



## **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> SAG, 6<sup>th</sup> 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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**Agenda**  
**Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission**  
**15 - 19 October 2001**  
**Miyako, Japan**

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- 8.2.1 Catch and effort data collection including coordinating data into database
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  - 9.1 Total Allowable Catch
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  - 16.3 Closure of the meeting

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15-19 October 2001  
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**List of Documents**  
**The 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Guinea 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 be 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 Kesennuma, 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 learned 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 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Stock Assessment Group (SAG) and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> SAG meeting, the 6<sup>th</sup> 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—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. In 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 highest 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 the 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 our 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.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> CCSBT Commission Meeting  
Opening Statement**

**Taiwan  
October 15, 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. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to Japan, for its efforts to host this meeting in this beautiful city, Miyako.

As a major fishing nation in the world, Taiwan has always understood and supported the importance of the conservation and management of the highly migratory tuna resources. In particular, we have cooperated with CCSBT on the measures adopted for the conservation and management for Southern Bluefin Tunas, such as imposing a self-restraint catch limit since 1996, providing catch statistics, practicing TIS since June 2000, and participating in scientific researches such as harbor sampling with Australia, and encouraging our fishermen to cooperate in the tagging program.

Since this April after the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, CCSBT representatives have been to Taiwan to exchange opinions with our side, and the results have been constructive. However, there remain issues for our participation in the CCSBT to be further discussed and finalized. In the future, Taiwan will continue to demonstrate its good will so as to engage itself in a further dialogue with CCSBT on these relevant issues. We wish CCSBT could realize the actual difficulties Taiwan's fisheries have faced, so as to reach a mutually acceptable conclusion.

Finally, I wish this a fruitful and successful meeting. Again, I would like to join other delegates to express my thanks to the Japanese Government for this well-organized meeting.



**Statement made by Taiwan in the Plenary**

18 October 2001

Taiwan has a common interest with the Members of the Commission in conservation of SBT stocks. It is Taiwan's understanding that the work of the Commission is to enhance the effective conservation of SBT. As a gesture of our good will to the respond to the work under the Convention, Taiwan would like to take the following measures.

1. Taiwan accepts the catch quota of 1140 tons as agreed between the parties concerned.
2. Taiwan will not issue trading information scheme certificate to any catch of SBT over the above agreed set catch quota.
3. Taiwan will avail itself of the provisions of the Resolution adopted by the Commission in April 2001, to apply to become a Member of the Extended Commission and Extended Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna. Taiwan will use the nomenclature either as Chinese Taipei or Fishing Entity of Taiwan. It will make its best endeavors to lodge an application to become a Member as soon as possible.
4. Taiwan will not issue TIS document to any fresh SBT caught in SBT spawning ground, provided that location of SBT spawning ground being given by CCSBT.
5. Taiwan fully supports measures combating against FOC fishing activities. We will cooperate with members of the CCSBT in gathering relevant information pertaining to FOC vessels.

Thank you very much.

**DECISION REGARDING BELIZE PURSUANT TO THE 2000 ACTION PLAN**

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

*Recalling* that the Commission has recognised that the cooperation of Belize is necessary to ensure the effective conservation and management of SBT;

*Recalling also* that the Commission has since 1996 sought to establish cooperative arrangements with Belize to ensure the proper conservation and management of the SBT stock;

*Noting* the adoption by the Commission of the Action Plan on non-members in March 2000;

*Noting further* the decision in April 2001 to identify Belize pursuant to paragraph 2 of the Action Plan as a non-member the vessels of which have been fishing for SBT in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT;

*Considering* that the Commission has written to Belize on repeated occasions formally requesting that it rectify its fishing activities so as not to diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT and to advise the Commission of actions taken in that regard;

*Considering also* that there has been a limited response from Belize indicating some willingness to cooperate with the Commission, but that it is unable to provide information on fishing vessels until domestic measures are put into place to collect such information;

*Expressing concern* that the fishing activities of Belize continue to undermine the effectiveness of internationally agreed conservation and management measures for SBT;

DECIDES as follows:

1. To instruct the Executive Secretary to write to Belize on behalf of the Commission, again informing Belize that it has been identified as a non-member the vessels of which fish for SBT in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT pursuant to paragraph 2 of the Action Plan and request that it take action to rectify its fishing activities so as not to diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT, and to inform the Commission of actions taken in that regard.
2. To also instruct the Executive Secretary to inform Belize that unless the Commission receives a satisfactory response to its latest request prior to its next annual

meeting, the Commission will identify it pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Action Plan as a non-member which has not rectified its fishing activities, with a view to imposing measures pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Action Plan, including trade-restrictive measures which avoid arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade, to prevent non-members from continuing to conduct fishing activities which diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT.

3. At its next annual meeting, the Commission shall identify Belize as a non-member that has not rectified its fishing activities so as not to diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Action Plan, and shall decide upon appropriate measures, consistent with paragraph 6 of the Action Plan, which may include prohibiting the import of SBT and its products in any form from Belize, unless the Commission decides at that meeting or before, that Belize has taken appropriate actions to ensure that fishing activities do not diminish conservation and management measures for SBT.

**DECISION REGARDING CAMBODIA, HONDURAS AND EQUATORIAL  
GUINEA PURSUANT TO THE 2000 ACTION PLAN**

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

*Recalling* that the Commission has recognised that cooperation by Cambodia, Honduras and Equatorial Guinea is necessary for the effective conservation and management of SBT;

*Recalling also* that the Commission has since 1996 sought to establish cooperative arrangements with Cambodia, Honduras and Equatorial Guinea to ensure the proper conservation and management of the SBT stock;

*Noting* the adoption by the Commission of the Action Plan on non-members in March 2000;

*Noting also* the decision in April 2001 to identify Cambodia, Honduras and Equatorial Guinea pursuant to paragraph 2 of the Action Plan as non-members the vessels of which have been fishing for SBT in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT;

*Considering* that the Commission has written to Cambodia, Honduras and Equatorial Guinea on several occasions formally requesting that they rectify their fishing activities so as not to diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT and to advise the Commission of actions taken in that regard;

*Considering also* that there has been no response from Cambodia and Equatorial Guinea to the request by the Commission, and a limited response, but no action from Honduras;

*Expressing concern* that the fishing activities of these non-members continues to undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT;

DECIDES as follows:

1. That Cambodia, Honduras and Equatorial Guinea be identified pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Action Plan, as non-members which have not rectified their fishing activities so as not to diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.
2. To instruct the Executive Secretary to write to Cambodia, Honduras and Equatorial Guinea on behalf of the Commission, informing these non-members of the decision of the Commission to identify them under paragraph 5 of the Action Plan, and again request that they take action to cooperate with the Commission and rectify their

fishing activities so as not to diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT.

3. To also instruct the Executive Secretary to inform these non-members that unless the Commission receives a satisfactory response to its latest request prior to its next annual meeting, the Commission will consider imposing trade-restrictive measures, which avoid arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade, to prevent non-members from continuing to conduct fishing activities which diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT.

4. That at its next annual meeting, the Commission shall decide on appropriate measures, consistent with paragraph 6 of the Action Plan, which may include prohibiting the import of SBT and its products in any form from Cambodia, Honduras and Equatorial Guinea, unless the Commission decides at that meeting or before, that these non-members have taken appropriate action to ensure that their fishing activities do not diminish conservation and management measures for SBT.

**DRAFT DECISION REGARDING INDONESIA PURSUANT TO THE 2000  
ACTION PLAN**

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

*Noting* that the Commission has recognised that the cooperation of Indonesia is essential to ensure the effective conservation and management of SBT;

*Welcoming* recent indications that Indonesia would join the Commission;

*Recognising* that Indonesia exercises jurisdiction and control over waters that contain important parts of the SBT spawning grounds;

*Noting further* the adoption by the Commission of the Action Plan on non-members in March 2000;

*Recalling* that the Commission has repeatedly sought the cooperation of Indonesia as a non-member whose vessels fish for SBT to ensure the effective conservation and management of SBT;

*Gravely concerned* that fishing activities within Indonesian waters are diminishing the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT and that no action has been taken to rectify such activities;

DECIDES as follows:

1. That Indonesia be identified, 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.
2. To instruct the Executive Secretary to write to Indonesia on behalf of the Commission informing Indonesia of the decision to identify it under paragraph 2 of the Action Plan, and to again request Indonesia to cooperate with the Commission and rectify its fishing activities so as not to diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures for SBT, and to advise the Commission of actions taken in that regard prior to the next annual session of the Commission.
3. To instruct the Executive Secretary to again urge Indonesia to take measures to prevent fishing activities in waters that contain important parts of the SBT spawning grounds and to take appropriate measures to ensure that SBT Statistical Documents are completed in accordance with the requirements of the Trade Information Scheme adopted by the Commission in November 1999 that came into operation on 1 June 2000.

**Report of the Finance and Administration Committee  
16 – 18 October 2001  
Miyako, Japan**

**1. Opening**

1. The Finance and Administration Committee met from 16 to 18 October 2001 in conjunction with CCBST8. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex 1**. Messrs. Charles Hausknecht and Akihiro Mae were nominated as co-chairs by the Commission.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

2. The adopted agenda is attached as **Annex 2**.

**3. Consideration of Korean contribution to the budget**

3. Korea indicated that its domestic procedure to accede to the Convention would be completed within a couple of weeks and that its contribution for the 2001 financial year was ready to be paid immediately after it acceded and received notification from the Secretariat to pay its contribution. The meeting proceeded based on the assumption that the Korean contribution would be available for the 2001 financial year and thereafter.

**4. Revision of 2001 Budget**

4. The Executive Secretary presented the proposed revision of the 2001 budget (CCSBT/0110/08). In the proposed revision, expenditure was expected to total \$A 1.424 million (\$A0.223 million more than the original budget). The main reasons for the increases were:

- additional costs for the Annual Meeting
- increased Secretariat travel costs
- separation costs for the previous Executive Secretary
- increased costs for Advisory Panel members

5. On additional costs for the Annual Meeting, New Zealand said that these far exceeded the costs of holding the meeting in Canberra. Bearing in mind the budgetary pressures the Commission was facing and the possibility of increased costs for holding the meeting outside Canberra, New Zealand stated its view that the meeting should continue to be held in Canberra. If the meeting was held outside Canberra, then any additional costs for doing so should be borne by the host country and not the Commission.

6. Korea suggested that, since the increase in the budget within the same year might make it difficult for the contracting parties to prepare necessary an additional contribution, every effort should be made to avoid any revision within each financial year.
7. The Executive Secretary indicated that funds not spent to date were to cover costs of holding ERSWG, some travel costs to attend other international organizations, and costs for the purchase of a computer and software for the CCSBT database. Within these costs, travel costs to attend CCAMLR meeting would not be necessary, as the Commission had decided that one of the Member countries would provide an observer to this meeting. Accordingly, the Secretariat modified the draft 2001 budget, which is shown as **Annex 3**.
8. **The Committee recommends that the Commission endorse the revised 2001 budget as shown in Annex 3.** While agreeing this recommendation, Japan noted that its government would need to consider the expenditure in the context of national arrangements, since no arrangement was prepared in its national budget during this financial year to meet an increase in the contribution, due to the short notice of the proposal.

## **5. 2002 Budget**

9. The Committee considered the draft budget for 2002 (CCSBT/0110/09) submitted by the Secretariat to identify where potential savings could be made in the draft budget without impairing the effective implementation of the 2002 workplan. The Committee requests that the Secretariat amend the draft 2002 budget reflecting suggestions which includes:
  - to convene back-to-back meetings of the CPUE Modelling Group and the 1<sup>st</sup> Management Strategy Development Workshop and reducing the time allotted for scientific meetings where possible
  - to convene the Emergency SAG meeting back-to-back with the SC in September or October
  - to reduce the expected number of Advisory Panel attending the meetings from five to four
10. Funds for tagging program coordination only have been included in the draft budget for 2002 (a detailed breakdown of funds for this item is provided as **Annex 5**). The 2002 budget does not include the direct financial expenses of implementing the Scientific Research Program (SPR) tagging program, the specific components of which will be financed directly by individual members carrying out the respective components, consistent with the Commissions decision on this matter. It was further noted that an emergency SAG may not be necessary in which case the funds could be reallocated to other areas of the budget as needed, eg. to tagging program coordination. Further savings could be made if the emergency SAG was not needed and the 3<sup>rd</sup> SAG could be held



back-to-back with the 7<sup>th</sup> SC. In light of the Commissions advice that the Secretariat will not attend other RFMO meetings in 2002, the Secretariat travel budget has been reduced to reflect staff attendance at workshops, the meeting of the Commission and subsidiary committees only.

11. Further saving could potentially be realized if member countries made available meeting facilities and administrative staff to support the Secretariat at meetings or workshops convened outside Canberra, so reducing the number of Secretariat staff needed to attend meetings outside Canberra.
12. The Committee set a total gross expenditure limit of A\$1,650,000 for 2002 to provide the Secretariat with some flexibility in supporting the Commissions activities for 2002 within this total amount.

**The Committee recommends that the Commission note the above matters and endorse the draft budget for 2002, provided at Annex 4.**

13. Members noted that it was desirable to stabilize the Commission deliberative process with respect to each annual budget and agree funding, and resultant membership contributions, well in advance of the start of each Commission financial year. This would minimize the requirement for additional contributions to the budget from members at a later stage, when it caused difficulties for member governments to provide further funds additional to these (in many cases) already settled on through the representative domestic budgetary processes of individual member countries.

#### **6. Others**

14. No other matter was discussed.

#### **7. Closing**

15. The meeting adopted the report and closed the meeting on 18 October 2001.

**List of Participants**

**Australia**

Mr Charles HAUSKNECHT

**Japan**

Mr Akihiro MAE  
Mr Hisashi ENDO  
Dr Sachiko TSUJI  
Ms Emi MASHIKO  
Mr Takato MAKI

**Korea**

Dr Song-Kwon SOH

**New Zealand**

Mr Peter KELL  
Dr Talbot MURRAY

**Secretariat**

Mr Brian MACDONALD  
Mr Morio KANEKO

**Agenda**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Consideration of Korean contribution to the Budget
4. Revision of 2001 Budget
5. 2002 Budget
6. Others
7. Closing

<b>COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA</b>		
	<b>REVISED BUDGET - 2001 (CCSBT8)</b>	
	<b>ESTIMATE</b>	
	<b><u>2001</u></b>	
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Carry over from Previous Year</b>	<b>53,600</b>	
<b><u>Contributions from members</u></b>	<b><u>1,249,000</u></b>	
Japan	536,745	
Australia	481,293	
New Zealand	145,463	
Korea	85,499	
<b>Staff Assessment Levy</b>	<b><u>110,000</u></b>	
<b>Interest on investments</b>	<b><u>10,000</u></b>	
<b>TOTAL GROSS INCOME</b>	<b><u>1,422,600</u></b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b><u>ANNUAL MEETINGS - ( CCSBT 7&amp;8 (2001))</u></b>	<b><u>129,500</u></b>	
Interpretation Costs	24,000	
Hire of venue	15,000	
Hire of Equipment	46,000	
Miscellaneous Costs (Inc. Sc Cte Chair attending Annual Meeting)	40,000	
Publication and Translation	4,500	
<b><u>SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING</u></b>	<b><u>71,000</u></b>	
SRP WG, Advisory Panel in 2001	57,000	
ERS Working Group Meeting	14,000	
<b><u>SC Mar 01 &amp; SAG/SC Aug 01</u></b>	<b><u>391,000</u></b>	
Interpretation Costs	70,000	
Hire of venue	26,000	
Hire of equipment	4,000	
Hire of Consultants - SAG Chair, SC Chair, Advisory Panel	285,000	
Miscellaneous Costs	4,000	
Publication and translation	2,000	
<b><u>SECRETARIAT COSTS</u></b>	<b><u>721,100</u></b>	
Secretariat Staff Costs	373,000	
Staff Assessment Levy	110,000	
Employer Super/Social security	48,000	

COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA			
	<b>BUDGET - 2002 (CCSBT8)</b>		
		<b>ESTIMATE</b>	
		<b><u>2002</u></b>	
	<b>INCOME</b>		
	<u>Carry over from Previous Year</u>		
	<b>Contributions from members</b>	<b>1,510,000</b>	
	Japan	610,589	
	Australia	544,988	
	New Zealand	147,691	
	Korea	206,732	
	<u>Staff Assessment Levy</u>	<b>130,000</b>	
	<u>Interest on investments</u>	<b>10,000</b>	
	<b>TOTAL GROSS INCOME</b>	<b>1,650,000</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
	<b>ANNUAL MEETINGS - ( CCSBT 9 )</b>	<b>62,310</b>	
	Interpretation Costs	24,000	
	Hire of venue	7,800	
	Hire of Equipment	11,500	
	Miscellaneous Costs (Inc. Sc Cte Chair attending Annual Meeting)	17,010	
	Publication and Translation	2,000	
	<b>3rd SAG, 7th SC &amp; Emargency SAG</b>	<b>343,930</b>	
	Interpretation Costs	70,000	
	Hire of venue	16,500	
	Hire of equipment	22,500	
	Hire of Consultants - SAG Chair, SC Chair, Advisory Panel	226,930	
	Miscellaneous Costs	2,000	
	Publication and translation	6,000	
	<b>SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	<b>196,700</b>	
	CPUE Modelling Group & Management Strategy Development WS	196,700	
	<b>SPECIAL PROJECT</b>	<b>284,000</b>	
	Age Estimation WS	50,000	
	Management Strategy Development	80,000	
	Inter-sessional work on SRP	32,000	
	Tagging program coordination	122,000	
	<b>SECRETARIAT COSTS</b>	<b>677,060</b>	
	Secretariat Staff Costs	410,000	
	Staff Assessment Levy	130,000	
	Employer Super/Social security	80,000	
	Worker's Compensation/ travel/contents Insurance	15,000	
	Travel/transport - O/seas and domestic	17,500	
	Miscellaneous Translation of Commission and Committee Reports	22,560	
	Training	2,000	
	<b>OFFICE MANAGEMENT COSTS</b>	<b>86,000</b>	
	Office lease	38,000	
	Office running costs	24,000	
	Provision for new/replacement assets	8,000	
	Telephone/communications	11,000	
	Miscellaneous	5,000	
	<b>TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,650,000</b>	

**CCSBT TAGGING PROGRAM**  
**2002**

ACTIVITY		FUNDER
A.	COORDINATION	CCSBT
-	Tag purchase	\$40,000-
-	Tag rewards	\$38,000-
-	Freight/mail	\$3,000-
-	Printing	\$5,000-
	General administration	<u>\$16,000-</u>
		\$102,000-
B.	TAG DEVELOPMENT	
	Surface Fishery	\$570,000-      Australia
-	South Australia	
-	Western Australia	
	Longline Fishery	
-	Japan	\$2,000,000-      Japan
-	Australia	<u>\$300,000-</u> Australia
		\$2,870,000-
C.	TAG RECOVERY	
	Member Countries	Not costed      Member Countries
	Non-member Countries	<u>\$20,000-</u> CCSBT
		<u>\$2,992,000-</u>

**Update of the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery  
for the 1999/00 and Preliminary 2000/01 Seasons  
Prepared by Carolyn Robins, BRS (2 October 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 28 September 2001 is 5235 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 each season were:

**1999/00**

South Australia and Western Australia	5143 tonnes (5130t in farms and 13t longline)
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New South Wales and Tasmania	114 tonnes (longline)
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**2000/01**

South Australia and Western Australia	5175 tonnes (5162t in farms and 13t longline)
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New South Wales and Tasmania	60 tonnes (longline)
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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 and 2000/01). The domestic longlining component declined from 10% in 1996/97 to less than 3% in 1999/00 and 2000/01. There were no SBT poled off South Australia or trolled off Tasmania during either season.

**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. Twenty-five vessels longlined in NSW, 16 in WA, 4 in SA and 1 in Tasmania.

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

Australian's 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 2000/01 season this component utilised over 98% 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 September 2000 and 2001. 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 2000/01

(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				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	RTMP	
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	^	916	3487	^0	4403	~0	475	475	!0	219	219	0	0	0	4433	664	664	0	5097
1998/99	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	5130	^13	5143	0	!114	114	0	!		0	0	0	5130	127	127	0	5257
"2000/01	0	0	^	0	5162	^13	5175	0	!60	60	0	!		0	0	0	5162	73	73	0	"5235

\*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 surface catch and in 1999/00 and 2000/01 WA longliner is included in SA longliner catch.

~ 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 and 2000/01 Tas longline is included in NSW longline due to confidentiality guidelines.

" 2000/01 catches are preliminary as the season is on-going

## **Review of Southern Bluefin Tuna Fisheries of Japan in the 2001 Fishing Season**

(Provisional since the 2001 fishing season has not completed.)

### **1. Introduction**

- (1) The total amount of catch of SBT for the 2001 fishing season (1 March 2001 - 28 February 2002) was 5,412 tons at 30 September 2001 and is expected to reach the voluntary catch limit set by Japan around early December.
- (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. Operational Constraints on Effort**

- (1) GOJ is managing the catch of SBT for each fishing season based on TAC and national allocations agreed by CCSBT.
- (2) GOJ originally took voluntary measures to set a limit of catch (6,065tons) for the 2001 fishing season, same as the national allocation for Japan agreed in 1997, since no agreement was reached for this season. However, this voluntary catch limit was changed to 6,432 tons by increasing 356tons, which was the half of the returned amount of catch (711tons) in 1999 based on the provisional measures prescribed by ITLOS.
- (3) Further, GOJ is managing the fishing operations by introducing the time/area closure in order to protect the spawning grounds and juveniles.
- (4) The industry sets voluntary starting days for three sub-fishing areas (high seas area off Tasmania/Sydney, high seas area off Cape Town and Southern Indian Ocean), and limits the total number of vessels for each sub-fishing area.

### **3. Catch and Effort (refer to Appendix 1)**

In the 2001 fishing season, the fishing operations in the high seas area off Tasmania/Sydney and off Cape Town have been closed with the catch of 1,787tons by 69 vessels and 3,085tons by 99 vessels, respectively. The operations in the Southern Indian Ocean are still undertaken.

### **4. Historical Catch and Effort (refer to Appendix 1)**

- (1) In the 1998 fishing season, GOJ took voluntary measures to set a limit of 6,065 tons, same as the agreed amount of catch as the 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 the 1998 fishing season, in the absence of a decision on TAC by the Commission. However, following the prescription of provisional measures by ITLOS concerning the experimental fishing conducted by Japan, the actual catch in 1999 was reduced by 711tons to 5,354tons.
- (4) In the 2000 fishing season, GOJ set the voluntary catch limit of 4,578tons, 1,487tons less than 6,065tons which was the national allocation to Japan agreed in 1997. However, since the provisional measures prescribed by ITLOS was revoked in August 2000, the

voluntary catch limit was changed to 6,065tons in September 2000. The actual catch in 2000 was 6,027tons.

#### **5. Annual Fleet Size and Distribution (refer to Appendix 1)**

The number of fishing vessels targeting SBT in the 2001 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. Historical Fleet Size and Distribution (refer to Appendix 1)**

- (1) Until the end of the 1998 fishing season, 257 fishing vessels operated for each year.
- (2) In the 1999 fishing season, 227 fishing vessels, 30 vessels less than the 1998 fishing seasons, operated, since Japan cut the number of distant-water tuna longliners based on the plan of action agreed by FAO.
- (3) For the 2000 fishing season, the number of vessels for SBT was reduced to 172 in accordance with the reduction of the catch limit based on the provisional measures prescribed by ITLOS. However, since the provisional measures were revoked, 199 vessels, 27 vessels more than the original, operated for SBT based on the increase of the catch limit in September.

#### **7. Fisheries Monitoring**

- (1) GOJ issued a notification to the industry that SBT catch should be reported every 10days for the management of the catch limit.
- (2) GOJ took necessary measures to control and monitor the fishery, which include dispatching enforcement vessels to the fishing 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) During the same period, Japan dispatched 4 enforcement vessels to the fishing area of SBT.
- (4) In the 2001 fishing season, the number of observers to monitor the operation on board was 15. Japan is facing the difficulty to dispatch the observers and the observer cost is increasing since port call to Australian ports are not possible virtually.

#### **8. Others factors (The amount of import of SBT to Japan: refer to Appendix 2)**

- (1) From 1993 to 1998, the amount of SBT imported to Japan had significantly increased. Since 1998, the amount of SBT import has been stable at around just over 10,000tons (product weight).
- (2) The amount of import of SBT in 2000 was 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) accounts for 99.6% of the total.
- (3) Import from Australia, the biggest exporting country/area of SBT to Japan has increased its export of SBT steadily, reaching 7,831tons (product weight) in 2000. This amount of SBT accounts for 75.6% of the total import of SBT to Japan.
- (4) Import of SBT from countries other than members of CCSBT, ROK, Taiwan and Indonesia has been significantly decreased since the introduction of TIS in June 2000.

## Appendix 1

**Trend in catch and fishing effort in SBT fisheries by Japan**

		totall	vessels selected for targetting SBT					others
			high seas off Tasmania/Sydney	high seas off Cape Town	high seas in Southern Indian Ocean	EEZ in Tasman area	EEZ off East Australia coast	by-catch only
1997	allocation of catch by area	5,757mt	1,229mt	2,850mt	1,278mt	200mt	200mt	-
	actual catch	5,588mt	1,216mt	2,831mt	1,288mt	204mt	13mt	36mt
	numbers of vessels	-	82vessels	110vessels	65vessels	8vessels	-	-
	fishing period	-	from April 21 to July 8	from May 1 to July 31	from September 1 to December 14	from June 4 (**1)	-	from March 1 to February 28
1998	allocation of catch by area	6,065mt	1,350mt	2,600mt	2,115mt	-	-	-
	actual catch	6,038mt	1,313mt	2,759mt	1,893mt	-	-	73mt
	numbers of vessels	-	82vessels	110vessels	65vessels	-	-	-
	fishing period	-	from April 21 to July 31	from May 1 to August 10	from September 5 to December 5	-	-	from March 1 to February 28
1999	allocation of catch by area	6,065mt	1,720mt	3,000mt	1,345mt	-	-	-
	actual catch	5,354mt	1,539mt	2,513mt	1,113mt	-	-	189mt
	numbers of vessels	-	69vessels	99vessels	59vessels	-	-	-
	fishing period	-	from April 15 to May 31 from July 1 to August 10	from May 1 to August 10	from September 1 to Desember 1	-	-	from March 1 to February 29
2000	allocation of catch by area (**2)	original	4,578mt	1,298mt	2,265mt	1,015mt	-	-
		revised	6,065mt	1,298mt	2,265mt	2,502mt	-	-
	actual catch		6,027mt	1,260mt	2,235mt	2,400mt	-	132mt
	numbers of vessels (**5)	original	-	52vessels	75vessels	45vessels	-	-
		revised	-	52vessels	75vessels	72vessels	-	-
	fishing period		-	from April 15 to August 1	from May 1 to August 1	from September 1 to Desember 27	-	from March 1 to February 28
2001 (**4)	allocation of catch by area (**5)	original	6,065mt	1,720mt	3,000mt	1,345mt	-	-
		revised	6,421mt	1,850mt	3,226mt	1,345mt	-	-
	actual catch		5,412mt	1,787mt	3,085mt	531mt	-	10mt
	numbers of vessels	original	-	69vessels	99vessels	59vessels	-	-
		revised	-	69vessels	99vessels	59vessels	-	-
	fishing period		-	from April 15 to July 16	from May 1 to August 2	from September 1 (**6)	-	from March 1 to February 28

note: Fishing season of SBT is from March to February.

(\*\*1) Fishing period ended on the day each fisging vessels.

(\*\*2) Original allocation of catch was revised because of the provisional measures prescribed by ITOLS were revoked by the arbitral tribunal.

(\*\*3) Original numbers of vessels were revised because of the provisional measures prescribed by ITOLS were revoked by the arbitral tribunal.

(\*\*4) Tentative as of 30 September 2001.

(\*\*5) Original allocation of catch was revised because of the voluntary catch limit by Japan was changed by increasing 356mt.

(\*\*6) Not ended.

**Import Statistics of SBT by Japan**

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

Source: Japan Trade Statistics, Ministry of Finance

( unit: kg )

	1993 from January to December	1994 from January to December	1995 from January to December	1996 from January to December	1997 from January to December	1998 from January to December	1999 from January to December	2000 from January to December	2001 from January to July
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	3,026,793
Korea	102,070	127,690	75,836	562,573	671,497	1,649,851	1,056,953	785,426	776,978
Taiwan	537,239	962,166	1,276,474	1,396,915	516,055	1,481,378	1,611,250	1,357,906	723,430
New Zealand	40,362	63,461	202,636	128,249	88,640	120,176	213,576	212,316	188,791
Spain	821		11,061						80,351
Indonesia	244,258	281,212	207,758	317,687	368,634	282,265	310,552	127,012	21,255
Seychel							1,129		3,765
China	542		9,183				373	3,738	200
Philippines				182		4,415	69,170	15,041	94
Honduras		21,479	146,574	179,918	55,286	144,138	244,423	17,048	
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		
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					
S Africa	1,896								
Trinido	1,354								
Tunisia			124						
Toral	2,741,879	3,997,634	5,210,229	5,857,804	8,059,491	10,203,543	10,599,691	10,356,694	4,821,657

**Annual Review of SBT Fisheries**  
**by**  
**Republic of Korea**

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***Introduction***

The Korean longline fishery for southern bluefin tuna began its operation in the southern Indian Ocean in 1991. Until 1995, the number of longliners was very few ranging 1-3 vessels annually, followed by an increase to 8 vessels in 1996 and further to 19 in 1998. Recently the fleet size decreased to 16 longliners. At the early stage of this fishery, some vessels fishing for tropical tunas moved seasonally southward to target southern bluefin tuna. Accordingly, fishing activities by these vessels were limited to a few months of the year. During the years 1991-1993 the longliners operated in five to six months each year, but thereafter their operation time has increased to almost whole year.

Due to the increased fishing days and fleet size, annual catch has continuously increased from 1992 onward and reached a peak in 1998, followed by a continual decrease until recently. The total annual catch for 2000 was 980 mt by 16 longliners, a 22.3 % decrease compared to 1999. Most fishing operations by the Korean SBT fishery were carried out in two regions on a seasonal basis; the southeastern and southwestern fishing grounds.

***Catch and Effort***

Nominal catch by Korean longline fishery has shown a continual increase by 1998, reaching the highest at 1,562 mt with 19 vessels. Since then, catches began to decrease until recently due to the voluntary regulation of SBT fishery by the Government of the Republic of Korea. The 2000 catch was 980 mt with 16 longliners, showing a decrease by 22.3 % from 1999 figure (Table 2).

The catch per unit effort (CPUE), expressed as the number of fish caught per 1,000 hooks, has shown an increasing trend from 1.8 in 1992 to 8.4 in 1994, followed by decrease to 5.7 in the following year (Table 1). However, from 1996 to 1998, it remained somewhat stable around 3.5-4.0 fish/1,000 hooks, followed by a decrease to 2.3 in 2000. It was noted from the monthly CPUE analyses that catch efficiency was higher from March to October than other months of the year.

Species composition of the longline catch indicated that although the percentage of southern bluefin tuna varied over the years, it made up of the major part of the total catch. In 1999, southern bluefin tuna accounted for 95.2% of the total catch and the remaining 15.7% constituted bigeye, yellowfin, swordfish and other species including billfishes.

### ***Size composition***

Size data of southern bluefin tuna have routinely been collected by National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) from fishing vessels. The reported fork length of this species ranged from 78 to 197cm (average 146.6cm), of which fish with 145-160cm fork length accounted for over 50% of the total fish measured on board by fishermen. However, number of sampled fishes was only a few. Therefore, we presented here only for the months that over 30 SBT has been sampled (Fig. 1).

### ***Fleet size and distribution***

Longlining is the only gear for the Korean SBT fishery. At the beginning of the fishery, only a few ranging 1-3 vessels carried out seasonal fishing for SBT. From 1996, SBT-targeting longliners increased and both 1998 and 1999 they reached the highest at 19 but the fleet size decreased to 16 in 2000.

The Korean longlining operation area for southern bluefin tuna is broad but largely divided into two regions (Figs 4-14). Until 1993, most fishing operation was concentrated in the southeastern part of the ocean while from 1994 onwards some longliners extended their operation to the southwestern waters off the southern tip of Africa, further to the southeastern Atlantic Ocean in some years. However, fishing activities have generally concentrated on the areas between 35-45oS and 90-120oE, 30-45oS and 0-60oE. Higher CPUE distribution was shown in the southwestern part of the ocean off the southern tip of South Africa.. Monthly CPUE distribution during the years 1996-2000 clearly indicates that most fishing activities were carried out in the western Indian Ocean for the first half of the year, whereas for the second half starting from July the fleet shifted eastward.

### ***Research***

Research on tuna and tuna-like species are being carried out by NFRDI. The research are focused on tuna fisheries and biology based on catch and effort data as well as length frequency data collected from commercial fishing vessels. Those data collected from fishing vessels are compiled and submitted after statistical analysis to the international fisheries organizations or reported to various tuna meetings including CCSBT. Data collection system for most tuna and tuna-like species caught by Korean tuna fisheries has well been established but that for the southern bluefin tuna was recently developed.



Table 1. Catch (no. of fish), effort (no. of hooks) and CPUE (no. of fish /1,000 hooks) of southern bluefin tuna by the Korean longline fishery, 1991~ 2000.

Month	Item	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Jan.	Catch Effort CPUE	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	152 126,220 1.2	
Feb.	Catch Effort CPUE	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	6 6,003 1.0	- - -	197 44,720 4.4	- -	1 75,240 0.1
Mar.	Catch Effort CPUE	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	2,336 130,775 17.9	220 75,244 2.9	2,015 417,469 4.8	715 264,372 2.7	1,005 200,552 5.0	231 71,061 3.3
Apr.	Catch Effort CPUE	- - -	- - -	674 85,200 7.9	503 60,480 8.3	1,814 172,228 10.5	501 96,164 5.2	3,377 686,783 4.9	1,441 405,594 3.6	1,989 397,563 5.0	260 87,840 3.0
May	Catch Effort CPUE	- - -	- - -	186 41,340 4.5	337 61,740 5.5	584 166,100 3.5	582 178,022 3.3	2,794 568,574 4.9	327 213,789 1.5	1,065 472,224 2.3	146 90,228 1.6
Jun.	Catch Effort CPUE	366 32,350 11.3	- - -	144 82,970 1.7	120 37,800 3.2	213 31,300 6.8	303 110,223 2.7	2,170 447,790 4.8	1,251 295,180 4.2	2,274 493,267 4.6	274 114,440 2.4
Jul.	Catch Effort CPUE	827 36,860 22.4	- - -	65 35,740 1.8	421 72,270 5.8	190 47,104 4.0	1,125 164,267 6.8	4,812 594,640 8.1	1,753 265,680 6.6	1,560 206,830 7.5	614 128,310 4.8
Aug.	Catch Effort CPUE	984 43,560 22.6	81 50,129 1.6	140 58,870 2.4	1,415 67,740 20.9	394 67,204 5.9	1,686 171,195 9.8	2,269 415,836 5.5	1,892 350,650 5.4	1,544 493,878 3.1	272 164,509 1.7
Sep.	Catch Effort CPUE	1,156 42,420 27.3	257 83,312 3.1	22 24,710 0.9	674 45,344 14.9	487 191,845 2.5	258 56,320 4.6	1,031 537,920 1.9	824 306,050 2.7	580 471,730 1.2	960 265,267 3.6
Oct.	Catch Effort CPUE	24 9,300 2.6	63 15,050 4.2	- - -	87 40,120 2.2	77 61,542 1.3	669 287,645 2.3	1,049 516,846 2.0	397 246,550 1.6	140 167,221 0.8	252 183,500 1.4
Nov.	Catch Effort CPUE	- - -	88 82,628 1.1	- - -	138 56,161 2.5	250 214,928 1.2	377 259,522 1.5	645 557,407 1.2	515 273,240 1.9	341 256,800 1.3	197 184,579 1.1
Dec.	Catch Effort CPUE	- - -	69 83,160 0.8	- - -	- - -	47 33,920 1.4	76 64,700 1.2	235 198,508 1.2	350 214,820 1.6	189 165,826 1.1	60 80,675 0.7
Total	Catch Effort CPUE	3,357 164,490 20.4	558 314,279 1.8	1,231 328,830 3.7	3,695 441,655 8.4	6,392 1,116,946 5.7	5,803 1,469,305 3.9	20,397 4,941,773 4.1	9,662 2,880,645 3.4	10,839 3,452,111 3.1	3267 1,445,649 2.3

\* - : No data

\* Data source : National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI)

Table 2. Nominal Catch (mt) of southern bluefin tuna by the Korean longline fishery,  
1991~ 2000.

<b>Month</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Jan.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	-
<b>Feb.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	1	-
<b>Mar.</b>	-		-	-	-	-	-	101	125	57
<b>Apr.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	191	180	68
<b>May</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106	116	65
<b>Jun.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	159	169	81
<b>Jul.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	226	193	91
<b>Aug.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227	164	164
<b>Sep.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	169	87	186
<b>Oct.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180	81	110
<b>Nov.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130	92	86
<b>Dec.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	55	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>1,562</b>	<b>1,271</b>	<b>987</b>

\* - : No data

\* Data source : Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF)

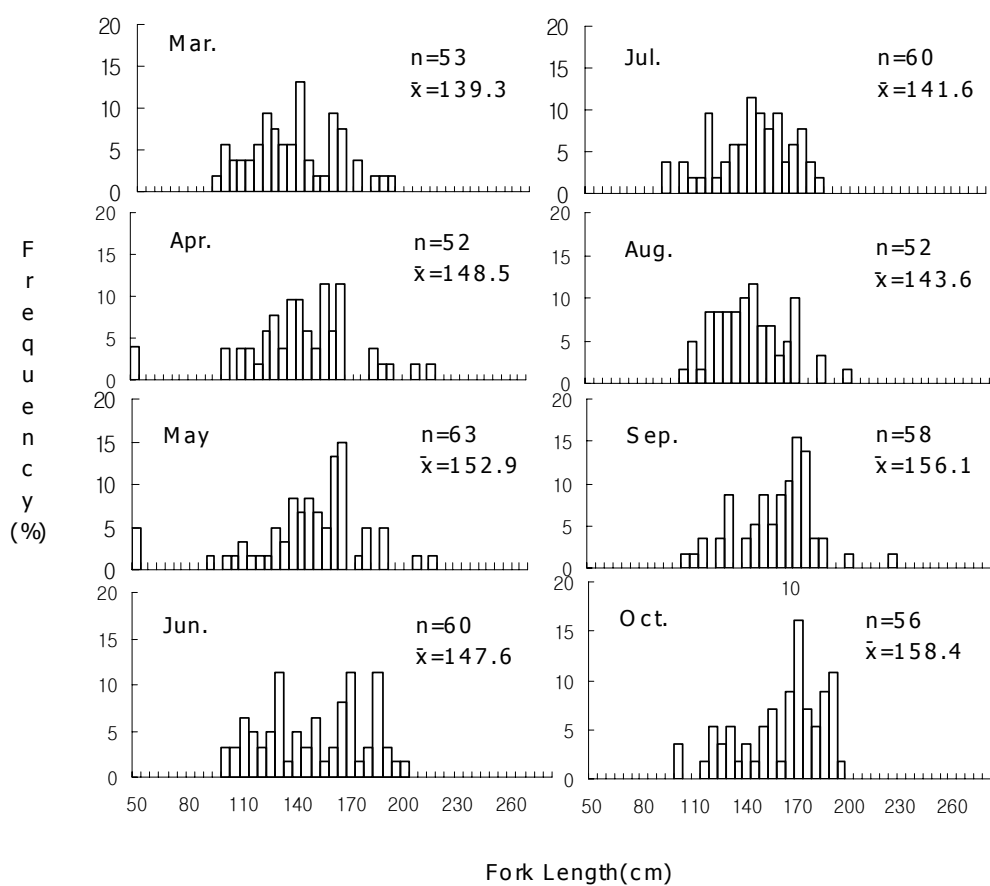


Figure 1. Length composition of southern bluefin tuna by the Korean longline fishery in Indian ocean, 1997.

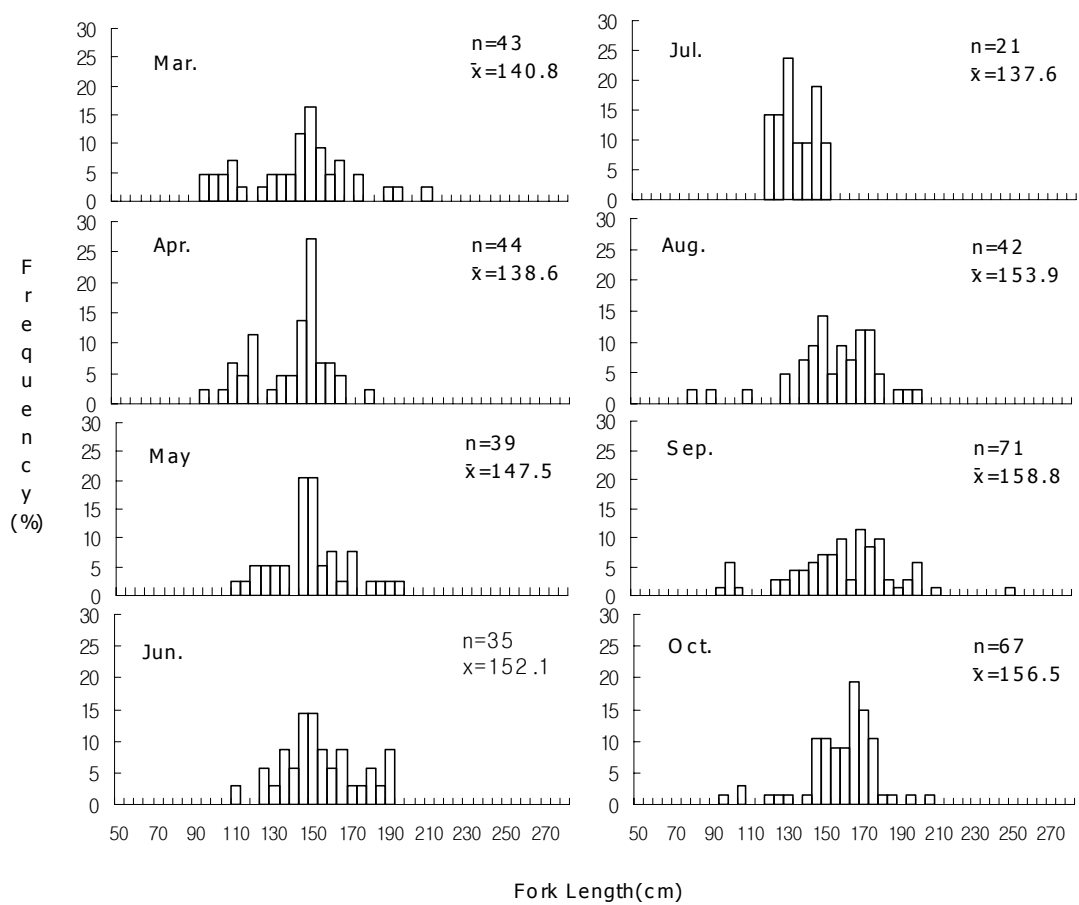


Figure 2. Length composition of southern bluefin tuna by the Korean longline fishery in Indian ocean, 1998.

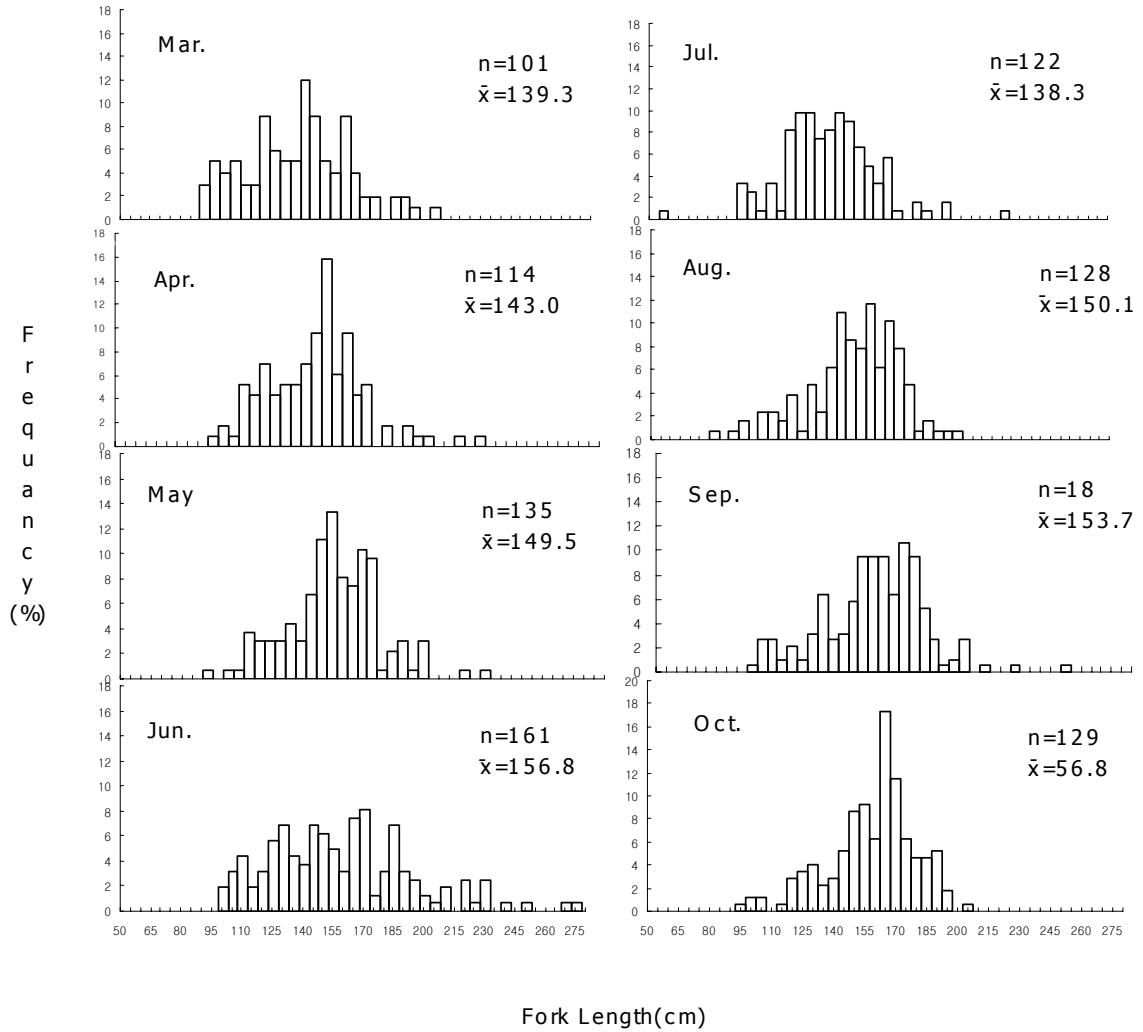


Figure 3. Length composition of southern bluefin tuna by the Korean longline fishery in Indian ocean, 1996~2000.

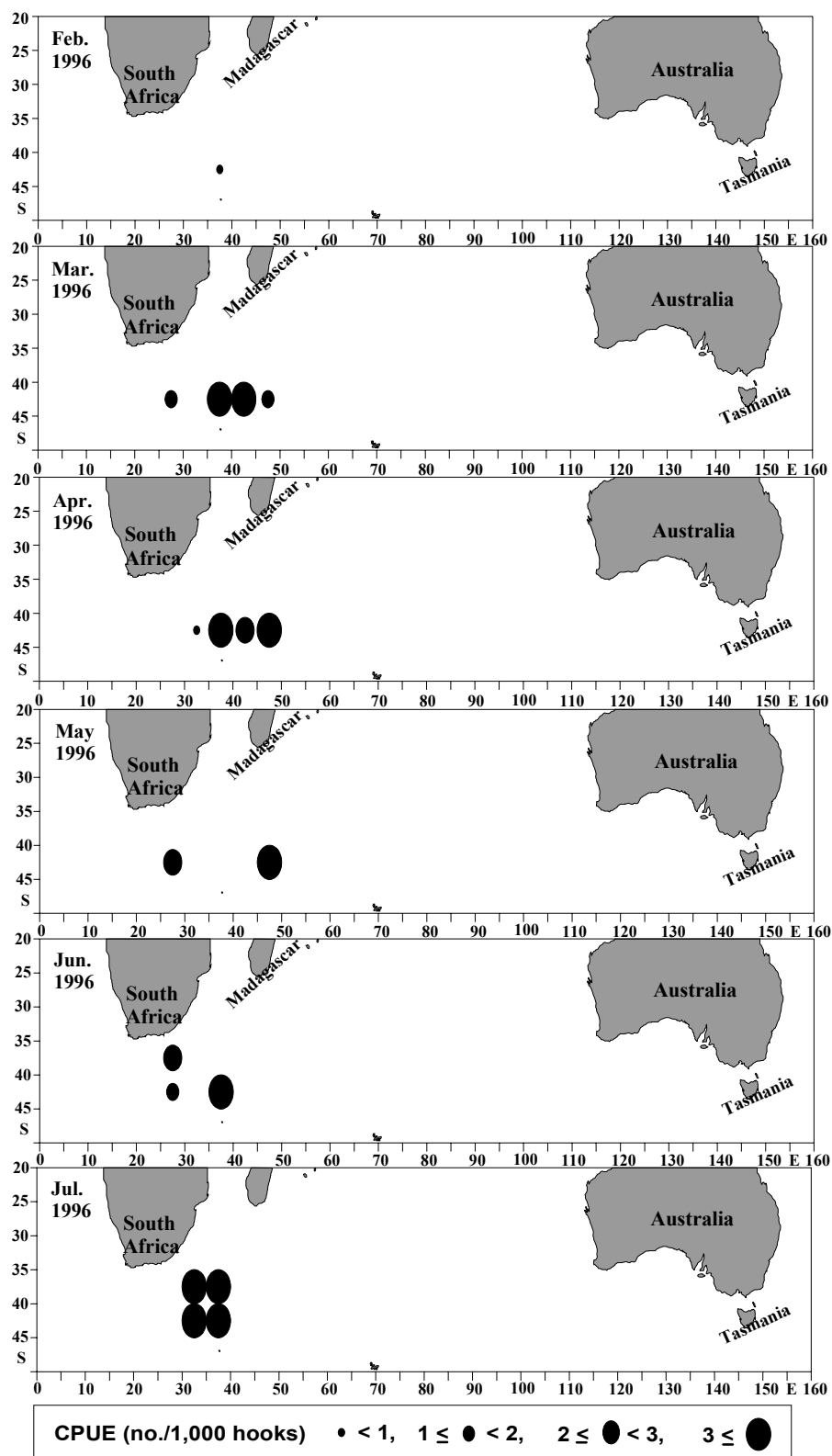


Figure 4. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution in 1996.

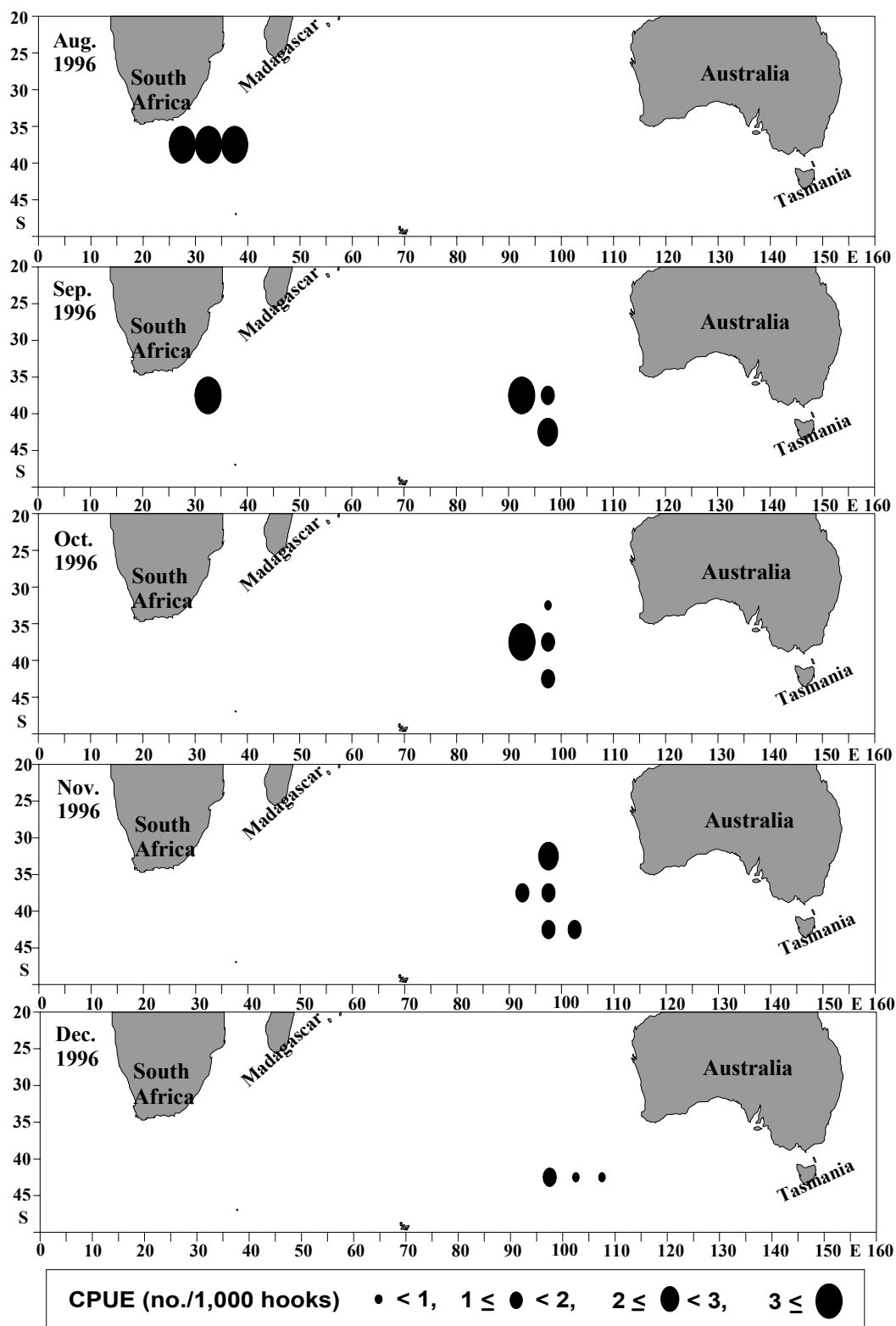


Figure 5. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution in 1996.

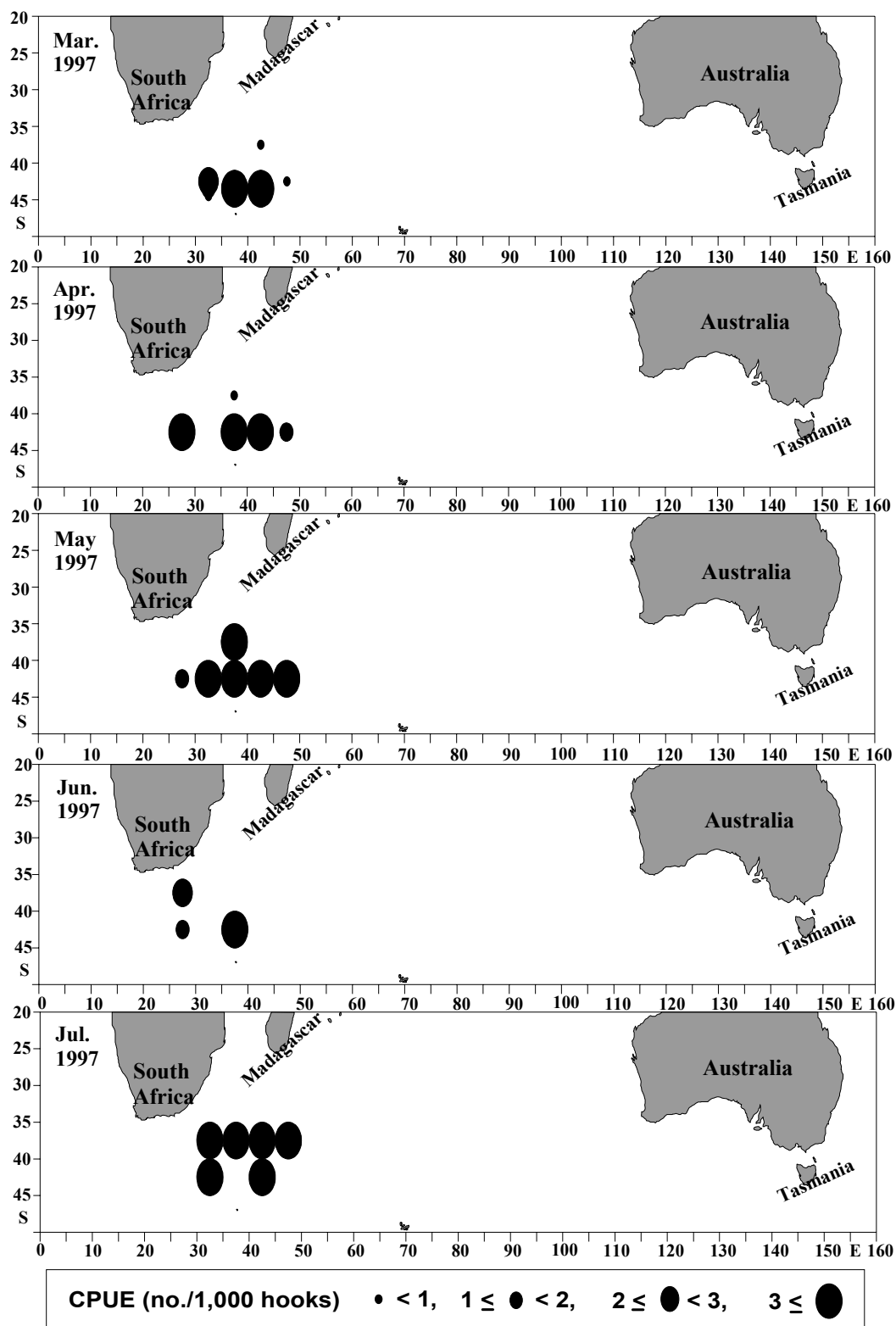


Figure 6. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution in 1997.



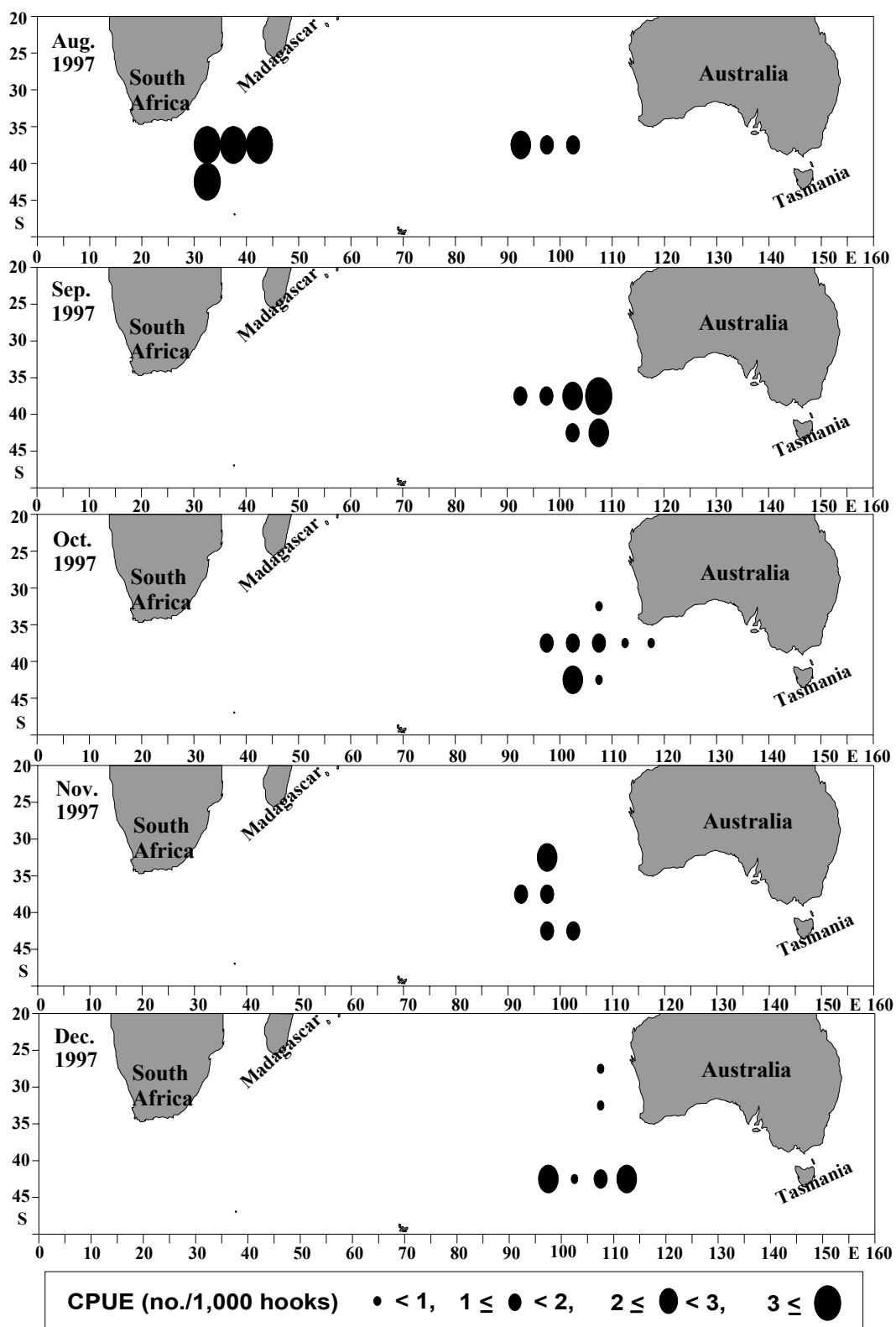


Figure 7. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution in 1997.

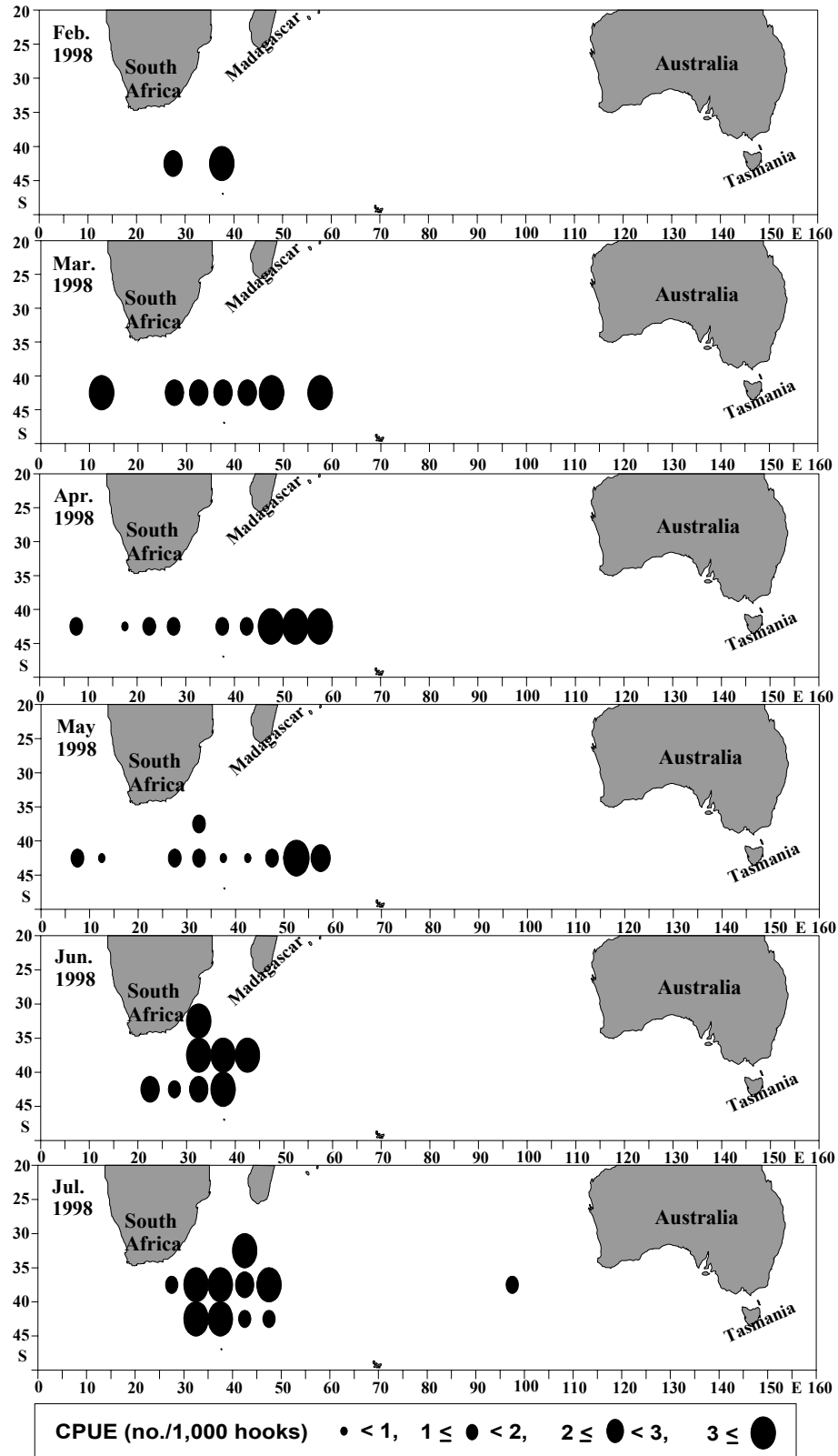


Figure 8. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution in 1998.

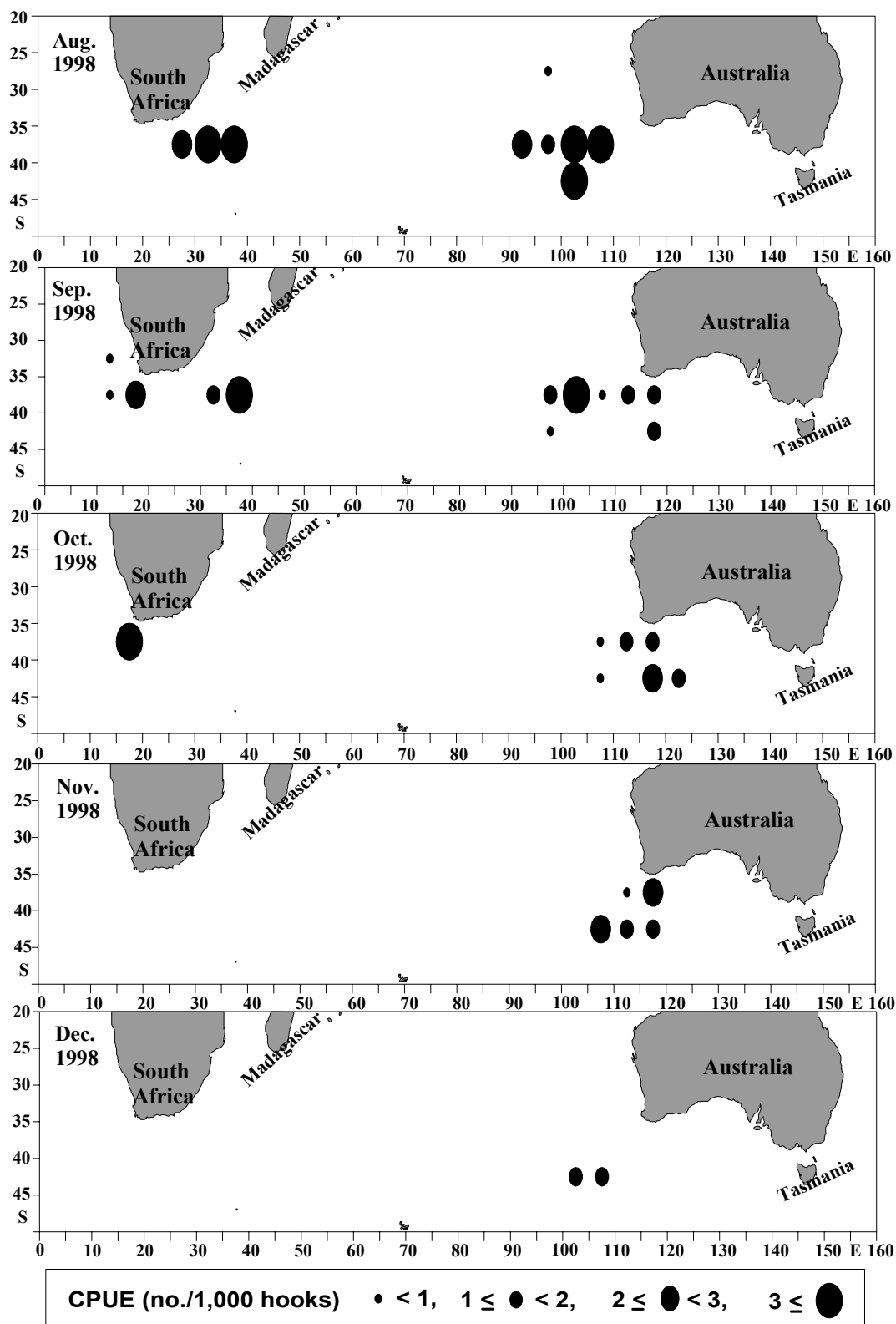


Figure 9. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution in 1998.

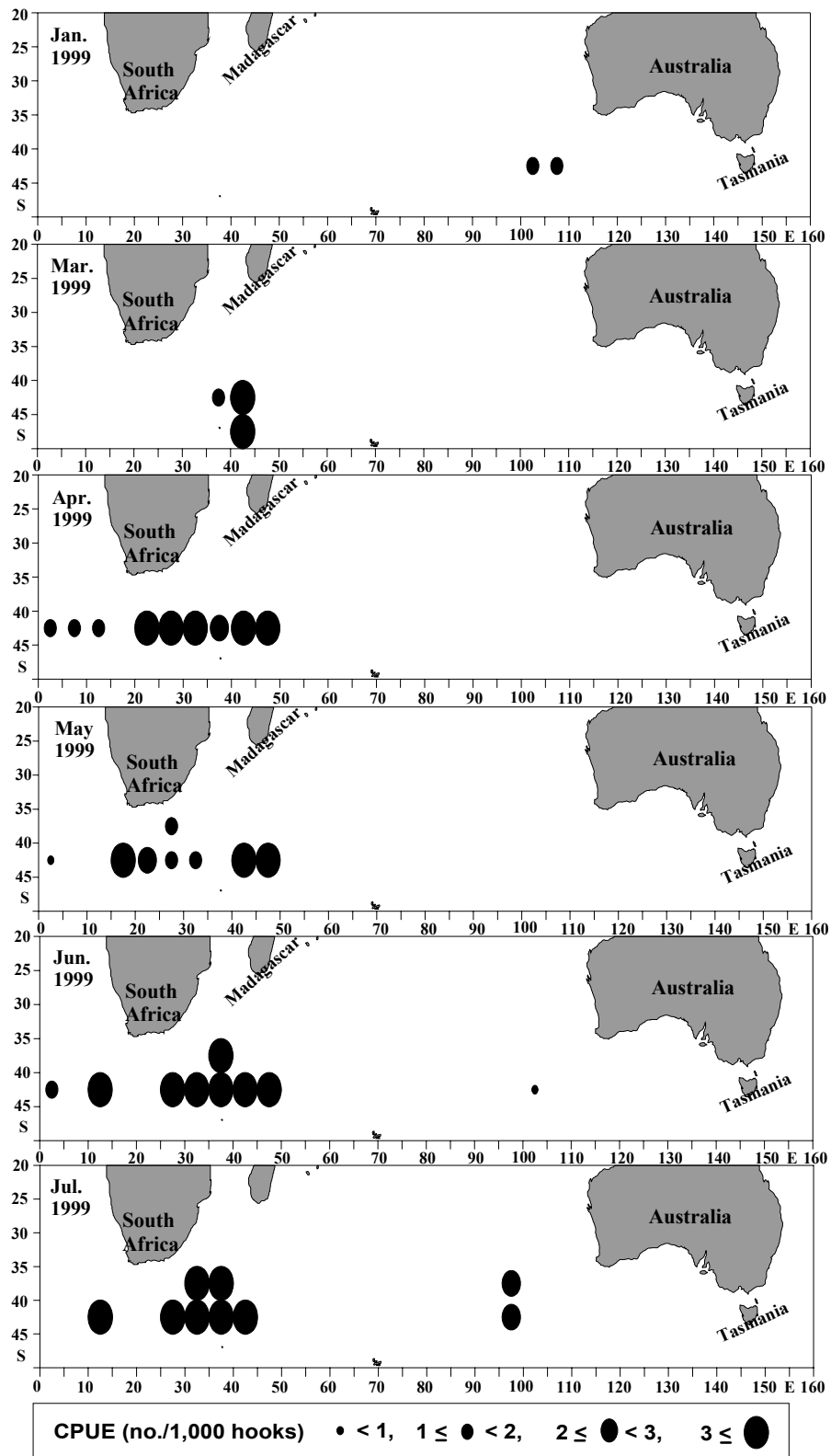


Figure 10. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution in 1999.

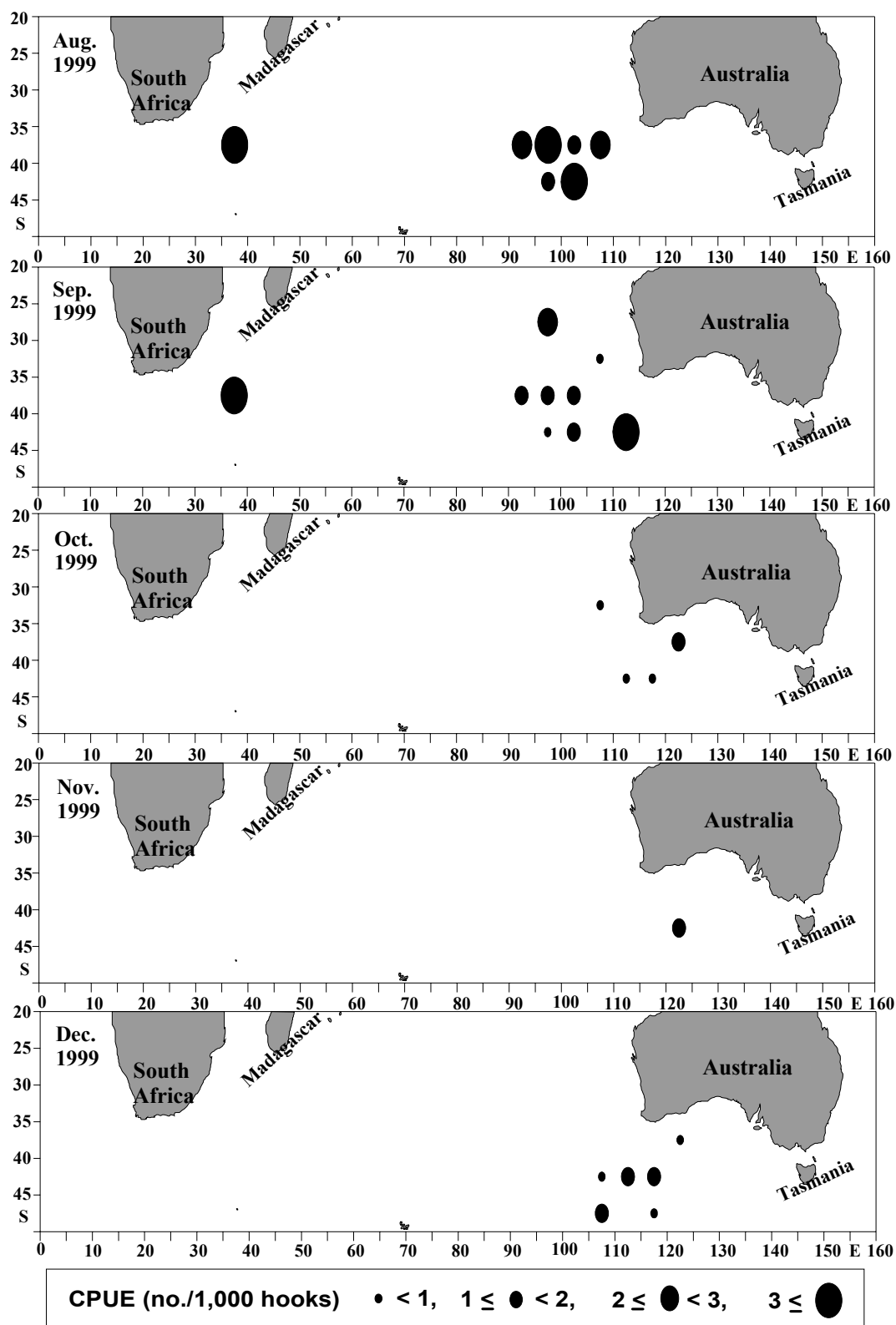


Figure 11. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution in 1999.

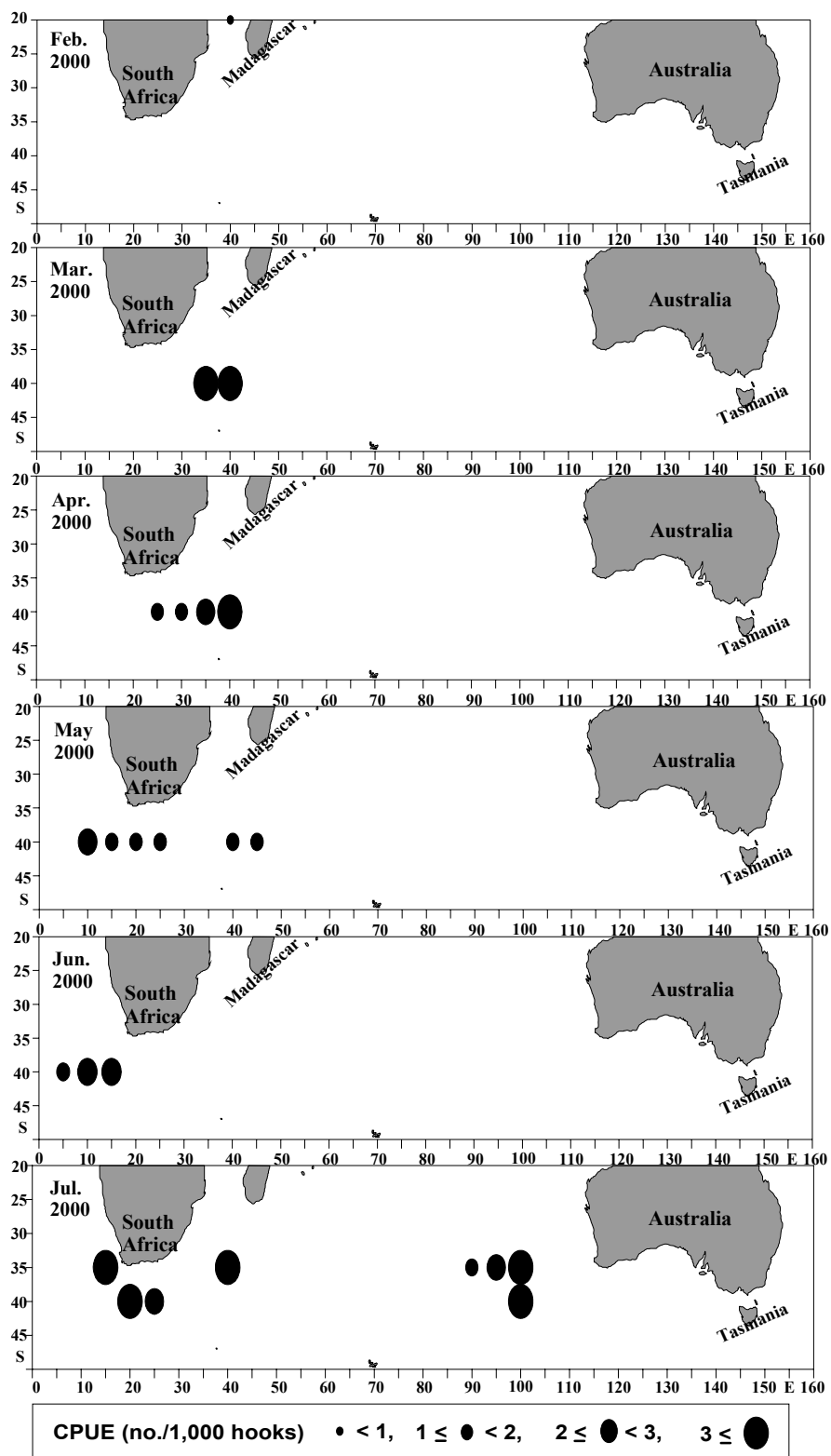


Figure 12. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution in 2000.

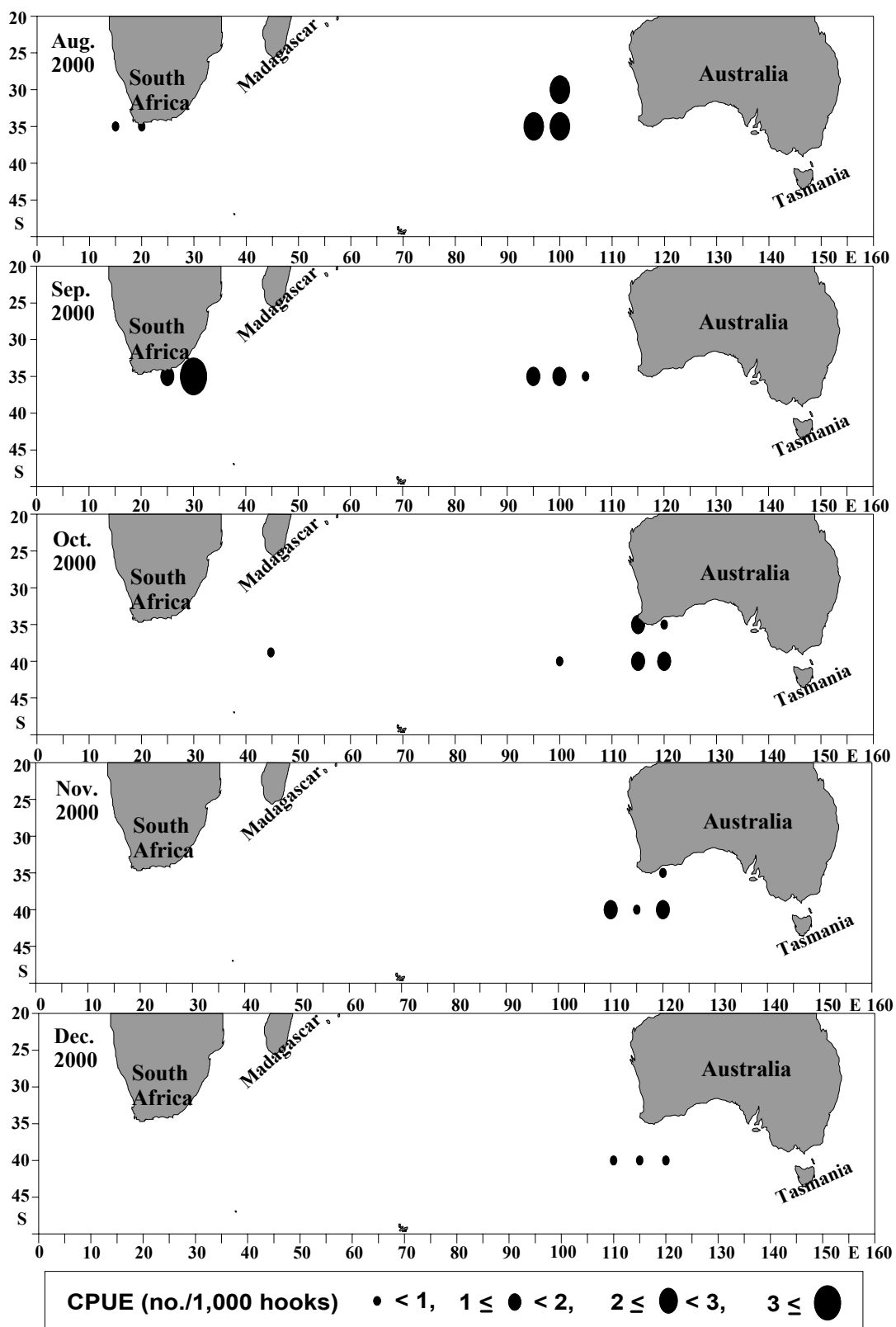


Figure 13. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution in 2000.

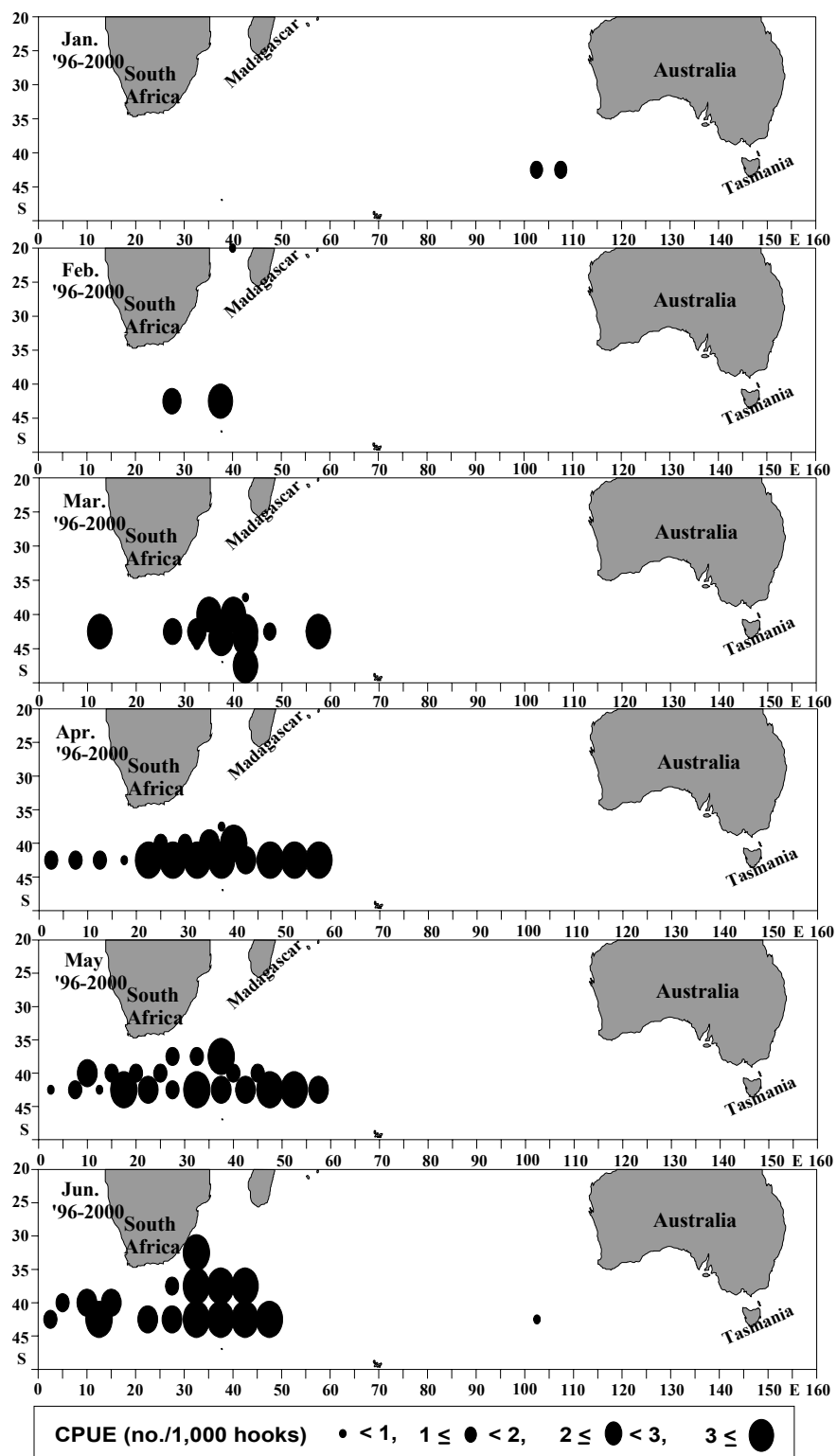


Figure 14. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and average CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution from 1996 to 2000.



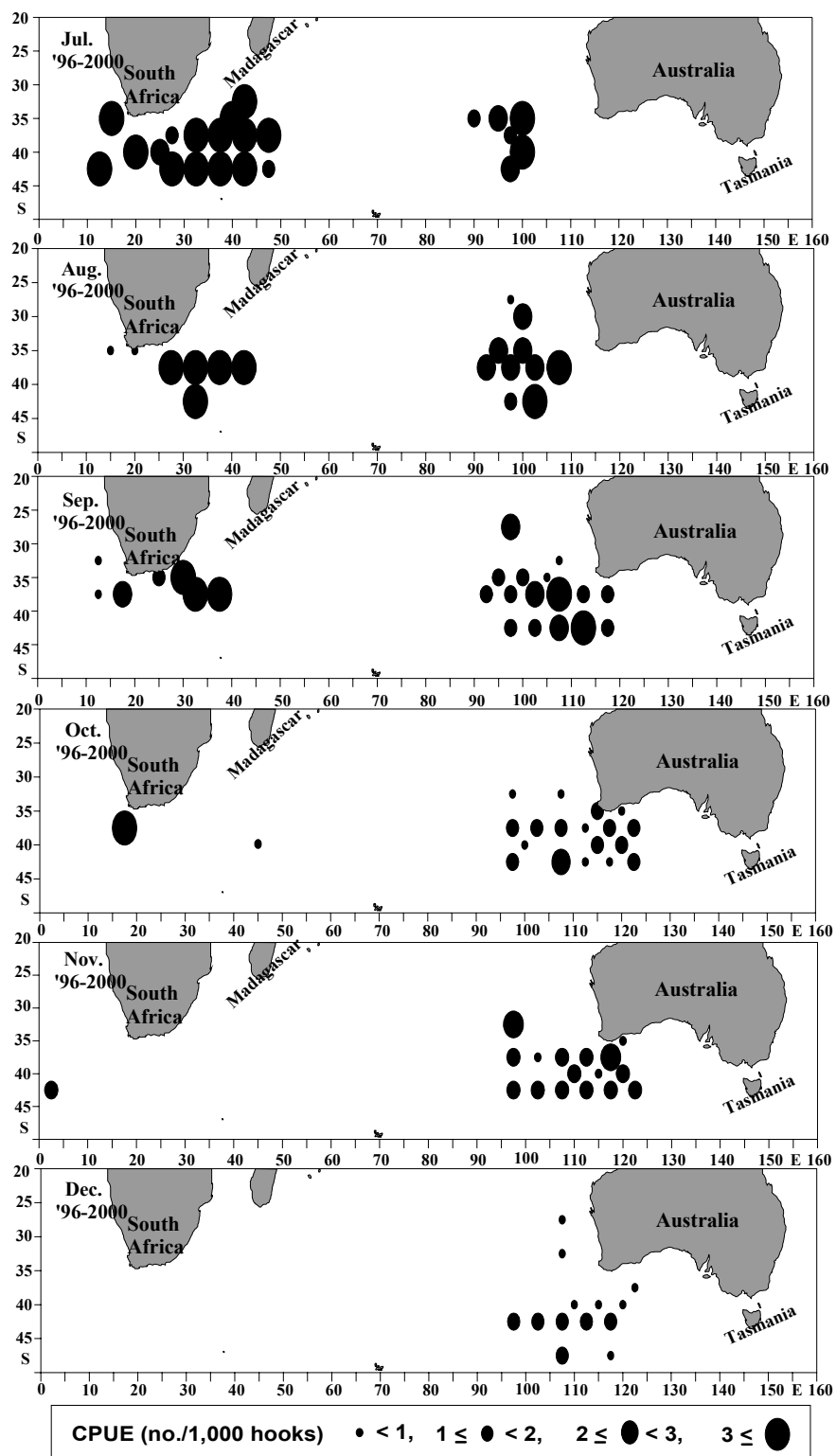


Figure 15. Korean tuna longline fishery operation area and average CPUE (no. of fish/1,000 hooks) distribution from 1996 to 2000.

## Review of New Zealand SBT Fisheries for CCSBT–8

### 1. Introduction

Three fishing methods are used to target SBT in the EEZ. By far, most fishing is with surface longline (96% over the previous 10 years) with a small amount of fishing occasionally 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.

As is typical, fishing for SBT in 2000–01 was primarily conducted off the west coast of the South Island and the northeast coast of the North Island. In the absence of an agreed TAC and allocation for the 2000–01 fishing season, New Zealand restricted SBT catches to 420 tonnes, the level last agreed in the CCSBT. The voluntary catch level was further reduced to 395 t to compensate for the domestic fishery exceeding the catch limit in 1999–00. New Zealand closed the fishery in late June with 359 t of SBT landed. Although SBT can be caught in most months in the EEZ, the bulk of landings are in the May to July period. In 2000–01 the season was very short with 78% of landings done in the month the fishery was closed.

### 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. In the few instances when the catch limit has been exceeded, it has been reduced in the following year by an equivalent amount.

Until midway through the 2000–01 fishing season the SBT quota has applied to the catch of both southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) and northern Pacific bluefin tunas (formerly *Thunnus thynnus*, now recognized as *Thunnus orientalis*). This additional quota restriction was removed late in the 2000–01 season when it was demonstrated that the northern Pacific bluefin could be readily distinguished from SBT in catches based on morphological characteristics. SBT landings

reported for the first half of the fishing season did not distinguish between the two species and hence the landings in 2000–01 are likely to represent an under catch of the voluntary catch limit.

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

SBT catches are summarised by calendar year and fishing year (1 October to 30 September) in Table 1. The trend in catches over this period (see figure 1) shows the stabilization of catches around the catch limit imposed by New Zealand. Also shown in figure 1 are the landings reported for northern Pacific bluefin tuna. Longline effort has dominated the New Zealand fishery for the past decade and catches by handline and trolling are negligible components of the New Zealand SBT fishery. Figure 2 shows the effort trend (in millions of hooks) for the longline fishery from 1990 to 2000, the most recent complete year of processed data. It is clear from this figure that the increase in effort is attributable to the growing number of New Zealand owned and operated longliners. The total number of longline hooks set each year now exceeds 7 million, much of this effort is directed at bigeye tuna.

### **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. The total number of longliners fishing in 2000 (the most recent complete year) was 115 vessels, almost 70% of which were small to medium size (< 50 GRT).

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 and troll fishery in the early 1980s. These methods have comprised only a minor component of the fishery over the past 10 years. 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 the foreign licensed fleet ceasing operations in the mid-1990s. Domestic longlining began in 1991 and has steadily increased up to at least 2000–01.

### **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, it has for been difficult for the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) to place observers in this fleet. As a consequence, observer coverage has typically been low. However, a target of 10% observer coverage for this fleet and continued 100% coverage of the charter fleet has been agreed. In 2000–01 more than half of the total SBT catch was observed. Realignment of MFish observer allocation should result in continued improvements in coverage of domestic owned and operated longline vessels. Observer coverage on vessels using handline or trolling has not been done since these methods are only occasionally 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 during the season to MFish. Weekly reporting is required once 25% of the catch allocation is reached and daily reporting is required when 50% of the catch allocation has been

reached. 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 2000–01 otoliths were collected from 777 SBT and some 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 Pacific bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna and from swordfish. In addition length, weight (both processed and whole weights) and sex are recorded regularly for SBT and all 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 shall 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.

Prepared by: Talbot Murray  
National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA)  
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	359.3	2000	380.3
2001-02	n/a	2001	351.3

Table 1. New Zealand SBT landings (whole weight) by fishing year (1986–87 to 2000–01) and calendar year (1987 to 2001).

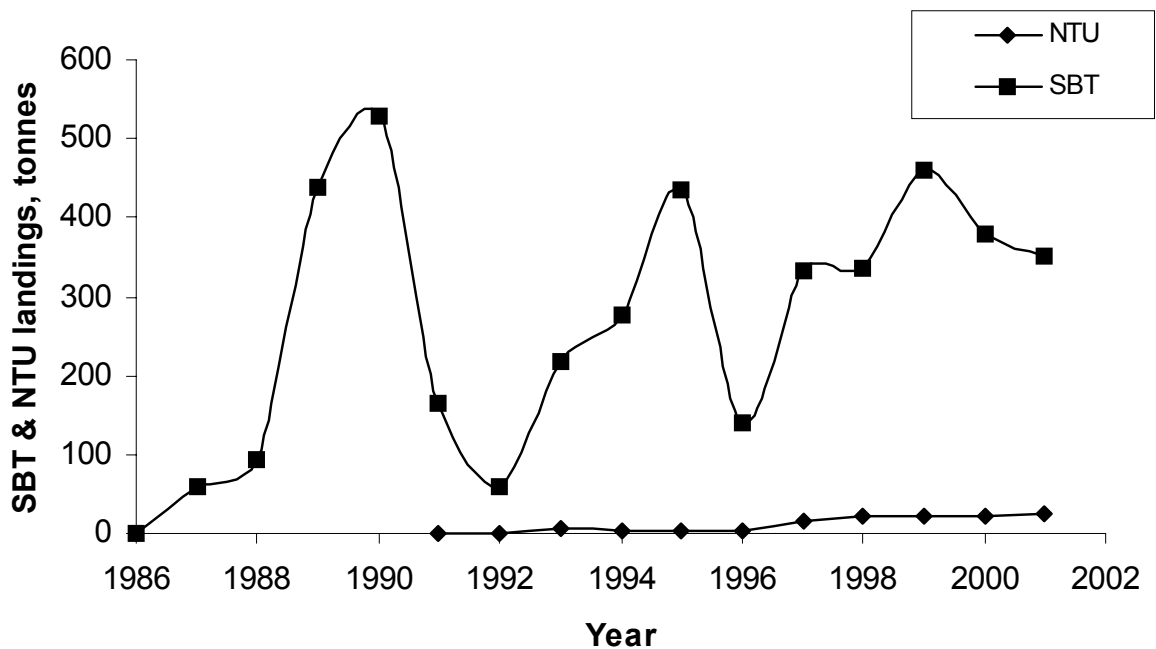


Figure 1. Trend in total New Zealand landings of southern bluefin and northern Pacific bluefin tunas for the period 1986 to 2001, the dashed horizontal line shows the catch limit applying to New Zealand catches since 1989. Please note that catch limits apply to the fishing year while the data shown are for calendar year.

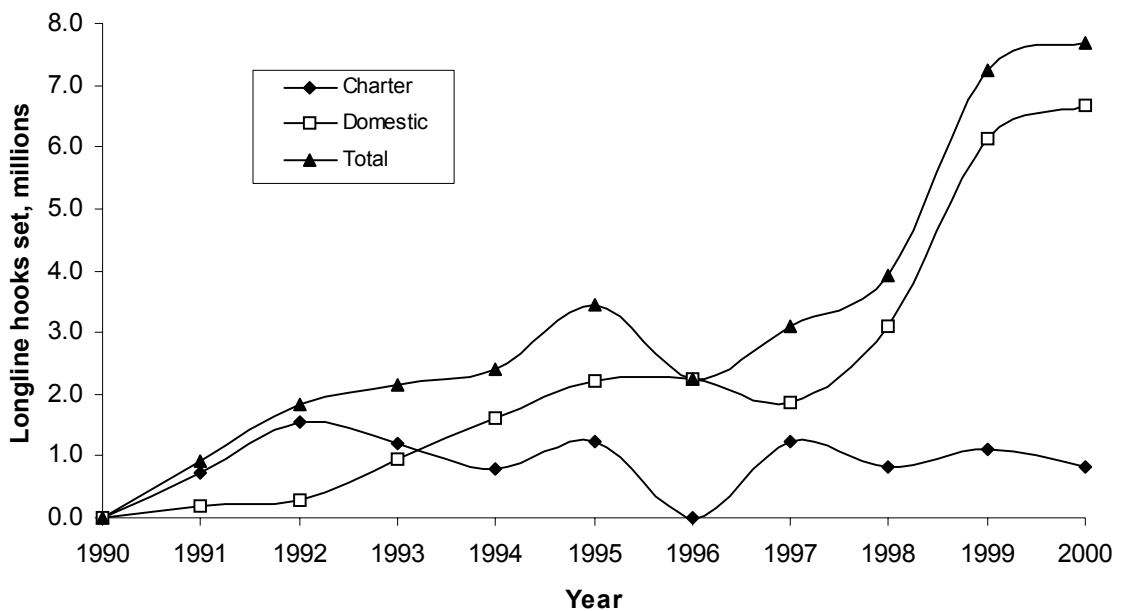


Figure 2. Trend in longline effort in the New Zealand EEZ 1990-2000 in millions of hooks set.

## **Review of Taiwan SBT Fishery of 2000/01**

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### **1. Introduction**

Southern bluefin tuna was caught by Taiwan 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 the waters around 35°S. The annual catches of 1999 and 2000 were 1,513 mt and 1,638 mt, respectively.

### **2. Operational Constraints on Effort**

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, Taiwan has adopted a voluntary catch limit of 1,450 mt since 1996 to control the increasing trend of SBT catch. For the first implementation, this catch limit was managed at a five-year period, similar to the regulation approach used by ICCAT on some species. The average catch of the first five-year period in 1996-2000 was 1,387 mt.

Every vessel that has caught SBT was required to report its SBT catches in weight and fishing location (Weekly Report) weekly to the fishery authorities from 1996 onward, to manage the total catch. Trading information on SBT product was also collected through the subscription of certified weight reports of Shin Nippon Kentei Kaisha as from 1994. The catch data from Weekly Reports were crosschecked with this trading information to reduce the possibility of non-reporting.

To fulfill the requirement of the CCSBT Trade Information Scheme (TIS), measures for issuing SBT Statistical Document to fishermen have been implemented since June, 2000.

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

Taiwan has traditionally been fishing for SBT since 1970s. Historically, annual catch of SBT (Table 1) was smaller than 250 mt during early 1980s, but, due to the increase of tuna fleet size, development of sashimi longliners, and expansion of fishing ground to the southern areas, 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.

These figures would be somewhat different from the Japanese Customs records, since the date recorded on the Customs records were landing date, but not catching date that used for these estimations. From the monthly landing records at the Japanese market (Fig. 1), the peak landing period was from October to January/February next year. There was another peak around April. In most cases, the SBT catches made during May-September season were landed at Japan during October-December, but the catches made after October were mostly landed after February next year. The time may also be adjusted by the market price. This makes the difference in the estimations of annual catch based on landing time and on catching time.

### **4. Fleet Size and Distribution**

SBT caught by Taiwan was only by longline fishery since 1993, in the three oceans with the majority in the Indian Ocean. According to the weekly reports and trading information, there were about 130-140 deep-sea longliners reported to have caught SBT, and most of them were operating in the Indian Ocean. During the same period, there were altogether about 600 longliners operating the three oceans.

The SBT was mainly caught in the waters of 20°S - 40°S, which was due more to the north than the traditionally known fishing grounds. Seasonally, most of the catch was made during the austral winter season (June-September) in the Central Indian Ocean, and during the austral summer season (October-February) in the Southeast of Africa, of which about 75% of the overall catch of 2000 was made in the winter season. SBT would also been caught outside the above two seasons (March-May), but the amount was small



and the fishing grounds were scattered over both the southern Indian and Atlantic Oceans.

## **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 data. 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. The data collected in field has been cross-checked with official data by both sides in this February, and a paper on the results has been completed and reported at the CCSBT SAG2 meeting.

## **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 supported 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.

Table 1. Annual SBT catches by Taiwanese deep-sea longline and drift net fisheries during 1971-2000. (Data of 2000 is preliminary.)

Year	Deep Sea Longline	Drift Net	Sum
1971	30		100
1972	70		17
1973	90		12
1974	100		1
1975	15		9
1976	15		2
1977	5		1
1978	80		20
1979	53		53
1980	64		64
1981	92		92
1982	171	11	182
1983	149	12	161
1984	244	0	244
1985	174	67	241
1986	433	81	514
1987	623	87	710
1988	622	234	856
1989	1,076	319	1,395
1990	872	305	1,177
1991	1,353	107	1,460
1992	1,219	3	1,222
1993	958		958
1994	1,020		1,020
1995	1,431		1,431
1996	1,467		1,467
1997	872		872
1998	1,446		1,446
1999	1,513		1,513
2000*	1,638		1,638

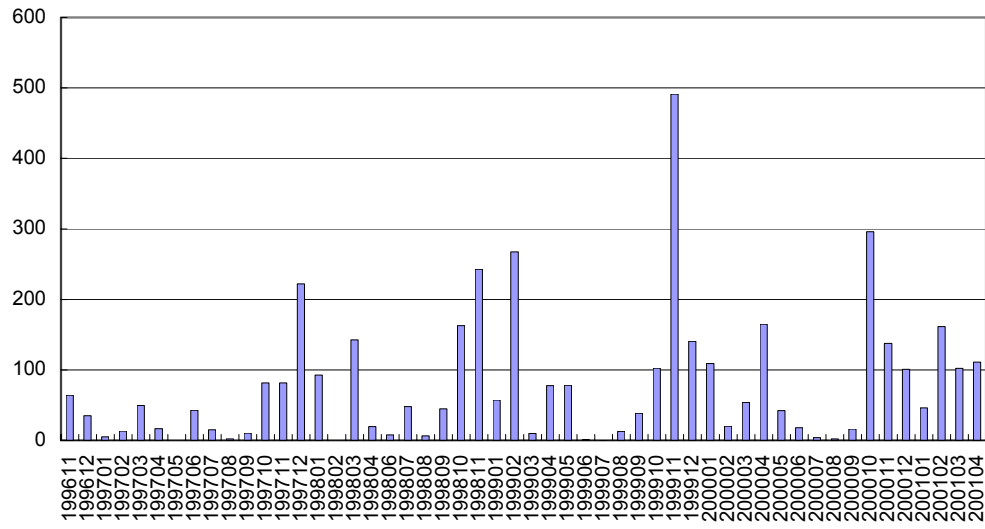


Fig. 1. Monthly SBT landings at the Japanese market by Taiwanese deep-sea longline fishery.



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

**28-31 August 2001  
Tokyo, Japan**



## **Report of the Tagging Program Workshop**

**2-4 October 2001  
Canberra, Australia**

**ITEM 9 — STATEMENT BY AUSTRALIA**

- Thank you Mr Chairman.
- I would like to make a short statement to outline Australia's position in relation to this item.
  - I will cover both agenda items 9.1 (Total Allowable Catch) and 9.2 (National Allocation).
- Delegates will recall, Mr Chairman, that throughout this meeting Australia has called for the setting of a total global catch and has pointed out that there is no case to increase SBT take or national allocations at this time.
  - We have also expressed concern about the increase in catch from non-members and have worked hard to encourage non-members to reduce their catch and to cooperate with the CCSBT.
- Mr Chairman, we are working cooperatively as a Commission to address the non-member issue and have made substantial progress at this meeting.
- We have also achieved some progress on the preliminary total global catch level.
  - We have reached consensus on a maximum figure of 15 579 tonnes — the level of the 2000 catch as advised by the Scientific Committee.
- But this is a hollow figure without any real meaning or substance in the absence of CCSBT members agreeing to binding national allocations.
- Mr Chairman, I regret that we have not been able to reach agreement on national allocations of CCSBT members.
- In light of advice from the Scientific Committee that there is a 50 per cent chance that the SBT spawning stock will be smaller in 2020 than it is today and that there is little to no chance that the SBT spawning stock will be rebuilt to 1980 levels by 2020, Australia strongly believes that there is no case for any increase in allocations to members.
- Australia's clear position is that the national allocations of CCSBT members should be as follows.
  - Japan                                      6065 tonnes
  - Australia                                      5265 tonnes
  - New Zealand                                      420 tonnes
  - Korea                                      1 140 tonnes
- Australia was prepared to countenance members being permitted to reconcile their national allocations against catch over a three year period within strict limits to

provide some operational flexibility, but only if there was no increase above the total of each member's allocation over the three year period.

- I regret to say that this was not acceptable to all members.
  - One member continued to insist that it would not agree to anything other than an increase in its allocation.
- In our view, it is simply unacceptable for CCSBT members to be seeking to increase their allocations in light of the advice of our Scientific Committee.
  - It is also untenable for CCSBT members to be insisting on increasing their own catches while expressing justifiable concern about increasing catches by others.
- So we have no agreement on national allocations.
- Let me assure delegates that Australia will ensure that its annual catch does not exceed 5265 tonnes.
  - We will do this on a voluntary basis.
- Other members will need to consider their own positions, but I urge restraint and for there to be no increase above the figures I have mentioned.
- If we are to entertain any hope of our sons and daughters continuing to fish for SBT, as Mr Hurry mentioned in his opening statement, then this is the least we can do.
- As I mentioned a moment ago, the consensus we reached on a preliminary total global catch is a nonsense.
  - Not only do we have no control over non-members, but members have also been unable to agree on their own allocations.
- So where does this leave us?
  - In failure, I regret to say.
  - The CCSBT has failed its first important test since resolution of the dispute with Japan over its Experimental Fishing Program.
- We in the Australian delegation are extremely disappointed by this.
  - We have invested enormous energy, time and money to put past disputes behind us and to move forward on a cooperative basis.
  - We have invested heavily through commissioning independent scientists, through development of the Scientific Research Program, through the Stock Assessment Group and the Scientific Committee.
  - We have even agreed to fund the first year of the surface fishery tagging program off South Australia and Western Australia to enable this urgent research to commence.

- As a delegation, we have invested enormous effort in trying to reach agreement on the key issues before us — in particular, the issue of global catch and national allocations.
- We have failed here at Miyako, but not through any lack of commitment or goodwill on Australia's part.
  - I am proud of the efforts of our delegation for the work they have put in.
  - We have brought a sensible, responsible approach on all issues, but we are not prepared to agree to bad outcomes.
  - It is better that we have no decisions than bad decisions.
- So where to from here?
  - We will reflect on developments here at Miyako over the next few weeks.
  - We will not be making any rash decisions.
  - But we cannot go on like this.
  - The CCSBT must become a responsible and functioning regional fisheries management organisation if it is to make a meaningful contribution to the sustainability of SBT.
  - We had thought that we were on the point of the CCSBT becoming one of the world's best and most responsible fisheries management organisations, but that accolade must wait for another day.
- Mr Chairman, I would ask that these comments be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- Thank you.



### **Statement by Japan on Agenda Item 9.2**

Japan is of the view that, while expressing its readiness to agree to set the global TAC at 15,579 tonnes, national allocations for original three members should be increased bearing in mind the fact that the members had accepted the strict management measures to date. Also they had made significant achievements on non-member issues including Korea's accession to the Convention and dramatic progress toward Taiwan's membership of the Extended Commission with large amount of catch reduction. Assuming that 11,750 tonnes for the original three countries, 1,140 tonnes for Korea, 1,140 tonnes for Taiwan, 500 tonnes for Indonesia and 50 tonnes for other non-members be allocated, a balance against the global TAC is 1,000 tonnes. Even if we leave the half of the balance as reserve for the stock recovery, 500 tonnes can be used for the allocation to the members. Japan believed that this idea would be very appropriate because both resource recovery and optimum utilization of SBT stock were considered. If members could reach a consensus to share this 500 tonnes by pro-rata base, Japan would join with that consensus. However, if not, Japan would decide its voluntary catch limit and conduct responsible fishing operations taking into account of the latest national allocation to Japan, this year's voluntary catch limit and 500 tonnes which could be used for additional national allocations for the members. Japan will inform other members of its decision on the voluntary catch limit through diplomatic channels.

Japan stressed that it could not accept the evaluation of Australia and New Zealand on this meeting as "failure". Considering such progresses as the Korean accession to the Convention, Taiwan's statement for further cooperation to the Commission, further actions taken against Indonesia, Cambodia, Equator Guinea and Honduras, and virtual agreement on setting the global TAC of 15,579 tonnes, Japan believes that this Annual Meeting should be evaluated as more successful than any other past meeting.

**Korea's Statement on Agenda item 9**

Korea respects the importance of maintaining both the SBT stock and the fishing infrastructure it supports. Regarding the failure to reach consensus, it believes more time is required to reach full cooperation in the Commission. In addition, Korea will respect its negotiated and agreed catch level with CCSBT, regarding national allocation.

**New Zealand Statement**

Following the dispute resolution proceedings New Zealand was looking forward to working in good faith within a functional Commission.

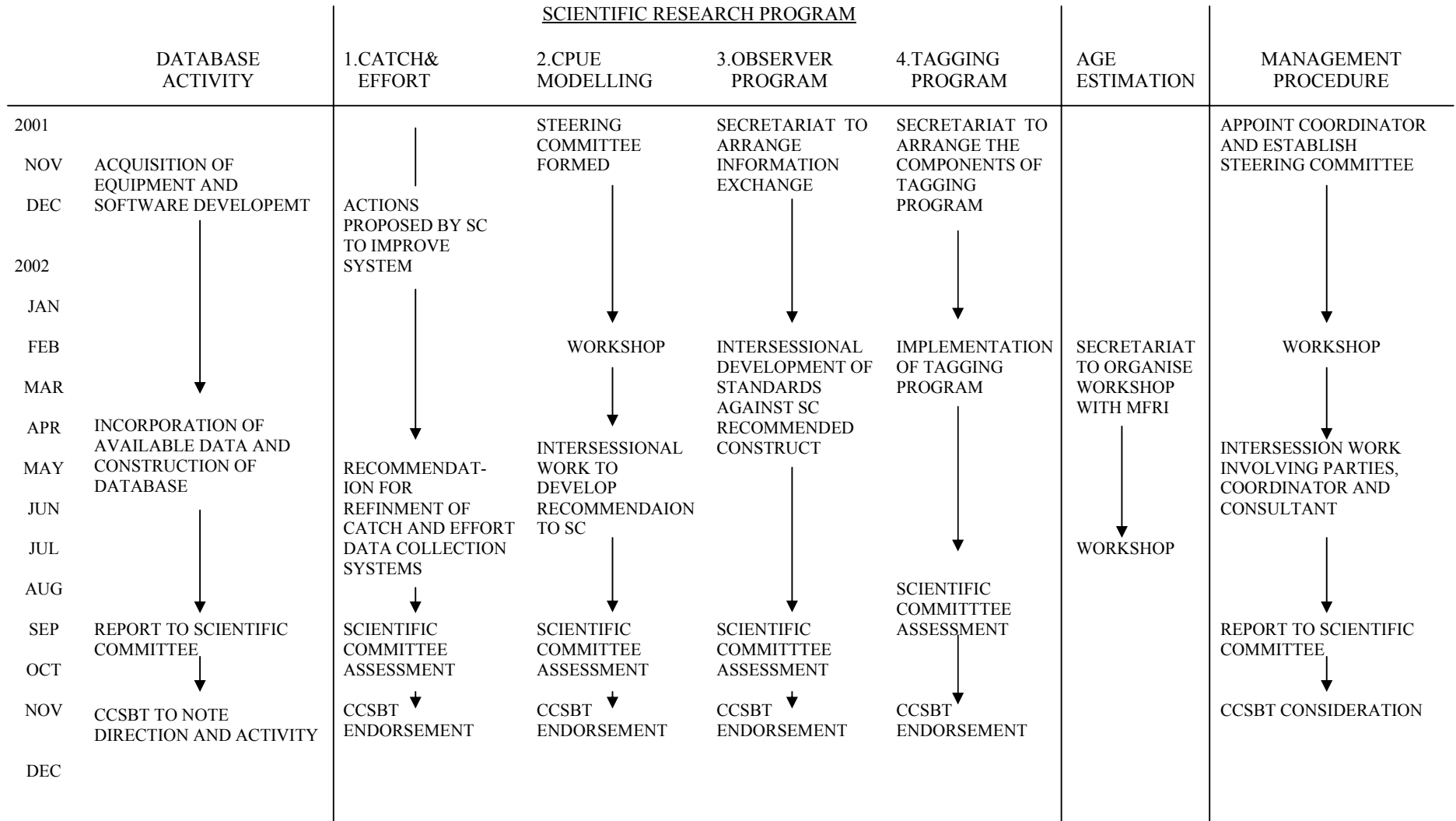
Mr Chairman, there was a commitment by all Parties to develop a robust Scientific Research Programme and to act on the advice provided by science.

The Scientific Committee Report, which was adopted by all members of the Commission, makes it clear that at current catch levels there is little chance that the Southern bluefin tuna spawning stock biomass will be rebuilt to 1980 levels by 2020. The logical and responsible conclusion we draw from this is that catch levels must be reduced in order to achieve our stated management objectives. In this regard we view any increase in catch levels by members of the Commission as irresponsible.

We had high hopes that Miyako would provide a breakthrough and lead to an agreed TAC by the Commission. In our view the inability to deliver on this objective leads us to consider this meeting a failure. We are also very concerned with the message this outcome will send to non-members regarding the integrity of this Commission.

New Zealand will on a voluntary basis maintain its national allocation at 420 tonnes, the level last agreed by the Commission

## CCSBT-WORKPLAN 2002



**Meeting Time Table for 2002**

October, 2001	
Item	Date
CPUE Modelling Group (to be conducted back to back with 1 <sup>st</sup> MSDWS)	End February 2002 Japan (1 day)
1 <sup>st</sup> Management Strategy Development WS	End February 2002 Japan (5 days)
Age Estimation WS	July 2002 Australia (4 days)
3 <sup>rd</sup> SAG • Review of fishery indicators • Testing of alternate assessment models	August 2002 Australia (4 days)
Emergency SAG (If needed) (to be conducted back to back with 7 <sup>th</sup> SC)	September 2002 Australia (4 days)
7 <sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee	September 2002 Australia (3 days)
CCSBT 9	Early November 2002 Australia (4 days)