

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

Report of the Eighth Annual Meeting

**15-19 October 2001
Miyako, Japan**

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**Report of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission
15 – 18 October 2001
Miyako, Japan**

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

Agenda Item 1.1. Welcoming address

1. Mr Watanabe (Director General of the Fisheries Agency of Japan) and Mr Suzuki (Member of the House of Parliament), addressed the meeting and welcomed participants to Japan and to Miyako.

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. Opening statements by members are included at **Attachment D**. In their opening statements, members identified the priority issues for consideration at the meeting.

Agenda Item 1.3.2. Other States and Entities

6. The Republic of Korea and Taiwan gave opening statements, which are included at **Attachments D and E**. In its opening address, Korea advised that its accession to CCSBT was imminent and requested the right to participate fully at CCSBT8 and have its opinions recognised as if it were a member.

Agenda Item 2. Report from the Secretariat

7. Mr Brian Macdonald, the Executive Secretary of the CCSBT submitted document CCSBT/0110/04, which is a report on the activities of the Secretariat since the Seventh Annual meeting in April 2001.
8. The Executive Secretary also presented observations on the operation of the Commission and how operations could be improved to make the Commission more effective and gave recommendations for an enhanced role for the Secretariat.
9. The members endorsed the general thrust of a more active role for the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 3. Accession of Korea

10. The Korean delegation initially advised the Commission that accession was approved by its government in September and was waiting for formal signing by its Prime Minister and President. The instrument of accession would be deposited by the end of October and Korea was ready to make its financial contribution when the bill came from the Secretariat. Korea re-iterated its wish to participate fully in the meeting given this commitment.
11. On 17 October 2001, Korea advised the Commission that it had finished all domestic procedures to join the CCSBT and that the instrument of accession had been lodged with the Australian Government. Following confirmation of lodgement, Korea was welcomed and participated as a full member of the CCSBT.

Agenda Item 4. Relationship with Non-members

Agenda Item 4.1 Taiwan

12. Taiwan made a statement to the Commission on its intention to cooperate with the CCSBT in the management and conservation of the SBT fishery and this is recorded at **Attachment F**. In response, the Executive Secretary on behalf of the Chair made the following statement on behalf of the Commission:

“The Commission welcomes Taiwan’s acceptance of an annual Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) catch quota of 1140 tonnes and confirms that this shall form the basis for its participation as a Member of the Extended Commission, subject to the following conditions:

1. Taiwan should lodge a formal application for Membership of the Extended Commission by an Exchange of Letters as provided for in Paragraph 6 of the Resolution to Establish an Extended Commission and Extended Scientific Committee (as passed by the Commission in April 2001) by 31 December 2001. The Commission will correspond with Taiwan shortly to initiate this process.
2. Taiwan undertakes immediately to voluntarily restrict its annual catch of SBT to a maximum of 1140 tonnes pending the completion of its domestic legal processes required to give effect to its membership of the Extended Commission.

The Commission will take action to identify Taiwan pursuant to Paragraph 2 of the Action Plan as a non-member the vessels of which have been catching SBT in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT if the above conditions are not met. It may also consider, thereafter, taking additional measures pursuant to Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Action Plan, which may include imposing trade-restrictive measures which avoid arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade.

The Commission also welcomes Taiwan's undertaking not to issue Trade Information Scheme documentation for any fresh SBT caught in the SBT spawning grounds and to support measures to combat Flag of Convenience fishing activities and other voluntary measures stated by Taiwan. The Commission looks forward to cooperating with Taiwan with regard to these matters.

The Commission looks forward to Taiwan's early and full participation in the work under the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, as a Member of the Extended Commission, entitled to enjoy the same rights and obligations with other Members of the Extended Commission, at the earliest possible date."

13. In reply, Taiwan stated the following:

"Taiwan has been cooperating with the CCSBT for a long time. As all Members of CCSBT are aware, Taiwan has traditionally cooperated with the CCSBT. As far as the issue of Taiwan's accession to the Convention is concerned, we have continued on negotiating this issue and substantial progress has been made during this meeting. After the completion of negotiation, all domestic legal procedures will also be initiated immediately. We also hope that those domestic legal procedures can be completed as soon as possible. As a matter of fact, Taiwan is the most cooperative non-member. Under such circumstances, after all those concessions we have made, it would be unreasonable to resort to Action Plan against such a cooperative non-member. We are deeply disappointed to see such a result."

Agenda Item 4.2. Indonesia

14. Options were considered by the meeting for obtaining improved cooperation from Indonesia. In particular, all parties agreed that it was important for Indonesia to accede to CCSBT and that pressure should be applied by the CCSBT as soon as practicable to do so.
15. The meeting supported Australia's bilateral activity with Indonesia in respect of both its discussions with Indonesia and its data collection initiatives.
16. Indonesia needs to be encouraged to improve its data collection and provision systems. Japan pointed out that TIS data received from Indonesia has been quite poor and there was considerable missing information.
17. Australia noted its concern on the impact on the stock from fishing pressure on the spawning ground by Indonesian fishing vessels owned by Taiwanese companies and was consequently concerned that the Commission could not afford to delay resolving the situation.

18. It was agreed that a small group would be convened to work inter-sessionally to develop options for a plan to secure Indonesia's accession and improve data provision. While it was agreed that Australia would act on behalf of CCSBT as the main point of contact with Indonesia, Australia suggested that it might also be effective for Australia and Japan to approach Indonesia jointly.

Agenda Item 4.3. South Africa

19. The Executive Secretary advised that South Africa had been invited to participate as an observer and a South African embassy official was hoping to be present for the last day of the meeting.
20. It was noted that South Africa has often said that it was interested in joining CCSBT, but to date, no positive action has been taken in this respect. It was further noted that South Africa had indicated that it would be seeking an allocation of 250t. Japan pointed out that the issue of allocation was a completely separate matter from accession and that the two should be considered separately. It was noted that a State could accede with no initial quota allocation.
21. The Executive Secretary was asked to convey these views to South Africa.

Agenda Item 4.4. Others

22. Australia was concerned about possible new SBT fishing activity from China. There appeared to be movement of 60 Taiwanese longliners from Taiwan to China and nearly 4 tonne of SBT was recorded as being exported from China to Japan.
23. Japan shared the concern about the 60 Chinese longliners, but explained that the apparent SBT exports from China were probably mislabelled "re-exports" from Japanese processors based in China. Japan indicated it would be having bilateral discussions with China in the near future on fishing issues and would raise CCSBT concerns and report back to the CCSBT9.
24. It was agreed to consider other countries under the Action Plan agenda item. Japan stressed that further action should be taken against the four countries identified in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Action Plan adopted at CCSBT6(2).

Agenda Item 5. Action Plan

Agenda Item 5.1. Report on identified nations

25. The Executive Secretary presented paper CCSBT/0110/07 concerning the Action Plan.
26. The meeting agreed that there was value in preparing a list of IUU vessels and that the TIS would be used to assist in this respect. The list would enable action to be

targeted to specific vessels involved in IUU fishing rather than only country specific action.

27. Japan offered to prepare a list of IUU vessels catching SBT and present it to CCSBT9 for further examination and consideration by the Commission.
28. The Executive Secretary was asked to modify the table provided in CCSBT/0110/07 for CCSBT9. The modified table should include an additional column that provides the current status of countries so that progress by countries could be assessed.

Agenda Item 5.2. Others

29. The Commission agreed to new measures regarding non members pursuant to the action plan. The relevant decisions of the Commission are set out at **Attachments G, H and I.**

Agenda Item 6. Report from the Finance and Administration Committee

30. It was agreed that a Finance and Administration Committee would be formed and run in parallel to the plenary session. Mr Mae (Japan) and Mr Hausknecht (Australia) were appointed as co-chairs for the Committee.

Agenda Item 6.1. Adoption of the revised 2001 budget

31. The Commission endorsed the revised budget for 2001 as outlined in the Finance and Administration Committee report at **Attachment J.**

Agenda Item 6.2. Adoption of the 2002 budget

32. The Commission endorsed the proposed budget for 2002 as outlined in the Finance and Administration Committee report.

Agenda Item 6.3. Others

33. The Commission thanked the Finance and Administration Committee for its efforts and good work in developing the revised budget for 2001 and the budget for 2002.

Agenda Item 7. Review of SBT fisheries

34. Reports on the CCSBT fisheries of members, as well as reports from non-members who were present are included at **Attachment K.**
35. Considerable discussion, including matters of clarification, were held after the reports. The following paragraphs identify the most significant points that were raised during these discussions.

36. Australia presented a paper (CCSBT/0110/26) that had been requested at CCSBT7 on the growth rates of SBT held in farms. It was noted that weight increases in the order of 93% were being obtained from farming SBT and further increases could be expected as techniques improved. Japan tentatively replied that it will make comments after reviewing the paper.
37. In the light of Japanese concerns over health and safety of the consumption of fish products, Japan advised that it would be desirable if Australia could formally declare that meat and bone meal products are not used on Australian tuna farms.
38. Members expressed concern that the Taiwanese catch had increased in recent years. Taiwan advised that it has managed its TAC on a 5 year average catch of 1450t and was adhering to this level. Taiwan said it would introduce yearly catch managing system to replace the 5 year averaging.
39. Significant concerns were raised over the large fleet (over 500 small longliners) of Taiwanese owned vessels that are fishing the spawning grounds of SBT in Indonesian waters. Taiwan explained that these vessels are flagged as Indonesian vessels and that they operate under Indonesian licenses. Taiwan advised that it has no jurisdiction over these vessels under international law and the catch from these vessels should be considered to be Indonesian catch.

Agenda item 8. Report from the Scientific Committee and the Tagging Program Workshop

40. The Chair of the Scientific Committee (Mr Penney) introduced the reports of the 6th Meeting of the Scientific Committee (**Attachment L**) and the Tagging Program Workshop (**Attachment M**). He focused on the most important issues in the reports, particularly where a decision was required from the Commission or where there was a budgetary implication.

Agenda Item 8.1 Status of the SBT stock

41. Mr Penney led the meeting through Sections 5.1 (Status of the SBT stock) and 5.2 (Implications for SBT Management) of the Scientific Committee (SC) Report.
42. Follow-up questions were asked in relation to:
 - The level of monitoring required to allow CCSBT to react to stock problems in sufficient time to prevent a stock collapse.
 - The current replacement yield for SBT.
 - When an assessment with greater certainty would be available.
 - Whether an assessment had been conducted to determine the harvest level required to achieve a rebuilding of the spawning stock to 1980 levels by 2020.
43. In answer to these questions, Mr Penney advised:

- The SRP included a wide range of initiatives, including improved catch reporting, improved modelling and improved length frequency sampling especially for non-members. In particular, a set of indicators has been proposed to give the CCSBT a clear idea of whether the stock is increasing or decreasing.
- Estimates of the current replacement yield are uncertain. However, the 2000 catch level appears to be roughly close to the current replacement yield with a 50% chance that the stock could either decrease or increase at this harvest level.
- The development of a new suite of operational and assessment models as part of the management strategy development process should produce assessments with a higher level of certainty. This is targeted for 2003 (or 2004 if there are delays).
- As a result of the uncertainty in assessments, no specific effort was made to assess the harvest level required to achieve the CCSBT's management goal of a 1980 level of spawning stock by 2020. This was largely because the current models would have produced too broad a range of results to be of use for decision-making. However, most of the assessment results indicated a low probability of attaining this target at current catch levels.

Agenda Item 8.2 Scientific Research Program

44. Mr Penney stated that substantial progress had been made on all 4 components of the SRP. He then led the meeting through progress in the 4 components of the SRP, as documented in section 6.1 (Implementation of the SRP) of the SC Report.

Agenda Item 8.2.1. Catch and effort data collection including coordinating data into the database

45. The progress in this item is described in section 6.1.1. (Characterization of SBT Catch) of the SC Report.
46. Discussion was held regarding the spatial resolution of data to be provided to the CCSBT database. It was noted that no agreement has been reached on the level of resolution of data that should be provided to the CCSBT. New Zealand noted that discussion at the Scientific Committee included issues such as whether to submit data for current assessment requirements (which do not require high resolution), or to submit data at a higher resolution in case this is required in the future. New Zealand also noted the need to have agreed confidentiality and security procedures in place before submitting data.
47. Japan voiced its concerns about insufficient data provision from Australia's purse seine fishery, which takes about 33% of the world catch of SBT. In Japan's view that it was difficult to use these data for stock assessment purposes. Australia reiterated its undertaking to provide the data in an appropriate format. Australia further advised that it was willing to provide any data that was required for stock assessment purposes and expected that others would reciprocate with a similar approach. Japan also requested Australia to provide catch data for SBT sport fishing and for by-catches of SBT by some fisheries that do not have SBT quota.

Agenda Item 8.2.2. Scientific observer program

48. The progress in this item is described in section 6.1.3. (Development of a Scientific Observer Program) of the SC Report.
49. In particular, following a review of information on past and existing observer programs, a draft proposal for the main components of a CCSBT Observer Program had been developed.
50. In addition to the specified work plan for development of the standard for the Scientific Observer Program, the Secretariat was asked to prepare a review of the current observer programs that identifies the extent to which those existing programs are meeting the requirements of the draft standard CCSBT observer program proposal. New Zealand also requested the Secretariat to obtain information on the spatial and temporal level of observer deployment of existing observer programs.
51. Japan expressed its concern about the lack of an observer program for Australian domestic fisheries, including purse seine fisheries. It requested Australia to immediately introduce an observer program for its domestic fisheries. Australia advised that it was in discussion with industry over implementation of an observer program in the 2002 fishing year.
52. Japan noted that member countries will be responsible for operation of observers in high seas and domestic EEZ fisheries on their flag vessels. CCSBT standards for data collection and training should be simple and minimal, requiring a practical level of observer coverage with 10% as a target.

Agenda Item 8.2.3 Tagging program

53. A Workshop was held in Canberra on 2-4 October 2001 to develop a CCSBT tagging program. Mr Penney led the meeting through the Report of the Tagging Program Workshop.
54. Japan stated that the expected mortalities (15t for surface fishery tagging and 50t for longline tagging) from the tagging program should be attributed against the research quota allocated to the SRP. There were no objections to this proposal.
55. In relation to concerns about the high cost of the program, questions were raised regarding the priority aspects of the program. In brief, Mr Penney advised:
 - The most important component is the annual tagging of 10,000 to 15,000 juvenile SBT in the surface fishery off the South and South West coast of Australia, using a pole and line vessel.
 - Tagging of larger SBT using longline vessels is a one-year pilot study that will need to be fully evaluated once the results are available.
56. Considerable discussion was held concerning the allocation of costs to support the tagging program amongst CCSBT members. Members discussed apportioning of

those costs and what costs would be formally considered as pooled CCSBT costs and what costs would be separately covered by the respective members.

57. It was later agreed that the tagging would be conducted under the auspices of the CCSBT, with tagging in the surface fishery being the highest priority. Tagging SBT in the longline fishery would be done as a pilot program. Australia offered to fund the surface fishery tagging for the first year. Australia and Japan proposed funding two longline tagging components of the CCSBT tagging program. A New Zealand longline component was not included for budgetary reasons. Coordination of the tagging program and the tag recoveries in Cape Town and Mauritius would be covered under the 2002 CCSBT budget.
58. Korea understood that the expenses for tagging projects were separate from the Commission's annual operating budget. However, considering the minor proportion of the coordination and the recovery costs of the tagging program against the total Commission's budget, Korea agreed that the budget for the coordination and the recovery can be covered by the Commission's budget. But Korea re-iterated its position that the substantial and operational expenses for the specific components of the tagging program should be financed by the relevant members which conduct the program.

Agenda Item 8.2.4. CPUE modelling procedures

59. The progress in this item is described in section 6.1.2. (CPUE Interpretation and Analysis) of the SC Report.
60. Japan commented that CPUE modelling effort should concentrate on major uncertainties rather than examining the impacts of very detailed factors such as capability of fishing masters. Japan suggested that the CCSBT should advise the Scientific Committee on this matter.

Agenda Item 8.3 Management Procedure

61. Mr Penney led the meeting through section 6.2 (Management Procedure and Management Strategy Evaluation) of the SC Report.
62. Members generally agreed with the direction of the work plan and felt that this was the highest priority work within the SRP.
63. In response to a question on appointment of a suitable coordinator, Mr Penney advised that he believed that Dr Ana Parma would be one of the best people for this role. The meeting agreed with the choice of Dr Parma as the preferred coordinator.
64. There was a strong desire for the work to be completed as soon as possible. This was both to minimise costs and to have the results from the work available as soon as possible. It was acknowledged that the time required to complete the work was dependent on member scientists being able to provide both significant and timely

input to requests from the coordinator and the consultant engaged on this work. Members agreed that it was important to respond in a timely manner.

65. The Executive Secretary was asked to liaise with the Advisory Panel to determine the appointment of a suitable consultant for developing the computer code, the documentation and conducting preliminary trials. The Executive Secretary advised that a suitable consultant had been identified by the Advisory Panel.

Agenda Item 8.4 Other Research Requirements

66. Mr Penney briefed the meeting on the section 7 (SBT Research Requirements) of the SC Report. In particular, Mr Penney described the recommended assessment approach for future SAG meetings (especially 2002, and 2003), the proposed workshop on direct age estimation, and the overview of the time schedule and budgetary implications for the 2001/2002 research activities.
67. The meeting agreed with the recommended assessment approach described in section 7.1 of the SC report for 2002.
68. As with previous items, members again expressed the need to minimise funding while maximising the returns.
69. It was agreed that the emergency SAG (if required) should be scheduled to occur back to back with the SC meeting.

Agenda item 9. Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation

Agenda Item 9.1 Total Allowable Catch

70. The parties presented overviews of their respective positions on a Total Allowable Catch.
71. New Zealand indicated that its position is based on two principles. The first of these is the Commission's management objective to rebuild the SBT stock to 1980 levels by 2020, which is consistent with UNCLOS obligation to maintain and restore the population of harvested species at levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield. The second principle was to act consistently with the recommendation of the SC report and to adopt as a maximum, a TAC based on current catch levels.
72. Japan proposed that current catch levels should be defined as the average from 1994 to 2000, providing a provisional global TAC of 16,000 tonnes and the CCSBT should manage to this level.

73. Australia indicated its view that the CCSBT should manage to a global catch limit of 15,579 tonnes, which would include the total allowable catch of CCSBT members and the catch of non members and that allocations of catch to members should remain at their current levels.
74. Korea advised that it respects the recommendation of the Scientific Committee regarding the total allowable catch.
75. Considering all aspects of the SC report, members supported a provisional global catch limit based on current catch levels together with a plan to have a quick response in the event that there is a negative change in the status of the stock
76. Members agreed that non-members catches had to be restrained and preferably reduced.
77. Australia noted the uncertainty surrounding the current status of the stock and the significant increase in non-party catch since 1988. The need to constrain any increase in global catch was noted.

Agenda Item 9.2 National Allocation

78. New Zealand proposed that members develop a process for monitoring and reviewing engagement with non-members with a view to ensuring that the principles of national allocation reflected in Article 8 of the Convention are adhered to. New Zealand also noted that members' understanding on future adjustments was set out in CCSBT1 and there is a need to ensure that current and future Commission members accept the understanding.
79. Japan believed that the three long standing member countries have shown restraint for many years and that they should be entitled to more than their current catch level in recognition of their restraint.
80. Korea reiterated that it would maintain its catch at its agreed catch level with CCSBT.
81. Following further deliberation, the members could not reach consensus on national allocations and provided statements on their positions in regard to this issue. These statements are at **Attachment N**.

Agenda item 10. Other management measures

82. Australia raised its concern with the level of fishing being undertaken in the spawning grounds within Indonesian waters. Australia believed that better information was needed on the level of activity that is being conducted and to establish whether Indonesia is being used as a flag of convenience. A suitable

course of action needs to be established and a dual Australia/Japanese approach to Indonesia might be useful in highlighting the seriousness of the issue.

83. Japan agreed and further stated that these activities were a threat to the stock and that information on the magnitude of the situation and protection of the spawning grounds needed to be achieved as soon as possible.
84. Australia volunteered to take the lead with regards to discussion with Indonesia and the meeting supported this. Japan added that Indonesia also needed to be advised of CCSBT's concern over the lack of information on the capture of SBT in the spawning grounds in the Indonesian EEZ.

Agenda item 11. Trade Information Scheme (TIS) application and operation

85. Japan advised the meeting of problems that it was experiencing with the completion of TIS documents. This included significant quantities of missing information from Indonesia and some mistakes from Taiwan and New Zealand in their identification of southern bluefin tuna and bluefin tuna. Japan requested that Australia provide further advice to Indonesia on completing the TIS and requested that New Zealand introduce a government validation system by the end of 2001. Japan also requested that Taiwan improve its validation system because Japan found that some SBT was exported from Taiwan as northern bluefin tuna. It was noted that NZ has reviewed their implementation of the TIS scheme and is introducing a number of improvements, including a move to government validators
86. New Zealand advised that it considers the TIS to be most valuable for reducing IUU fishing activities and for the collection of catch information from non-members. New Zealand has reviewed the operation of its TIS system, and as a consequence, the validation system will be revised and the form being used will be changed to allow multi-vessel shipment reporting similar to the form used by Australia. Once finalised, the form will be circulated to members and to the Executive Secretary in accordance with item 4.1 of the Statistical Document Program.
87. New Zealand requested that the Secretariat review the TIS scheme and that the review should assess how well the scheme is meeting the objectives that have been set, including the accuracy and the value of the data. The review should identify weaknesses of the system and make recommendations on how the system could be improved, including making reference to TIS schemes operated by other RFMO's. The review should be completed in 12 months and be reported to CCSBT9.
88. Australia agreed to the Secretariat undertaking a review. However, Japan noted that it was most important to first ensure that the current scheme is being implemented correctly according to the CCSBT Statistical Document Program.
89. The Deputy Executive Secretary referred the meeting to paper CCSBT/0110/14 and led the meeting through this paper, which is a report on the TIS scheme from the Secretariat.

90. Some of the results from the TIS were of concern to the meeting. In particular, the SBT catch from the Philippines and the Seychelles, which were believed to be Taiwanese vessels operating under flags of convenience.
91. The meeting expressed considerable concern regarding the Taiwanese vessels catching SBT under flags of convenience and Taiwan's apparent inability to exert any control over these vessels, or to provide information concerning the number of vessels, or the flags that they flew. Japan proposed that it develop and circulate a list of flag of convenience vessels to discourage this activity (see agenda item 5.1). Japan further suggested that Taiwan consider implemented regulations similar to that of Japan that makes it illegal for Japanese citizens to target SBT using a flag of convenience vessel.
92. Taiwan advised that Taiwan and Japan have implemented a joint action plan to reduce the use of flag of convenience.
93. The Chair requested that the Taiwanese delegates convey the substance of this discussion to its relevant authorities.

Agenda item 12. Research Mortality Allowance (RMA)

94. Japan advised that it had only used 0.5t of the 3.6t RMA approved by the Commission that was allocated to its research program last year.
95. Japan requested that the CCSBT grant a 3.6t RMA for Japan's spawning stock survey and acoustic survey for the 2001/02 season and also requested Australia to provide a permit for these surveys to be conducted in the Australian zone.
96. The Australian delegate advised that he believed that the permit had been approved.
97. All members agreed to the 3.6t RMA requested by Japan.

Agenda item 13. Program of work 2002

98. The Executive Secretary presented the program of work described in paper CCSBT/0110/09 and indicated that figures in this paper have been revised downwards since discussions held within the Finance and Administration Committee. The budget and work plan described in the paper assume full implementation of the SRP as presented at this meeting, with the exception of the tagging program.
99. All members were concerned with the costs and were keen to see the costs minimised. Suggestions included holding all meetings in Australia, prioritising and deferring some components of the SRP, reducing costs of aspects of the SRP (e.g.

reducing the budget associated with tag program coordination and tag recovery), minimising attendance of Secretariat staff at meetings.

100. It was agreed that a small group would discuss the tagging program and how costs would be handled for that program. The outcome of the working group's deliberations is included at Annex 5 in the report of the Finance and Administration Committee.
101. The meeting endorsed a work program and a meeting schedule for the Commission as set out in **Attachments O and P**.

Agenda item 14. Relationship with other organisations

Agenda Item 14.1 The FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics

102. The Executive Secretary presented a paper for this item (CCSBT/0110/17). Discussion focused on the development of the Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS) and the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS) by FAO. Members agreed in principle to cooperating with FAO on these systems, but, as there is likely to be budgetary implications as well as implications on CCSBT's duties and priorities, the Commission must see a draft of the MOU from FAO before any firm decisions could be made.

Agenda Item 14.2 The meetings of relevant fisheries management organisations

103. The Executive Secretary presented a paper for this item (CCSBT/0110/18). The Commission considered the 2001 proposals and agreed to defer the 2002 proposals until the consideration of the 2002 budget.
104. For the remainder of 2001, it was agreed that attendance at the IOTC was most important. If representation at CCAMLR is necessary, one of the members attending CCAMLR could represent CCSBT. Australia volunteered to represent the CCSBT at the October CCAMLR meeting and members agreed to this.
105. It was agreed that the Database Manager's involvement with other agencies would be considered in the context of the work plan for 2002 to be considered at agenda item 13.

Agenda Item 14.3 Relevant organisations and international instruments

106. The Executive Secretary presented discussion paper CCSBT/0110/19 and recommended that the Commission adopt option 2 from that paper, to "focus on the current priorities which are operationalising the Convention in a way that improves consistency with international instruments and review CCSBT position at the end of 2003".

107. The meeting agreed with the Executive Secretary's recommendation.

Agenda Item 14.4 IGO's attendance at the Scientific Committee meetings

108. The Executive Secretary presented paper CCSBT/0110/20 in relation to this matter.

109. The meeting agreed to a modification of the more simple arrangement proposed in that paper. The agreed arrangement is now:

“The Executive Secretary may invite an appropriately skilled scientific observer from ICCAT, IOTC and IATTC to attend meetings of the SAG and SC. The observers may be asked, at the discretion of the Chair, to contribute to the deliberations of the meeting.”

110. The meeting also requested the Database Manager to liaise with IOTC regarding exchange of relevant data (such as IOTC port sampling) between IOTC and CCSBT.

Agenda item 15. Other business

Agenda Item 15.1 Confidentiality of Commission Documents

111. The meeting agreed that all documents produced for CCSBT8, including reports of the 2nd SAG, 6th SC, Tagging Program Workshop and other intercessional meetings could be made publicly available.

112. It was also agreed that a principle would apply whereby permission from the author of scientific documents would be sought before citing such work. It should be noted that these documents are normally prepared as background documents for technical meetings and are not normally part of the reports produced for the CCSBT.

Agenda Item 15.2 Ecologically Related Species Working Group

113. The next meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) will be held in the Mita Center, Tokyo, from 26-28 November 2001. A small group met to discuss preparations for the ERSWG meeting. Further organisation for the meeting will be conducted in conjunction with participants and the Secretariat. It was noted that the draft agenda for the meeting had been agreed at CCSBT7.

Agenda Item 15.3 Other

114. Japan pointed out that page 9 of document CCSBT-SC/0108/15, submitted by an Australian scientist contained an error in the description of observer coverage. The document states that “within the SRP a minimum of 10% observer coverage has already been agreed for improving and validating the basic catch and effort data”. However, the SRP actually states that “The SC recommends an observer coverage of

10% for catch and effort monitoring as a target level". Japan requested that the correction be noted.

Agenda item 16. Close of the meeting

Agenda Item 16.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for CCSBT9

115. CCSBT9 will be hosted and chaired by Australia. Australia nominated Mr Daryl Quinlivan to be the Chair.

116. New Zealand will be the Vice Chair.

Agenda Item 16.2 Adoption of Report of Meeting

117. The meeting adopted the report.

Agenda Item 16.3 Closure of the meeting

118. The Commission thanked the city of Miyako, Iwate Prefecture, the Japanese tuna industry and the Government of Japan for their hospitality and support for the meeting. The Commission also thanked the Chair of CCSBT8, the Chair of the Scientific Committee, the interpreters, and the Secretariat for their contributions.

119. The Commission agreed to close the meeting.

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- L. REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
- M. THE REPORT OF THE TAGGING PROGRAM WORKSHOP
- N. STATEMENTS ON THE AGENDA ITEM 9
- O. CCSBT – WORKPLAN 2002
- P. MEETING TIME TABLE FOR 2002

Agenda
Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission
15 - 19 October 2001
Miyako, Japan

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. Accession of Korea
4. Relationship with other Non-members
 - 4.1 Taiwan
 - 4.2 Indonesia
 - 4.3 South Africa
 - 4.4 Others
5. Action Plan
 - 5.1 Report on identified nations
 - 5.2 Others
6. Report from the Finance and Administration Committee
 - 6.1 Adoption of the revised 2001 Budget
 - 6.2 Adoption of the 2002 Budget
 - 6.3 Others
7. Review of SBT Fisheries
8. Report from the Scientific Committee and the Tagging Workshop
 - 8.1 Status of SBT stock
 - 8.2 Scientific Research Program

- 8.2.1 Catch and effort data collection including coordinating data into database
 - 8.2.2 Scientific observer program
 - 8.2.3 Tagging program
 - 8.2.4 CPUE modelling approaches
- 8.3 Management Procedure
- 8.4 Other research requirements

- 9 Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation
 - 9.1 Total Allowable Catch
 - 9.2 National Allocation

- 10. Other management measures

- 11. Trade Information Scheme application and operation

- 12. Research Mortality Allowance (RMA)

- 13. Program of work 2002

- 14. Relationship with other organisations
 - 14.1 The FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics(CWP)
 - 14.2 The meetings of relevant fisheries management organisations
 - 14.3 Relevant Organisations and international instruments
 - 14.4 IGO's attendance at the scientific committee meetings

- 15. Other business
 - 15.1 Confidentiality of Commission Documents
 - 15.2 Ecologically Related Species Working Group
 - 15.3 Other

- 16. Close of the meeting
 - 16.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for CCSBT9
 - 16.2 Adoption of Report of Meeting
 - 16.3 Closure of the meeting

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15-19 October 2001
Miyako, Japan**

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List of Documents
The 8th Annual Commission Meeting

(CCSBT/0110/)

1. Draft Agenda
2. List of Participants
3. Draft List of Documents
4. Report from the Secretariat : Prepared by the Secretariat
5. Accession of Korea : Prepared by the Secretariat
6. Relationship with Other Non-member : Prepared by the Secretariat
7. Action Plan : Prepared by the Secretariat
8. Revised Budget for 2001: Prepared by the Secretariat
9. Proposed Budget for 2002: Prepared by the Secretariat
10. Review of SBT Fisheries: Prepared by the Secretariat
11. Report from the Scientific Committee: Prepared by the Secretariat
12. Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation: Prepared by the Secretariat
13. Other Management Measures: Prepared by the Secretariat
14. Evaluation of the implementation of the Trade Information Scheme by the Secretariat: Prepared by the Secretariat
15. Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) : Prepared by the Secretariat
16. Program of Work 2002: Prepared by the Secretariat
17. Meeting of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics: Prepared by the Secretariat
18. Meeting of Relevant Fisheries Management Organizations: Prepared by the Secretariat
19. Relevant Organizations and International Instruments: Prepared by the Secretariat
20. IGO Attendance at Scientific Committee Meeting: Prepared by the Secretariat
21. (Australia)Estimation of growth rates for southern bluefin tuna maintained
22. (Japan) Indonesian longline vessel whose a close resemblance to the Taiwanese longline vessel moored at Cape town
23. (Japan)Proposal on Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) in 2001/2002 and Report on Result of RMA in 2000/2001
24. (Japan)Report on Completeness on Trade Information Scheme (TIS) Document by

Country/Entity

25. not presented
26. (Australia) Southern Bluefin Tuna Trade Information Scheme Farm data Summary
27. Decision Regarding Taiwan Pursuant to the 2000 Action Plan
28. Decision Regarding Indonesia Pursuant to the 2000 Action Plan
29. Decision Regarding Cambodia, Honduras and Equatorial Guines Pursuant to the 2000 Action Plan
30. Decision Regarding Belize Pursuant to the 2000 Action Plan

(CCSBT/0110/Info)

1. Development of a SBT Scientific Research Program including a Scientific Fishing Component by the CCSBT External Scientists- Attachment L of the Report of the Special Meeting in November 2000
2. Report of the SC to CCSBT on the Scientific Research Program – Attachment D of the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific Committee
3. Report of the working group on implementation of the CCSBT scientific research program – Attachment H of the Report of the Seventh Annual Meeting
4. Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) within the Framework of CCSBT – Attachment M of the Report of the Special Meeting in November 2000
5. Resolution to Establish an Extended Commission and an Extended Scientific Committee – Attachment I of the Report of the Seventh Annual Meeting
6. Rule 10 – Rule of Procedure of the Commission
7. Proposal on interim database format for data maintained at the Secretariat of the CCSBT – Attachment G of the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific Committee
8. Timing for Exchange of Data and Documents in Normal Stock Assessment Years– Attachment E of the Report of the Peer Review Workshop Second Part
9. Action Plan – Attachment I of the Report of the Sixth Annual Meeting Second Part
10. CCSBT Southern Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program – Attachment J of the Report of the Sixth Annual Meeting Second Part

(CCSBT/0110/Rep)

- 1.Report of the Second Meeting of the Stock Assessment Group
- 2.Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific Committee
- 3.Report of the CCSBT Tagging Program Workshop
- 4.Report of the Finance and Administration Committee of the CCSBT8

(CCSBT/0110/OS-)

Australia

Japan

Korea

New Zealand

Taiwan

(CCSBT/0110/SBT Fisheries-)

Australia-Update of the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery for the 1999/00 and Preliminary 2000/01 Seasons

Japan -Review of Southern Bluefin Tuna Fisheries of Japan in 2001 Fishing Season

Korea -Annual Review of SBT Fisheries by Republic of Korea

New Zealand – Review of New Zealand SBT Fisheries for CCSBT8

Taiwan – Review of Taiwan SBT Fishery of 2000/2001

Classification of List of Documents

(CCSBT/0110/)

Documents to be discussed at the meeting and not yet given a document number of CCSBT, to be classified into this category.

(CCSBT/0110/BGD)

Documents to be discussed at the meeting and already given a document number of CCSBT in the previous meeting, to be classified into this category.

(CCSBT/0110/Info)

Documents not to be discussed at the meeting but presented for information and reference, to be classified into this category.

(CCSBT/0110/Rep)

The previous report of CCSBT to be classified into this category.

(CCSBT/0110/OS-)

Opening Statements of countries and entities to be classified into the category.

(CCSBT/0110/SBT Fisheries-)

SBT Fisheries Reviews of countries and entities to be classified into the category.

(CCSBT/0110/WP)

The draft of the document and report developed through the discussion of the meeting and documents of informal meetings, to be classified into this category.

Australian Opening Statement — CCSBT8 in Miyako, Japan

On behalf of the Australian government I would like to thank the people of Miyako, the Government of Iwate Prefecture and the Government of Japan for hosting this the 8th meeting of the CCSBT here in the northern fishing port of Miyako. I understand that the port of Miyako is the hometown of Komatsu-san and I would thank him for bringing us to a very scenic part of Japan. This is one of the few times in many visits over recent years to Japan that I have been able to get out of Tokyo and enjoy some of the scenery and delights of your country and I am sure that the Australian delegation will enjoy their time here in Miyako. I was also impressed when reading the material on your fishing industry to see you have significant developments in aquaculture in Iwate Prefecture.

I would like to welcome to this meeting representatives of Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan and South Africa. I understand that Korea will be acceding to the CCSBT and their permanent participation is welcome and they are congratulated on their membership. I also note Andrew Penny is present from SA and his presence is always welcomed by the Australian delegation.

It is pleasing to see so many industry representatives here at this meeting from the different countries. It is an indication of the importance of this fishery to our countries and perhaps a clear message to us as officials and negotiators that there is an expectation that we will manage this fishery in a responsible and open way. Australia will host the next CCSBT meeting and we hope to continue the practice you have set of meeting outside capital cities. There are a number of options for a venue. One that I know our industry is keen to promote is to meet in Port Lincoln, the home of Australia's SBT industry. A meeting in Port Lincoln if we can time it at the right time of the year will allow your industry to view the developments in farming and fattening that has provided a future for our industry. We will advise the Secretariat by the end of the year of our preferred venue.

To our interpreters it is always great to see you and we would find it difficult to have a productive meeting without you. I will try to speak clearly in my Australian way and trust that you can interpret my own version of the Queens English in a way that my Japanese hosts can understand. I agree it is not always an easy task.

The Australian delegation is a large one and that probably reflects both the interest in the fishery and in Miyako. Our delegation includes a combination of people who are well known to you and a number of new faces. I will introduce the delegation. Banfield-san, Frank Meere (Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Derek Staples (Deputy Executive Director of the Bureau of Rural Sciences), John Langtry and Emma Kerslake (from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Josh Brien (Attorney General's Department), John Gunn (CSIRO), Charles Hausknecht from AFFA, Andrew MacNee (AFMA), Venessa Atkinson from Greenpeace. From industry we have Brian Jeffriess, Robin Pike, Terry Romaro, Mr Eythor Eyjolfssen, Mr Kim, and Randa Salama.

CCSBT 8 is an important meeting for all of us.

The Commission has come through a very difficult time over the issue of the EFP and in trying to come to a common position on stock assessment processes for the SBT stock. We have been fortunate to now have the services of 5 eminent independent scientists and two excellent external chairs in Dr John Annala from NZ and Andrew Penny from South Africa.

For Australia's part we are keen to move forward and not to dwell on the past. In doing so I accept that there are issues on which we will not agree from time to time. That is OK. The important thing is that we continue to talk to each other and work through issues. If we do this we will come to a better understanding of each other's approach and requirements from the CCSBT and continue to move issues forward. Australia's position is that it will be guided by the direction that the external scientists believe is in the best interests of the fishery. Sometimes we might not like what they suggest or agree with them but we will accept their guidance.

Australia appreciates the normalisation of the CCSBT and as such respects the fact that we can now plan in advance our meetings for each year. This is important for the countries who are involved in different RFMO,s and for the external scientists. Yearly planning also allows the Secretariat to make advance bookings and purchases to reduce operating costs. With this in mind Australia notes that this should be the only CCSBT meeting this year and as such has come to Miyako to finalise all the items on the agenda for this meeting.

Both the Japanese and Australian CCSBT industries throughout the 1980's and early 1990's took significant cuts to their SBT quotas in order to try and save and rebuild this fishery. This caused a great deal of difficulties for our industry in Australia. That we are still here together is testimony to their ability to adapt to new practices and continue to change in a changing world. Our industry at the end of the 1980's was in trouble, with banks moving in to take control of companies and with the help of Japanese industry and with a lot of Australian ingenuity they have managed to move a wild catch operation into a farming and fattening enterprise and as such rebuild their industry. We in Australia are very conscious of product health and safety for human consumption and we have moved quickly on the development of a protocol with Japan on the contents of tuna and salmon feeds in light of recent concerns.

The Japanese industry has had a harder road to follow as their reliance on a wild catch fishery on the high seas has not allowed them the same opportunities as Australia to diversify their industry and move into other fields. What has been disappointing however and I know that it continues to a concern of both my industry and the Japanese industry is that the hard work that we have undertaken to try to rebuild the fishery has been undermined by non member countries who have had to date the luxury of operating without constraints and the responsibilities that are accepted by the members of the CCSBT. It is time for that situation to change and for all countries to adopt a more co-operative approach to the management of this fishery.

There are a number of key issues for this meeting.

The TAC has not been set since 1997. At this meeting we need to set a TAC. In doing this we need to move away from the CCSBT TAC of 11750 tonnes which covers Australia Japan and NZ and agree a global TAC for SBT that covers potential allocations to current and future non members alike. It is simply unfair to expect current members who only account for about two-thirds of the global catch to have to carry the full burden of ensuring the sustainability of the fishery. Once this global TAC is agreed then the CCSBT needs to exert maximum efforts to encourage the co-operation of all parties. If, after a reasonable period this does not happen then there is a clear path open to the CCSBT to take action under the Action Plan that is WTO consistent to deal with this issue.

In setting a global TAC however, the members must be precautionary because there is little good news from the latest Stock Assessment. This fish is at very low levels and continued pressure on the spawning stock will endanger the fishery further. Those strong age classes from the early 1990,s do not appear to have survived to contribute to the spawning stock biomass. If we want a fishery in the future that our children can fish in then its about time we all became serious about its future and the level of catch it can stand.

Australia would also look to setting a TAC for a period of 2 to 3 years and see this as a more sensible arrangement than haggling over quotas on a yearly basis when the assessment of the stock will not have changed. I will talk more about this in our discussions on the TAC.

Non members

As I have mentioned above in my introduction, the time has come to put in place a WTO consistent plan to deal with non member catch. This current level of non-member catch has to be reduced. In the mid 1990's the catch by non members was very low probably 4- 600 tonnes of fish. Today it can be anywhere up to 3,500 tonnes. Where will it end, I suggest that it begins to end here today in Miyako. And a clear message should go out to all non-members that if you want to catch our fish you do so as a co-operating party.

As such I will welcome approaches for further discussions on membership from any of the non-members present at this meeting.

The Spawning Ground

The latest SC Report indicates some slight increase in the younger age classes, however there is little positive news about the spawning stock biomass. As I mentioned it does not look as though any of the strong age classes from the early 1990's have made it through to the spawning stock. We have information that there are a lot of boats fishing the spawning grounds around 1000 of which half come from the Taiwanese small boat fleet. We would welcome and support initiatives that would stop all catch of SBT on the spawning grounds as a way of protecting the larger spawning fish which will help stabilize and rebuild the stock.

SRP

We welcome the work of the externals and the countries in progressing the SRP. The tagging workshop was conducted recently in Australia and I look forward to positive discussion on how we move this important element of our work forward. Australia has made a commitment to fund its share of the work under the SRP and it is a commitment that we intend to honour.

The new Executive Secretary

The new executive secretary has been appointed to the CCSBT and we welcome Brian Macdonald to the CCSBT. While expectations from other countries of his performance will no doubt be high, Australia's expectations of him in his new role have been clearly explained. I would suggest that if it hasn't already happened that the Chair of the CCSBT write formally to Campbell MacGregor thanking him for his work and forwarding to him a small gift as a token of our appreciation.

Brian has presented a report that provides his thoughts on how the CCSBT might best move forward and there is obviously scope for the Secretariat to have a more active role in the conduct of the business of the Commission. Brian has suggested that the Secretariat take on the role of co-ordinating the SRP under the guidance of CCSBT members and the external scientists. We think this idea has merit and should be considered in discussions on the SRP.

Bob Kennedy has also joined as data manager and again can provide a service to the members and to get value for money for his appointment we must have a program of work for him. This could include making the TIS compulsory and extending it to cover all catch from members and non-members. The Secretariat is far more than a post office and meeting organiser. It costs members a significant amount to run and we should look to maximise our returns. To help the Secretariat with costings a more active finance committee might be useful. One that interacts with the Secretariat on a regular basis and not just at meetings.

These, ladies and gentlemen, are our thoughts on some of the key issues to be addressed at this meeting. We look forward to working constructively with other delegations during the course of this week and further advancing the work of the CCSBT.

One final comment, Mr Chairman. Many in this room will be aware of the bans which the Australian Government imposed on access for Japanese long line vessels to our ports. These bans had a significant effect on SBT and providoring industries in both Japan and Australia. I am pleased to formally record that these bans were fully lifted in May this year by the Australian Government. As a result the Japanese long line fleet is welcome to visit our ports as are the fleets of other high seas fishing countries. This access is available now on application for a port permit and several visits have already been made. We will be having discussions with officials from the JFA in Tokyo on 22 October regarding a long term bilateral arrangement for port access for the Japanese long line fleet. These discussions should reflect the rights and responsibilities of both

sovereign countries, port and flag state responsibilities and the responsibilities we all have as members of regional fisheries management organisations and under international agreements.

(Translated by the Secretariat)

Address of welcome by Mr. Yoshiaki Watanabe, the Director General of the Fisheries Agency, the Government of Japan

Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT8)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

I am Yoshiaki Watanabe, the Director General of the Fisheries Agency of the Government of Japan. I am very pleased that the CCSBT8 is held in this place today, and on behalf the Government of Japan, I sincerely welcome the Chair, the representatives of the Parties and the country/entity here as observers, the independent chair of Scientific Committee (SC) and ladies and gentlemen to Japan. I also would like to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Suzuki, Member of the House of Representatives for his attendance at this meeting today despite of his tight schedule.

As you know, Japan is a fishing nation surrounded on all sides by the blessings of the sea. Especially, the offshore of Sanriku coast in the Pacific ocean in front of us is world famous as one of the three greatest fishing grounds, where a cold current meets with a warm current and there are abundance of fish of the both currents, such as northern bluefin tuna, pacific salmon and pacific saury, to be caught. Among the Sanriku coastal cities, Miyako city, where you are invited, has positively worked for resource management of salmon, oyster, wakame seaweed, etc using the benefits of the nature of this region. Miyako city is also a fishery base to 16 large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels targeting SBT. Therefore, I believe that it is an excellent venue for the annual meeting of CCSBT with its beautiful scenery.

According to the estimation conducted by Food and Agriculture Organization of the united nations (FAO) on the current status of global fisheries resources, there is a situation where 60 ~ 70 % of those are fully-exploited or over-exploited now. With recognition that it is necessary to take immediate action for sustainable utilization of fisheries resources to ensure adequate amount of supply of animal protein for human being in the future, in the 23rd Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in February 1999, the FAO adopted "International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity" which recommended that 20% ~ 30% of fishing capacity of large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels should be immediately reduced. Japan voluntarily reduced 20% of large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels' number in accordance with the Action Plan by March 1999 to contribute to a recovery of tuna resources. "International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing." that was adopted in the 24th COFI held in March 2001, was also a significant progress for resources management

In view of the fact that almost all tuna products are exported to Japan, Japan, as a responsible market country, established Organization for Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT) in order to eliminate Flag of Convenience (FOC) vessels. To accomplish its aim, the OPRT would publish material to show that tunas caught in a sound manner and would take actions to scrap FOC vessels. Not to mention the reduction of tuna longline fishing vessels seriously damaged Japanese fishing industries. Japan voluntarily carried out the reduction to fulfill its international responsibility as the largest tuna fishing and consuming nation. However, we cannot expect fruitful results without cooperation of other countries. Results will be amplified with positive cooperation of countries, entities and regional fisheries management organizations associated with tuna fisheries. I strongly request the Parties and Observers for their continuous and positive work as tuna-fishing country /entity to accomplish their international responsibility for sustainable utilization of fisheries resources.

Fisheries resources are recognized as significant to secure food for human beings in the future. I recognize that it is the most important issue to be solved, particularly to take measures for sustainable utilization of resources. I hope that this annual meeting will contribute to tackle this issue.

As you know, Miyako is quite a different place and has a different atmosphere and landscape from Tokyo, where you usually stay in Japan. I hope that you don't miss this opportunity to enjoy your stay in Miyako.

Thank you.

(Translated by the Secretariat)

**Welcome address as a representative of the local community
in the opening of the CCSBT8**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am Suzuki, a member of the House of Representatives of the Liberal Democratic Party. I, as a member of the Diet elected from this local community, would like to briefly greet you on the opening of CCSBT8.

First of all I would like to welcome representatives of the Parties of CCSBT, observers, the chair of Scientific Committee (SC), who takes efforts to promote a scientific discussion at CCSBT, and the Secretariat of CCSBT to Japan. We are very pleased to welcome you to Miyako.

As the Director General of the Fisheries Agency mentioned, the coast of the Sanriku region is very famous as one of great fishing grounds in the world. Miyako is also one of the largest bases of large-scale tuna longline fisheries in Japan, which is to be a topic of this meeting from today, and it ranks as large as Kesenuma, Miyagi Prefecture in Tohoku-district. In this respect, there are very high interests and expectations in this region to the outcome of this meeting.

I, as a member of the Diet elected from Iwate Prefecture, and a representative of Japan as a fishing nation, have positively tackled the issues of measures for the promotion of coastal and offshore fisheries as well as far seas fisheries such as tuna fisheries and whaling.

In the course of tackling those issues, we have leaned the importance of resources management and the necessity of conservation of the fishing ground environment through making these abundant resources utilized carefully and sustainably. I believe that this spirit should be reflected to the discussion within the CCSBT which purpose is ensuring adequate conservation and effective utilization of SBT resources. Japanese fishermen who engage in the large-scale tuna longliners particularly have earnestly cooperated with international/regional fisheries organizations such as the CCSBT and have not only accepted drastically cut of their amount of catch but also voluntarily reduced number of vessels by 20% of the total vessels. Of course, these measures could not be achieved without fishermen's great pains. Japanese fishermen have made utmost efforts for appropriate conservation of marine living resources with accepting such pains. However, the reason they can continue their efforts is a hope, they can expect in the near future, which would enable sustainable use of the resources and possible expansion of catch limit. In this respect, I believe, we have an obligation to appreciate fishermen's effort and try to meet their expectations. I think that each participant of this meeting has a background of different fisheries history and food culture. However, we can have common ideas on the purpose of the Convention to ensure adequate conservation and sustainable utilization of resources on scientific bases, and the spirit of the (UNCLOS). I believe that if we share our wisdom on this issue based on the ideas and spirit, we can surely achieve satisfactory results. I expect an animated discussion and fruitful results.

Lastly, I hope that your stay in Miyako will be comfortable and significant for you.

(Translated by the Secretariat)

Opening Statement by Japan
Eighth meeting of the Commission for the Conservation
of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT8)
Miyako, Japan
15 October 2001

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Japan, Australia and New Zealand as the members of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) have worked for management and optimum utilization of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) to date. However, we have not been able to decide a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) because of the large differences of views on the stock status of SBT among the members. Also this situation was further complicated when Australia and NZ filed to the international arbitral tribunal. As a result, the CCSBT became temporarily dysfunctional. However, after the completion of tribunal activities, situation has been improving and I am pleased to note the current improvement of functioning of the CCSBT under the cooperation of the members.

The current stock status and recommendations for the future have been proposed for the first time in three years by the 2nd meeting of Stock Assessment Group (SAG) and 6th meeting of Scientific Committee (SC) held in this August. We are now able to approve a Scientific Research Program (SRP) that is necessary for appropriate future resource management of SBT on a sound scientific base and observe the significant development of it. Japan will strongly support a stock assessment system on a scientific base. The improvement of the scientific functioning of the Commission is due to the initiative and great contribution of the external scientists and independent chairs of SAG and SC. I would like to express my gratitude again and also expect a further contribution to the development of the scientific aspect of the CCSBT in the future.

At this meeting, we will discuss the setting of a TAC based upon the recommendation of the 6th SC on stock assessment. It is very important for us, as a responsible regional fisheries management organization, to promptly take adequate conservation and management measures to progress non-member issues. Japan sincerely hopes that a TAC, which has not been set since 1998, will be set in this meeting for 2002.

On the other hand, in terms of non-members issues, I regret to mention that the Republic of Korea has not finalized its international process for accession to the Convention by commencing day of this meeting. However, I sincerely hope that it will accede soon to the Convention and contribute to the resource management activities of the Commission. We also observe progress, such as adopting the "Action Plan" and establishing the "Extended Commission", to promote early accession to the Convention and to ensure cooperation by other non-members. I believe that it is necessary for the CCSBT to proceed with the progress and materialize it. For this purpose, it is necessary for us to fully discuss the

matter and, if necessary, we should decide further action in accordance with the “Action Plan” for further progress on the non-members issues.

Finally, it is now possible for the Commission to rapidly improve its functioning through the initiative and the contribution of the external scientists. The Secretariat also has become more substantial by the addition of new staff members, the Executive Secretary and Database manager. I strongly hope that each party will cope with various issues in a cooperative manner without losing this momentum so that this meeting will be a fruitful one.

Thank you.

**Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission
15 - 19 October 2001
Miyako, Japan**

Korea's Opening Statement

Thank you and Good afternoon!

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

On behalf of my Korean delegation, I am greatly honored to be here in Miyako for the eighth CCSBT meeting. We extend our special gratitude to the Government of Japan and Miyako for providing this excellent place to hold our meeting. We also welcome the new Executive Secretary of the CCSBT, Mr. Brian MacDonald. We believe his insight and leadership will guide and support the Commission as it may face various complicated matters.

The most urgent issue for the CCSBT is the evaluation of current level of SBT stock and the estimation of the long-term sustainable harvest level under the scheduled projects of stock rebuilding by 2020. According to the series of the Commission meeting, SAG meeting, and SC meeting held since last April, the rebuilding process of the SBT stock appears uncertain. Special concerns and efforts should be paid to detect any signs of positive and/or negative impacts of the current catch level on the sustainability or recovery of the SBT stocks. Korea understands that during the past decade, the stabilizing trend of the current stock, despite minor fluctuations, should be considered as a steppingstone to build on as we strive to obtain our desired 2020 goal.

Since the last Commission Meeting, Korea, as a designate-Member to the CCSBT, spent every effort to participate in and cooperate with all intersessional meetings, including the 2nd SAG meeting, the 6th SC meeting, and the Tagging Workshop. Its participation in all these meetings can be interpreted as a first step towards meeting its obligations for becoming a Member of the CCSBT. At its initial stage of membership to the CCSBT, Korea is trying to stay atop of all the current issues including the implementation of the Scientific Research Program. However, Korea needs some time to further examine in detail the items of the SRP that was previously agreed by the existing Members.

Regarding the Korea's accession to the CCSBT, the Cabinet Council of the Korean Government approved it last month and the final domestic procedure is under way for the deposit of the instrument of accession. As a new member to the Convention, Korea will fulfill its responsibilities and obligations, including payment of its contribution this year. Given that Korea will deposit the instrument of accession soon, I would like to request that Korea be regarded as a full member at this annual meeting. In this regard, I want to formally ask this Commission to consider this issue under

agenda 3, "Accession of Korea." Korea fully deserves the recognition which includes right to participate in any process at this meeting. In short, Korea's instrument of accession will be deposited within a couple of weeks, and such a short period of time should not preclude Korea's privilege and responsibility of participating as a full member in all activities at this meeting.

I hope this meeting will produce fruitful outcomes.

Thank you.

NEW ZEALAND OPENING STATEMENT 9\CCSBT8

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. We are looking forward to working with the delegations from Australia, Japan and Korea under the guidance of our new chair, Mr Ito. We also extend a warm welcome to the representatives from Korea and Taiwan and who are with us.

We are pleased with the work that has been undertaken since we last met in April 2001. The Stock Assessment Group and the Scientific Committee met in August and the Tagging Workshop met in September.

The outcomes of the SAG and SC meetings resulted in the first consensus report in more than six years on the status of the Southern bluefin tuna stock and the likelihood of the Commission reaching its stated management objectives. We are particularly grateful for the role the External Advisory Panel played in achieving this consensus. It is now our responsibility as members of the Commission to act on the recommendations put forward by the SC and take measures consistent with our management objectives.

We still need to actively continue negotiations with non-members to determine the steps required to achieve closer co-operation. ~~the~~ meantime we regard restraint of non-members catch as an essential component of an improved potential for stock rebuild. We look forward to hearing from Korea on the progress it has made towards accession. The Commission has always placed the ~~high~~ ~~priority~~ on enlarging its membership to include all those who have an interest in the fishery.

In addition to engaging with non-member the Commission has undertaken a significant amount of work since its inception in 1993. Its scientific work has, in particular, played a critical role in the setting of total catch levels. Agreement on total catch is important for the conservation of the stock as is ~~also~~ fair and reasonable allocation of catch amongst both existing and ~~future~~ members of the Commission.

We are confident that in the next few days we will build on the progress we achieved at out last meeting and we look forward to ~~a~~ ~~successful~~ outcome from our discussions. We also welcome Mr Brian MacDonald as ~~Executive~~ Secretary of the CCSBT and Mr Bob Kennedy as Database Manager.

Thank you.