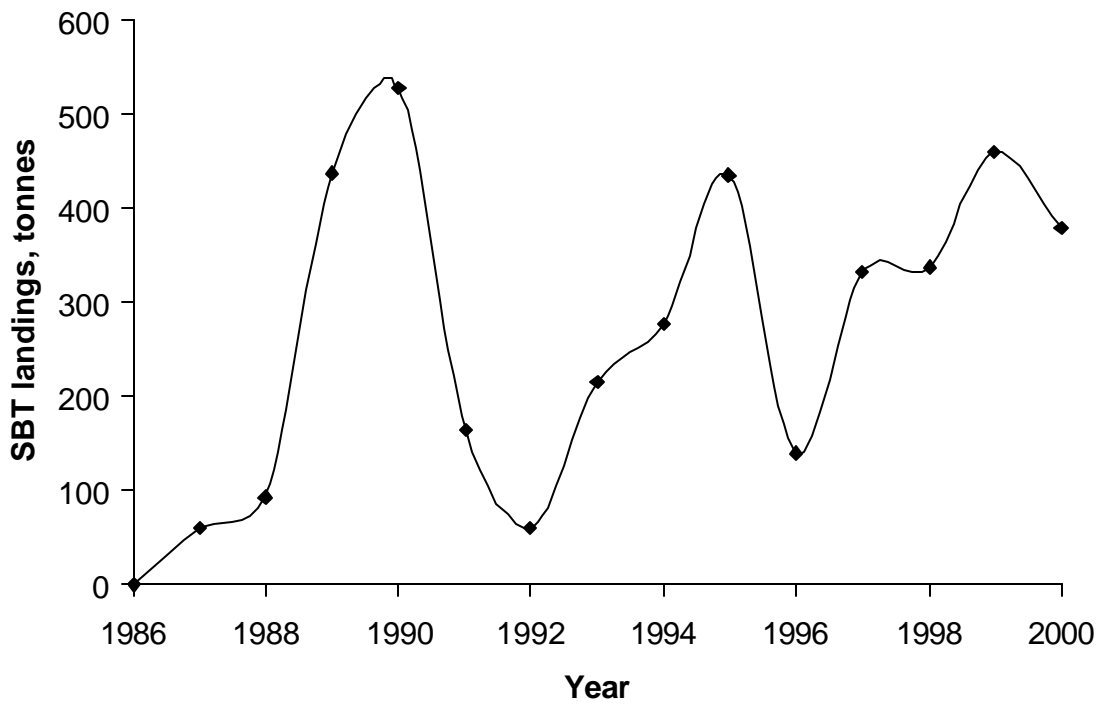


Figure 1. Trend in total New Zealand SBT landings for the period 1986 to 2000.

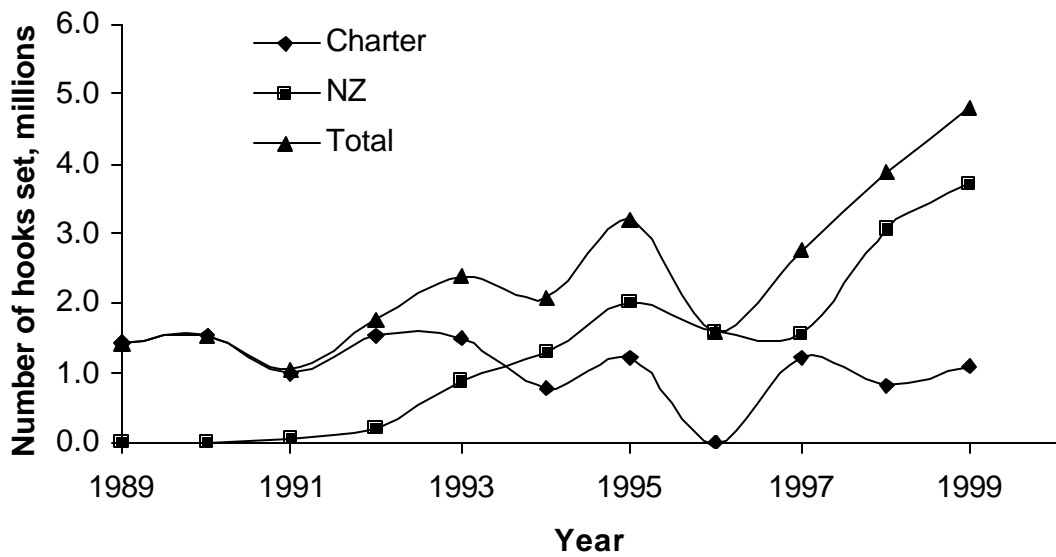


Figure 2. Trend in longline effort in the New Zealand EEZ 1989-1999 in millions of hooks set.

## **Review of the Korean SBT Fishery**

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National Fisheries Research and Development Institute  
The Republic of Korea

### **The fishery**

The Korean longline fishery for SBT began its operation in the southern Indian Ocean in 1991. Until 1995, the number of longliners was 1-3 vessels annually, followed by an increase to 8 vessels in 1996 and further to 19 in 1998. However, 16 longliners operated in 2000 (Table 1).

At the early stage of this fishery, some vessels fishing for tropical tunas moved to the southern Indian Ocean to fish for SBT. Therefore, fishing activities by these vessels were limited to only a few months out of the year. During 1991-1993, the longliners operated for five to six months each year, with 40-80 mt of SBT catch per vessel. In recent years, operations have increased to almost year round, which resulted in the catch of 100-150 mt per vessel.

Annual catch of SBT has continuously increased since 1992. The 1998 catch of SBT by Korean longliners was 1,562 mt, showing roughly an increase of 18% , compared with the previous year. This increase was directly related with the increase of longliners, from 14 in 1997 to 19 in 1998. However, catches of SBT gradually decreased after 1998, and catches in 1999 and 2000 were 1,271 mt and 980 mt, respectively. The reduction of the catch in 2000 was due to the reduction of the fleet size from the industry's voluntary coordination.

### **Species composition and catch per unit effort**

Species composition of the longline fishery shows that SBT comprised 95.2% of the total catch in 1999. The remaining 4.8% constituted bigeye, yellowfin, swordfish and other species including billfishes (Table 2).

Catch per unit effort (CPUE), as [no. ind./1,000 hooks ], was increased from 1.8 in 1992 to 8.4 in 1994, and then decreased to 5.7 next year. In 1996 and 1997, it was around 4.0 fish/1,000 hooks, and then decreased to 3.4 and 3.2 in 1998 and 1999, respectively (Table 1).

Fish sizes (fork length) of SBT, collected by National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) from fishing vessels, ranged from 78 to 197cm (an average of 146.6cm), of which 50% of the total fish measured on board by fishermen was 145-160cm in fork length.

### **Fishing grounds**

The fishing area is broad but largely divided into two regions. Until 1993, most fishing operations were concentrated on the southeastern part of the Indian Ocean, while

in 1994 and afterwards some longliners extended their operation to the southwestern waters off the southern tip of Africa, and further to the southeastern Atlantic Ocean later. However, fishing activities have generally concentrated on the areas between 35-45°S and 90-120°E, 30-45°S and 0-60°E. Higher CPUE distribution was shown in the southwestern part of the Indian ocean off the southern tip of South Africa.

## Research

Researches on tuna and tuna-like species by the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) focus on tuna fisheries and biology based on catch, effort, and length frequency data collected from fishing vessels. Those data were compiled and reported to the international fisheries organizations including the CCSBT.

Table 1. SBT catch (mt) and CPUE (no. ind. /1,000 hooks) by the Korean longline fishery, 1991~ 2000

Year	Vessels	Catch	CPUE
1991	3	214	19.0
1992	1	36	1.8
1993	1	80	3.7
1994	1	119	8.4
1995	3	317	5.7
1996	8	1,148	3.9
1997	12	1,238	4.1
1998	19	1,562	3.4
1999	19	1,260	3.2
2000	16	980	-

\* - : Data unavailable

\* Data source : Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF), National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI)

Table 2. Species composition (%) of the catches from the southern Indian and southeastern Atlantic Ocean

Year	SBT	BET	ALB	YFT	SWO	OTH
1991	75.9	1.4	14.9	3.7	2.2	1.9
1992	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
1993	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
1994	92.6	4.3	-	0.1	3.0	-
1995	98.2	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.6	0.1
1996	88.0	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	11.2
1997	86.8	5.2	1.7	1.7	3.5	1.1
1998	84.3	2.6	7.5	0.3	2.9	2.4
1999	95.2	3.2	-	0.3	0.7	0.6

\* -: Data unavailable

\* SBT: SBT, BET: bigeye tuna, ALB: albacore tuna, YFT: yellowfin tuna, SWO: swordfish, OTH : other fishes

\* Data source: NFRDI

## Review of Taiwan SBT Fishery of 1999/2000

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Taiwan has traditionally been fishing for southern bluefin tuna (SBT) since 1970s. The fish was caught partly by seasonal directed fishery and partly by albacore/bigeye fisheries as a by-catch. Directed fishery was conducted mainly by longliners equipped with super cold freezers, fishing in two seasons in the waters around 35°S. However no year-round target fishery has yet been developed.

The total annual catch in 1999 was 1,787 mt, among which 1,513 mt were in frozen form, caught by deep-sea longliners, and the others were in fresh form probably from those small longliners that have entered into fisheries cooperation with Indonesia. The accumulated catch in 2000 was preliminarily estimated to be 1,689 mt, with 1,448 mt in frozen form and 241 mt in fresh form.

### 2. OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINITS ON EFFORT

Though Taiwan is not a member of CCSBT, to conserve the stock and to cooperate with CCSBT in freezing the SBT catch at the 1995 level as recommended by the Commission in 1995, a voluntary catch limit of 1,450 mt was imposed in 1996. Annual SBT catch will be maintained to this level thereafter, unless the stock has recovered or for other reasons Taiwan deems appropriate.

To gather more SBT catch information promptly and to manage the total SBT catch under the self-regulated level, every vessel that has caught SBT was required to report weekly its SBT catches in weight and fishing location (Weekly Report) to the fishery authorities from 1996 onward. Trading information on SBT product was also collected through the subscription of certified weight reports of Shin Nippon Kentai Kaisha as from 1994. The catch data from

Weekly Reports were crosschecked with this trading information to reduce the possibility of non-reporting.

CCSBT has adopted the Trade Information Scheme during its 6<sup>th</sup> commission meeting in November of 1999. Measures for issuing SBT Statistical Document to fishermen have been implemented since June of 2000 to fulfill the requirement of the scheme.

### **3. ANNUAL CATCHES**

SBT was mainly a by-catch of Taiwan tuna fishery in the past, and since the development of super-cold freezers, some vessels equipped with such freezing capacity started to operate seasonally directed fishing on the species during recent years. Historically, annual catches of SBT were smaller than 250 mt during early 1980s, but, due to the increase of tuna fleet size, developing of deep longliners, and expanding of fishing ground, the catches were increased thereafter. From 1989 onward, the SBT catches increased to a tonnage of more than 1,000 mt, where drift net fishery accounted for about 1/4 of the catches in 1989 and 1990. After then, the SBT catches did not continue to increase, but rather fluctuate between 800 and 1,700 mt.

### **4. FLEET SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION**

SBT was caught only by longline fishery after 1993 in the three oceans with the majority in the Indian Ocean. According to the weekly reports and trading information, during 1998-2000 about 130 deep sea longliners reported and to have landed frozen form SBT, and most of them were operating in the Indian Ocean. There were also some small longliners operating in the Indonesian and adjacent waters and to have landed fish in fresh form. During the same period, there were altogether about 600 longliners operating the three oceans, with more than 55% in the Indian Ocean.

Similar to the previous years, SBT catches were mainly made in the waters of 20°S - 40°S, which was due more to the north than the traditionally known fishing ground. Seasonally, the SBT catch was mainly made in the southern and central Indian Ocean during June to September, and in the southern and western Indian Ocean extending to the eastern limit of the Atlantic Ocean during October to February of the following year.

## **5. FISHERIES MONITORING**

For better understanding and monitoring the fishery, more efforts have been exerted since the implementation of TIS to collect more updated and detailed catch information. Since this year, provision of daily records in the Weekly Report was required for obtaining a SBT statistical document.

Since 1997, collaborative work with scientists from CSIRO on field visit and sampling of SBT catch were conducted in Mauritius, with the most recent one in September 2000. We welcome such joint work to improve the understanding of SBT fishery.

A project for the development of vessel monitoring system (Inmarsat-C) incorporated with the function of logbook transmission was established recently. Initial development of the system was completed and experiments were successfully carried out on 12 vessels operating on the high seas. Further studies and pilot applications on deep sea longliners were still ongoing.

## **6. OTHER FACTORS**

### *Mitigation on seabirds issue*

Taiwan is willing to cooperate with CCSBT through information exchange to improve understanding of the interaction between fishing operation and seabirds catch. To reduce incidental seabirds mortality, fishermen were subsidized to use tori lines. Education program was continuously made through Tuna Association to increase the understanding of the seabird issue among fishermen, including distribution of educational pamphlets in Chinese translation 'Catching fish, not bird' and training on application of tori lines.



Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

**Attachment G**

## **Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific Committee**

*(the body of this report is available as a separate document)*

**19-24 March 2001  
Tokyo, Japan**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CCSBT  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAM**

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The acceptance by the CCSBT of a comprehensive Scientific Research Program (SRP) proposal to guide CCSBT research activities over the next few years represents substantial progress towards resolving problems that have hindered assessment of the SBT resource over the past few years. While it is certainly necessary to initiate research activities under this SRP without delay, it is also important to ensure that major SRP components, particularly multi-national tagging and observer programs, are correctly planned and implemented, to maximise their success.

SRP implementation activities during the remainder of 2001 should therefore focus on preparatory work towards detailed planning by specific technical or research meetings in late 2001 and early 2002. Considering the limited time remaining in 2001, it is also important that SRP implementation activities this year should not detract from preparatory work for the forthcoming SAG meeting. Conducting an effective assessment of the SBT resource remains the main priority for 2001.

The SRP implementation activities proposed below are primarily intended to be conducted between May 2001 and the CCSBT8 meeting. Further detailed workplans for 2002 will be developed during technical workshops and the remaining 2001 SAG and SC meetings. However, to provide an indication of the main SRP activities to be conducted during 2002, the broad objectives for 2002 under each of the four primary SRP components are also included, shown in *italics*.

Although it is not possible at this stage to establish what the specific costs of the proposed SRP implementation activities will be, activities that are likely to have CCSBT budgetary implications have been marked with an \*. The actual budgetary requirements for these items will be determined in more detail during the technical workshops, SAG or SC meetings. In particular, financial requirements are likely to increase sharply in 2002, particularly for implementation of tagging and observer programs.

SRP Component and Implementation Activity	To Be Done By	Deadline
<b>1. Characterisation of SBT Catch</b>		
1.1 Prepare list of questions and information requirements regarding SBT catch and effort data collection systems currently implemented by CCSBT members and non-members, and send request for such information to CCSBT members and non-members.	CCSBT Secretariat (Database Manager)	31 May 2001
1.2 Submission of reports on SBT catch and effort data collection systems currently implemented by members and non-members, in accordance with information requirements specified under 1.1	CCSBT members and non-members	30 June 2001
1.3 Preparation of overview of existing SBT data collection systems currently implemented by members and non-members.	CCSBT Secretariat (Database Manager)	22 July 2001
1.4 SC to discuss and make recommendations on next steps to be taken during 2002 towards the improvement / implementation of SBT catch and effort data collection systems to meet CCSBT requirements.	Scientific Committee	Aug 2001 SC Meeting
<i>1.5 Development of standards for CCSBT data collection, submission and database design. Implementation or improvement of data collection systems to meet the accepted standards.</i>		<i>During 2002 *</i>
<b>2. CPUE Interpretation and Analysis</b>		
2.1 Exploratory papers on CPUE modelling alternatives (such as Bratio, Geostatistical methods, Regression tree analysis, GLM analysis and Length-based modelling) to be developed and submitted for the Aug 2001 SAG meeting	CCSBT members Advisory Panel members	22 July 2001
2.2 Advisory Panel to prepare specific exploratory paper on a simplified BRatio specification and modelling approach for consideration at the Aug 2001 SAG meeting.	Advisory Panel	22 July 2001 *
2.3 Evaluation and discussion of exploratory modelling papers presented to the SAG meeting, with a view to selecting appropriate CPUE modelling approaches, and making recommendations to the SC for further work on these.	Advisory Panel in consultation with SAG Meeting participants	Aug 2001 SAG meeting
<i>2.4 Further exploration of CPUE modelling approaches suitable for SBT assessment. Evaluate the need, and design criteria, for a possible CPUE Interpretation Experiment (CIE).</i>		<i>During 2002 *</i>
<b>3. Development of a Scientific Observer Program</b>		
3.1 Preparation of list of questions and information requirements regarding existing observer programs run by CCSBT members, non-members and other regional fisheries management organisations.	SC Chair	31 May 2001

3.2	Request for information on existing observer programs implemented by CCSBT members, non-members and other regional fisheries management organisations (including the IATTC, SPC and FFA).	CCSBT Secretariat	1 June 2001
3.3	Submission of reports on existing observer programs implemented by CCSBT members, non-members and regional fisheries management organisations, in accordance with information requirements specified under 3.1	CCSBT members and non-members	30 June 2001
3.4	Collation and summary of all information received from members, non-members and regional fisheries management organisations regarding existing observer programs.	CCSBT Secretariat	22 July 2001
3.5	SC to discuss information on existing observer programs and make initial recommendations on development of SBT observer program requirements and standards.	Scientific Committee	Aug 2001 SC Meeting
3.6	<i>Development of standards for CCSBT observer training and data collection. Implementation of scientific observer programs on SBT fisheries</i>		<i>During 2002</i>
<b>4. Development of SBT Tagging Program</b>			
4.1	Inter-sessional exchange of ideas by correspondence between members regarding design of a co-ordinated SBT tagging program.	CCSBT members	30 June 2001
4.2	Preparation of tagging program proposals for consideration by the Scientific Committee	CCSBT members	22 July 2001
4.3	Review of tagging program proposals and preparation of SBT tagging program framework, including consideration of budget and technical workshop requirements	Advisory Panel in consultation with members	Aug 2001 SC Meeting
4.4	Holding of a Tagging Workshop at a suitable venue in Australia to finalise the SBT tagging program proposal.	CCSBT members and non-members involved in tagging program planning. SC Chair.	3 - 4 days in late Sep 2001 *
4.5	Submission of final SBT tagging program proposal to CCSBT8 for approval.	SC Chair	CCSBT8 Meeting
4.6	<i>Implementation of SBT tagging program.</i>		<i>Late 2001 and during 2002 *</i>

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN EXTENDED COMMISSION AND AN  
EXTENDED SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (the Commission):

RECOGNISING that ensuring the sustainability of the Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) stock requires that all those States and entities or fishing entities fishing this species work together through the Commission;

CONSIDERING that continued fishing for SBT by States and entities or fishing entities not adhering to the Commission's conservation and management measures substantially diminishes the effectiveness of those measures;

RECOGNISING the continuing need to encourage all States eligible to accede to the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (the Convention) to do so, and to encourage entities or fishing entities with vessels fishing for SBT to implement the Commission's conservation and management measures;

Decides as follows:

1. Acting under Articles 8.3(b) and 15.4 of the Convention, the Commission hereby establishes an Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (the Extended Commission) and an Extended Scientific Committee, whose Members shall be comprised of the Parties to the Convention and any entity or fishing entity, vessels flagged to which have caught SBT at any time in the previous three calendar years, that is admitted to membership by the Extended Commission pursuant to this Resolution.
2. The Extended Commission and the Extended Scientific Committee shall perform the same tasks as the Commission and the Scientific Committee including, but not limited to, deciding upon a total allowable catch and its allocation among the Members. All Members shall have equal voting rights. The provisions of the Convention relating to the Commission and the Scientific Committee (Articles 6 to 9, except for 6.9 and 6.10) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* with regard to the Extended Commission and the Extended Scientific Committee. Any dispute concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Resolution, including the articles of the Convention specified in the Resolution, or the Exchange of Letters referred to in paragraph 6, shall be resolved by negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration or other peaceful means agreed by the parties to the dispute.
3. The Secretariat of the Commission shall function as the Secretariat of the Extended Commission.
4. The Extended Commission shall report forthwith to the Commission if the latter is in session, and in any other case before the latter's next meeting or session of a meeting, all

decisions it adopts. Decisions so reported shall become decisions of the Commission at the end of the session of the meeting to which they were reported, unless the Commission decides to the contrary. Any decision of the Commission that affects the operation of the Extended Commission or the rights, obligations or status of any individual Member within the Extended Commission should not be taken without prior due deliberation of that issue by the Extended Commission.

5. The Rules of Procedure for the Extended Commission shall be as annexed to this Resolution. Any revision to the Rules shall be made by the Extended Commission.

6. Any entity or fishing entity, vessels flagged to which have caught SBT at any time in the previous three calendar years, may express its willingness to the Executive Secretary of the Commission to become a member of the Extended Commission. The Executive Secretary of the Commission, on behalf of the Commission, will conduct an Exchange of Letters with the representative of such entity or fishing entity to this effect. In so doing, the applicant shall give the Commission its firm commitment to respect the terms of the Convention and comply with such decisions of the Extended Commission as become decisions of the Commission pursuant to paragraph 4.

7. If the Extended Commission decides to admit the applicant, it shall negotiate with the applicant a formula to govern the level of catch of SBT by the applicant pending the next decision of the Commission setting a total allowable catch and its allocation among the Members. Upon the successful completion of the negotiations referred to in the previous sentence, the Executive Secretary will exchange letters with the applicant as referred to in paragraph 6; the applicant shall thereupon assume the status of Member of the Extended Commission.

8. Any Member of the Extended Commission that is not a Member of the Commission shall be entitled to appoint one representative, to be accompanied by experts and advisers, as an Observer to meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including the Scientific Committee. Such representative shall be entitled to be present and speak as an Observer at meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

9. The Extended Commission shall decide upon an annual budget. The contributions to the budget of an applicant that is admitted as its Member shall be determined by application *mutatis mutandis* of Article 11 of the Convention.

10. The provisions of this Resolution relating to participation by entities or fishing entities in the operations of the Extended Commission are solely for the purposes of the Convention.

11. The Rules of Procedure are amended by omitting paragraph 3 of Rule 5 and substituting the following:

“3. A provisional agenda for each annual meeting shall be prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chair. The provisional agenda shall be despatched by the

Executive Secretary to all the Members not less than 60 days before the date for the opening of the meeting. The provisional agenda shall include:

- (a) approval of decisions taken by the Extended Commission;
- (b) all items which the Commission has previously decided to include in the provisional agenda; and
- (c) all supplementary items the inclusion of which have been requested by any Member of the Commission.”

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EXTENDED COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA**

**Rule 1  
Representation**

1. Each Member shall be represented on the Extended Commission by not more than three delegates who may be accompanied by experts and advisers. Each Member shall inform the Executive Secretary of the Extended Commission of the names of its delegates to the Extended Commission including identification of the head of the delegation and experts and advisers accompanying such delegates, and of any change thereof, as far in advance as possible before the commencement of each meeting of the Extended Commission.
  
2. Each Member shall designate a correspondent who shall have primary responsibility for liaison with the Executive Secretary during the periods between meetings and shall promptly inform the Executive Secretary of the name and address of such a correspondent and of any change thereof.

**Rule 2  
Other matters**

Except for Rule 4(3) and Rule 9, the Rules of Procedure of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Extended Commission on other matters.



**DRAFT AGENDA**  
**CCSBT - Ecologically Related Species Working Group**  
26–28 November 2001 (Venue to be determined)

1. Opening
  - (i) Election of the Chair
  - (ii) Adoption of the Agenda
2. Reports
  - (i) Member reports (activities undertaken since last meeting in June 1998)
  - (ii) Non-members reports
3. Review of Relevant International Instruments
4. Reports of meetings of other organisations relevant to the ERS Working Group
5. Provide information and advice on issues relating to species associated with southern bluefin tuna (SBT) (ecologically related species), with specific reference to:
  - (a) species (both fish and non-fish) which may be affected by SBT fisheries operations:
  - (b) predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock
6. Education and public relations activities
7. Update of 'Research Priorities for Mitigation Research' (ERSWG 3 Attachment 5)
8. Update of 'ERSWG Operational Framework (ERSWG Attachment 11)
9. Proposals for future research activities
10. Future work program
  - (i) Draft Agenda for the next ERSWG meeting
  - (ii) Inter-sessional work
11. Conclusion
  - (i) Adoption of meeting report
  - (ii) Recommendation of timing of next meeting
  - (iii) Close of meeting

**Attachment K****Meeting Time Table for the Second Half of 2001**

21 April, 2001

Item	Date
CCSBT 7	18 – 21 Apr. 2001 Sydney, Australia (4 days)
(Data exchange process commences	30 Apr. 2001)
Stock Assessment Group • Stock Assessment • initiate discussion on management procedure	19 - 26 Aug. 2001 Tokyo, Japan (8 days)
Scientific Committee	28 - 31 Aug. 2001 Tokyo, Japan (4 days)
SRP Tagging Program WG	late Sep. 2001 Australia (3-4days)
CCSBT 8	15-19 Oct. 2001 Miyako, Japan (5 days)
ERS WG	26-28 Nov. 2001 Japan (3 days)

**RULE 10**

**REPORTS**

- 1 The Executive Secretary shall prepare a report of every annual and special meeting of the Commission. The report of an annual meeting shall include a summary of Commission activities since the previous annual meeting of the Commission. The Executive Secretary shall provide a draft report to the Commission for its adoption, subject to amendment prior to the end of the annual or special meeting.
- 2 Where an annual or special meeting is adjourned, the Executive Secretary may be requested by the Commission to prepare a report of the meeting prior to the adjournment. In this case, the Executive Secretary shall provide a draft report to the Commission for its adoption, subject to amendment, prior to the adjournment of the meeting. Rules applying to an annual or special meeting shall also apply to an adjourned meeting.
- 3 Every subsidiary or advisory body shall adopt a report prior to the close of its meeting and submit its report to the next Commission meeting.
- 4 Subject to this paragraph, the report of a meeting of the Commission shall become available for release outside the Commission when that report is adopted, unless a Member requests that the report, or a specified part of the report, of a meeting of the Commission not be made available for release. The request must be made before adoption of the report. In that event the Commission shall decide whether and to what extent to restrict its release.
- 5 A report to the Commission from a subsidiary or advisory body shall become available for release outside the Commission when the report of the meeting of the Commission to which the report of that subsidiary or advisory body was submitted, is adopted, unless a Member requests that the report, or a specified part of the report, of a subsidiary or advisory body not be made available for release. The request must be made before adoption of the report of the meeting of the Commission to which the report of the subsidiary or advisory body was submitted.
- 6 Subject to paragraphs 8 and 9, a document submitted to a meeting of the Commission shall become available for release outside of the Commission when the report of that meeting is adopted, unless either the author of that document, or the Member (if the author is a representative of a Member), makes a request to restrict its release. The request must be made before adoption of the report.

- 7 Subject to paragraphs 8 and 9, a document submitted to a meeting of a subsidiary or advisory body of the Commission shall become available for release outside the Commission when the report of the meeting of the Commission to which the report of that subsidiary or advisory body is submitted, is adopted, unless either the author of the document, or the Member (if the author is a representative of a Member), makes a request to restrict its release. The request must be made before adoption of the report.
- 8 If a document submitted to the Commission, or a subsidiary or advisory body of the Commission contains data from a previous document submitted to the Commission or a subsidiary or advisory body of the Commission, the release of which has been restricted, the author of the document, or the Member (if the author is a representative of a Member) must obtain the permission of the author or the Member (if the author is a representative of a Member) that requested the restriction of the previous document before granting permission for its release. The author or the Member (if the author is a representative of a Member) of the previous document may request to restrict the release of the relevant part(s) of that document.
- 9 If a document submitted to the Commission, or a subsidiary or advisory body of the Commission, contains data or product of data, the release of which has been restricted, the author of the document, or the Member (if the author is a representative of a Member), must obtain the permission of the Member from whom the data originated, for its release. The Member from whom the data originated may request to restrict the release of the relevant part(s) of that document.
- 10 Unless the Commission decides otherwise, a Member may circulate prior to a meeting of the Commission, copies of documents or reports of any subsidiary or advisory bodies that are to be considered at that meeting to individuals or organisations within the Member's country with whom a Member considers it necessary to consult. The Member shall obtain the necessary undertaking from such individuals or organisations to treat the said documents or reports as confidential and not to release them to the public or to the media until such time as they become public documents.
- 11 Documents submitted to a meeting of the Commission or a subsidiary or advisory body and reports of a meeting of the Commission or a subsidiary or advisory body shall be distributed at no cost to Members and observers. Printed copies of public documents and reports shall be available to the public at a price determined by the Executive Secretary to recover the cost of printing and distribution. Electronic copies of Commission reports shall be made available on the Internet.