Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna

みなみまぐろ保存委員会

Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group

3 – 6 July 2007
Tokyo, Japan

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Agenda Item 1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Election of the Chair

1. Dr Uozumi (Japan) was confirmed as the Chair for the meeting.
2. The Chair welcomed participants and thanked Members for their cooperation in setting a date for this meeting. He reminded participants that this meeting was being held in 2007 instead of 2008 in order to conclude, as soon as possible, matters that had not been finalised at the Sixth Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG6). The outstanding matters included recommendations concerning: ERS data collection and provision; reducing the bycatch of seabirds; and conservation and sustainable utilisation of sharks.
3. Each delegation introduced its participants. The list of meeting participants is at **Attachment** 1.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

4. The draft agenda was adopted and is at **Attachment** 2.
5. The list of documents presented to the meeting is at **Attachment** 3.
6. The Chair advised that two meeting documents, one information documents and three national reports for the meeting were submitted after the due date for those documents. The meeting agreed to the Chair's proposal to accept these late documents, but Members were reminded of the importance of submitting documents on time for future meetings.
7. Members made brief opening remarks for the meeting, expressing their appreciation to Japan for hosting the meeting and the Members desire to conclude outstanding matters from ERSWG6 at this meeting, noting that the purpose of the meeting was primarily to provide the advice called for by the Extended Commission on data collection and reporting, and strengthening provisions for managing effects of fishing on seabirds and sharks.

1.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs

8. Members agreed to assist the Secretariat in drafting the report by providing short paragraphs summarising each presentation and by providing additional drafting support as required.

1.4 Secretariat/host explain meeting arrangements

9. Japan and the Secretariat explained arrangements for the meeting.

Agenda Item 2. Reports

2.1 Member reports (activities undertaken since last meeting in February 2006

10. National reports from all Members (CCSBT-ERS/0707/National Report/01..05) were either presented, or tabled for questions.

11. Australia provided the following answers in response to questions from Members on its national report.

- Bycatch from the purse seine fishery was reported in the text of the report instead of in tabular form. The bycatch for the purse seine fishery is minimal and in particular no seabirds were caught in 2006. Australia noted some vessels are permitted to retain incidental catch of skipjack. Australia provided the meeting with a list of bycatch species from the purse seine fishery's observer program 2003-2007 (Attachment 9 to Australia's National Report).
- When releasing bycatch alive in the purse seine fishery the practical difficulty for fishers in identifying to species level is recognised and weights are more likely to be estimated than measured, or fish are counted.
- The decline in seabird bycatch in Australia's longline fisheries over recent years as reported in Australia's national report can be substantiated from Australia's national report to ERSWG6 which presented a graph that showed the change in seabird bycatches.
- Australia has a definition of interactions for reporting protected species interactions (footnote 5, page 11, Australia's National Report).
- Australia monitors and reports on ERS interactions with purse seining and towing activities in the SBT fishery. Australia regards the farming of SBT to be a domestic aquaculture activity. Australia clarified that the management of SBT farms is in line with strict environmental guidelines and information on ERS matters with respect to farming is publicly available (http://www.sardi.sa.gov.au/dhtml/ss/section.php?sectID=949&tempID=14).
- In response to a question from Japan concerning what portion of fish, including ERS species, in a tow cage is observed and verified by a scientific observer on board a towing vessel, Australia responded that the entire process including catching by purse seine and towing by cages is observed at a rate of 10% of catch and effort in the Australian SBT fishery. The transfer of fish from the tow cages into the farm cages is videoed and monitored.
- Australia does not have midwater trawl fisheries comparable to NZ's middle depths trawl fisheries which have reported occasional bycatch of SBT. Australia's trawl fisheries collect bycatch data and there are observer programs in these fisheries.

- Australia does not report bycatch of recreational fishing to the CCSBT because the non-SBT recreational catch is not considered to be a bycatch of SBT fishing.
- At-sea inspection of purse seine vessels by Australian Fisheries Officers is focused on compliance issues. Fisheries Officers check for breaches of Australia's domestic fisheries legislation.
- The AFMA observers in Australia's SBT fishery are employed by the government and receive professional training in relation to their duties. Quality control is a consideration across all members' observer programs and could be considered within CCSBT's discussions of international observer programs.

12. New Zealand thanked Australia for including information on weighted branch line measurements in its national report and New Zealand commented that it looked forward to the results of this work.

13. Korea presented its national report. In response to a question from New Zealand, Korea advised that its bycatch information is based on log book data, so it does not have information on "other" species in Table 1 of Korea's national report.

14. Taiwan presented its national report. In response to questions from Members, Taiwan advised that:

    - Its vessels are required to use tori poles for both setting and hauling when fishing below 30^{o}S.
    - The longlines are hauled very fast, so it is unlikely that seabirds will have an opportunity to be caught on the haul.
    - Its logbooks do not identify ecologically related species such as seabirds, marine mammals and sea turtles to species. Instead the information is only recorded at the highest level (i.e. number of seabirds, number of marine mammals).

15. New Zealand advised that its national report was an update of the report it presented in 2006 and that its report should be compatible with the requirements for ERSWG reports. In response to questions from Members on its national report, New Zealand advised that:

    - The fur seals were captured in the longline fishery and that a large proportion of the seals were released alive. New Zealand hypothesised that most of the seals were caught during the haul and were taking baits that were still left on the longline.
    - The one whale of unspecified species that was reported being caught by a longliner was unidentified by the observer because it was one of the smaller whale species which are more difficult to identify than the larger species.
    - The additional measures imposed on all surface longline fisheries in 2007 involved compulsory night setting as well as a tori line which is applied to all areas.
    - The captions for Table 1 and Table 2 in the national report refer to the wrong tables, so these captions should be swapped around.

16. Members noted that New Zealand included an additional section in its national report concerning the "Implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds and IPOA-Sharks". Members agreed that it would be useful to modify the standard format of national reports to include this item. The revised format agreed for national reports to the ERSWG is provided at **Attachment 4**.

17. Japan presented its national report and provided the following responses to questions from Members:

    - Observer coverage is targeted at the 3 main fishing grounds shown in Figure 1 of the national report and observers are dispatched to these grounds at the peak period of activities in each of these areas. The dispatch plan is based on obtaining the maximum coverage of the primary SBT fishing activities.
    - Japan explained that the purpose of the CPUE analyses for sharks and seabirds are different: Shark CPUE analysis is aimed at examining stock status of pelagic sharks; the purpose of the seabirds analysis is to examine the level of incidental catch in Japanese high seas fisheries.
    - As commented by Australia, due to the small sample available for bootstrapping, there is a problem in relation to the bootstrapped confidence interval for the 2005 seabird catch rate and this appears to have resulted in an unrealistically tight confidence limit.
    - Japan does not have any specific mitigation measures in place for sharks at this point in time. However, Japan is monitoring shark populations in accordance with its NPOA-Sharks.

18. ACAP commended Japan for the research it had undertaken on side-setting, noting that ACAP's Seabird Bycatch Working Group had determined that further research was required on this technique before it could be recommended as a seabird bycatch mitigation measure. ACAP asked Japan if the results of this research would be published; whether the cost-effectiveness and operational suitability of this method would be further evaluated; and whether this research would be extended to the Southern Hemisphere, where ocean conditions and seabird species differ significantly. Japan advised that:

    - The results of this research would be used in other RFMO meetings; and
    - That evaluation of the operational safety and practicality required use of commercial fishing vessels instead of the research vessels used to date. So industry cooperation is required and there were no plans at present to further verify this on commercial vessels, especially for SBT where fishing is often conducted in unfavourable conditions and the application of side setting would require much caution. Japan encouraged other Members to conduct side-setting experiments in the Southern Ocean.

2.2 Non-member reports

19. The Executive Secretary advised that he had reminded Cooperating Non-Members and Observers that their attendance and reports were encouraged. However, no reports had been received at this time.

20. ACAP advised that its meeting was held in Chile 2 weeks ago and the outcomes were not available in sufficient time to submit a paper. However, ACAP was able to provide a short summary of outcomes from the Sea Bird Bycatch Working Group if desired by this meeting.

21. The Executive Secretary advised that, with the provision of the last national report from Members today, he would be able to provide the Secretariat's paper that reviews items of information provided in Members reports (CCSBT-ERS/0707/05) by the end of the day.

Agenda Item 3. Review of relevant International Instruments

22. Taiwan advised that its National Plan of Action (NPOA) for reducing incidental catch of seabirds in its longline fishery was adopted in May 2006. Taiwan has imposed a regulation to request all longliners south of 30°S to deploy a tori line by 1 October 2007 in accordance with CCSBT guidelines. Taiwan's NPOA-Sharks was also adopted in May 2006. In accordance with other RFMO resolutions, Taiwan has implemented a mandatory regulation to require vessels not to have fins on board more than 5% of the total weight of sharks at the first point of landing since 2005.

23. In response to a question from Australia, Taiwan advised that it has enhanced its implementation of port inspections to ensure compliance with the 5% fin to total weight ratio requirement.

24. Japan congratulated Taiwan on the implementation of its NPOAs for seabirds and sharks, and urged other Members to implement their NPOAs if they had not already done so.

25. The other Members described the status of their NPOAs for seabirds and sharks as follows:

    - Japan implemented both NPOAs in 2001.
    - Australia implemented its NPOA-Shark in 2004 and will be reviewing that NPOA in 2008 in accordance with the recommendation to review NPOAs every 4 years. Australia noted that longlining was listed as a key threatening process to seabirds under Australian legislation. In line with this Australia implemented a Threat Abatement Plan (CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info06) in 1998 with a revised plan implemented in 2006. Australia's NPOA seabirds is due to be released for public comment in 2007.
    - Korea has not yet developed these NPOAs. However, Korea is developing the NPOA for the reduction of seabird and shark bycatch from longline fisheries and the preliminary NPOA is under compilation.
    - New Zealand implemented its NPOA-Seabirds in April 2004 and is currently undertaking a review of that plan. New Zealand is currently consulting on its

draft NPOA for sharks with its stakeholders and its draft NPOA for sharks was submitted to this ERSWG meeting (CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info06).

26. BirdLife International provided an update on the development of FAO best practice guidelines to strengthen the delivery of the IPOA-Seabirds by providing a more robust and uniform set of NPOA-Seabirds. At the 27th meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI, Rome, March 2007), several FAO member States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, New Zealand and the USA supported a proposal for the FAO to hold an expert consultation to develop 'best practice' guidelines. The COFI report reflected support for this initiative, which agreed that FAO should, in cooperation with relevant bodies, develop best practice guidelines to assist countries and RFMOs in implementation of the IPOA-seabirds and that the best practice guidelines should be extended to other relevant fishing gears.

27. BirdLife International advised that this clearly provides the scope for the guidelines to feed into RFMO processes and provides a clear mandate to address non-longline fisheries (e.g. trawl and gillnet fishing) in the guidelines. Furthermore, the COFI report clearly provided support for the development of guidelines to assist States and RFMOs to reduce seabird bycatch in longline and non-longline fisheries (e.g. trawl and gillnet fisheries). Birdlife International asked the ERSWG to consider how CCSBT and its Members and Cooperating Non-Members could support this initiative. This could include a statement of support and/or consideration of financial support to assist in holding the consultation in 2008.

28. New Zealand noted that the Secretariat's paper which updated the RFMO resolutions concerning incidental catches of Ecologically Related Species (CCSBT-ERS/0707/05) highlights the importance of the issues to be discussed under agenda item 6. However, Members noted that the paper was provided at the start of the meeting and the Secretariat was requested to provide this type of information at an earlier date in the future to better inform discussion. The meeting also requested that the Secretariat modify the paper to include the resolution number for each RFMO and to specify whether each measure was mandatory or voluntary.

29. Australia summarised its paper which reviewed international instruments relevant to ERS (CCSBT-ERS/0707/10), noting that this was an update on changes since ERSWG6. The recent international agreements and obligations of note for the ERSWG include the Kobe Meeting of Joint Tuna RFMOs and the agreed Course of Actions which identifies key areas and challenges to be urgently addressed. These include implementation of the precautionary approach, ecosystem based approaches to fisheries management, improved data collection on incidental by-catch and non-target species and the establishment of measures to minimize impacts on ERS, particularly sea turtles, seabirds and sharks. The Kobe meeting also agreed the five tuna RFMOs should have their performance reviewed, commencing as soon as practical. This review will include an assessment of the application of relevant international instruments through RFMOs. Additionally, of note are Resolutions (10, 62 and 96) passed by the sixty-first session of the UNGA that make explicit mention of the impact of fishing (particularly longline techniques) on ERS and encourage data collection and management measures to address these impacts. Also the twenty-seventh session of the UNFAO-COFI must be considered, which discussed

the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and the need to strengthen RFMO management practices.

30. ACAP advised that all these meetings endorsed the ecological approach to fisheries and strongly encouraged the adoption and implementation of this approach by the ERSWG. This approach requires information and expertise that may not be available to all RFMOs. In this regard ACAP offered its experience and knowledge in relation to seabird bycatch and its support in relation to the Ecological Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

Agenda Item 4. Reports of meetings of other organisations relevant to the ERS Working Group

31. It was noted that no report had been received from CCAMLR. The Chair requested that for future meetings, the Secretariat communicate formally with CCAMLR and request a report from CCAMLR on ERS issues relevant to the CCSBT.

32. ACAP advised that it was an observer at CCAMLR's IMAF (Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing) working group in 2006. ACAP remarked that mitigation measures adopted by CCAMLR have been successful in preventing seabird bycatch as CCAMLR had only received one report of seabird mortality in the longline fishery in the preceding reporting period, excluding the convention areas of the French EEZ.

Agenda Item 5. Provide information and advice on issues relating to species associated with southern bluefin tuna (SBT) (ecologically related species), with specific reference to:

5.1 Species (both fish and non-fish) which may be affected by SBT fisheries operations

33. Japan presented paper CCSBT-ERS/0707/19, which provides the results of Bayesian analysis for the short-tailed albatross in Torishima of Japan, which is now getting over the danger of extinction and increasing steadily under habitat management projects and strict protection with Dr. Hasegawa's devoted efforts. The authors developed a Bayesian state-space model to appropriately estimate the bycatch rates and the other important parameters along with inherent uncertainties. When the model was applied to the short-tailed albatross time-series data collected in Torishima, the bycatch rate for juvenile birds was estimated to be 1.5% per year in the posterior median (95%CI [0.2%, 6.5%]) and the bycatch rate for adult birds was 0.2% per year in the posterior median (95%CI [0.01%, 1.1%]). Using the same model, the authors made future prediction of the impacts of bycatch on the recovery rate and the relative comparison between the bycatch mitigation effects and the breeding-area improvement effects. The future projections by the model showed that the predicted impacts of future bycatch on the population were likely to be relatively

small and sustainable, and the breeding-area improvement effects would be much greater than the bycatch mitigation effects.

34. New Zealand commented that depensation, which may be an important factor in periods of population increase, was not considered in projections. Japan advised that abundance appeared to be increasing exponentially so there was no indication of density dependent effect from the data. New Zealand further commented that an advantage of the Bayesian approach used by Japan was that data could be included from other studies so that the lack of data in the present study did not mean that a depensation effect had to be excluded.

35. New Zealand also suggested that in the future, information should be provided about the uncertainty in projections. Japan advised that it had information concerning the uncertainty and could provide that on request.

36. New Zealand presented information about bycatch estimation methods (CCSBT-ERS/0707/07). The paper described three estimation methods used in New Zealand and CCAMLR fisheries, and discussed advantages and disadvantages of each. Ratio-estimator techniques with boot-strapped confidence intervals were a commonly method used, but suffered from the possibility that sampling assumptions were violated, while predictive modelling using vessel random effects models required intensive analysis and high quality data sets. Simple extrapolation on the basis of high observer coverage was the simplest method discussed, and therefore the most transparent, but required high sampling ratios.

37. In response to a question from Australia, New Zealand advised that when observer coverage was less than 10%, analyses were conducted on a case by case basis. In these cases, sometimes an estimate is provided on an area or temporally specific basis instead of scaling the estimate up for the whole fishery for the year.

38. Japan presented an update of estimates on incidental take of seabirds in Japanese high sea longline fishery (CCSBT-ERS/0707/14). Estimates of catch rates and total catch of seabirds in 2005 (0.055 birds / 1,000 hooks and 2339 birds with confidence intervals of 1,548 to 3,160 respectively) were presented with the annual trends of catch rates from 1996 to 2005.

39. New Zealand commented that the areas with lower catch rates had lower coverage and that the highest seabird catch rate occurs in the summer breeding season and this is particularly damaging to seabird populations.

40. In response to a question from Australia concerning coverage by observers, Japan advised that its observers do not conduct random sampling of what they observe. They observe all the time while they are on duty. Vessels may be at sea without returning to port for as long as a year, but observers will only be on board for at most 2 months so only part of a vessels complete operations can be observed. In addition about 80% of any set can be observed due to the length of time involved.

41. New Zealand considered that the error bars around the 2005 estimate appeared to be too tight based on the data presented and this should be examined more closely in future, particularly as the catch rate estimates are being used to show trends through time.

42. Japan presented trends in standardized CPUE of blue shark, shortfin mako and porbeagle in 1992-2005 (CCSBT-ERS/0707/15), and showed results of comparisons of three statistical models (lognormal model, catch negative binominal model, and delta lognormal model) in shark CPUE analysis. No constant trends of increase or decrease were observed during this study period. The three statistical models estimated similar trends in standardized CPUEs, but the levels of the CPUEs differed depending on the amount of zero-catch data.

43. Australia suggested that caution be taken with respect to the use of these CPUE trends to indicate changes in the stock size. The CPUE fluctuations shown from year to year appear to be too large to be an indicator of population size of long lived species such as these. The observed fluctuations could be due to a range of factors other than stock size. Japan agreed with Australia's comment, but believed that the standardised CPUE did indicate the stock status for blue shark from the Pacific Ocean and other Oceans.

44. New Zealand commented that it would be valuable to include diagnostics with the analyses and that for time series estimates, it would be useful to include an error estimate around each of the annual points.

45. Japan presented paper CCSBT-ERS/0707/16 on the effective factors of tori line configuration in reducing incidental catch of albatrosses, examined based on the data collected by Japanese scientific observers in the southern bluefin tuna (SBT) longline fishery in the Southern Ocean in 2002-2005. Model analysis of the tori line parameters suggested that, among the tori lines currently used in Japanese SBT longline vessels, length of the line had significant effect on seabird avoidance effect rather than the material and structure of the streamers.

46. New Zealand asked whether interaction effects such as height versus length were considered and whether the study was experimental or observational. Japan advised that it tried to look at the interaction but given the number of data sets they did not see any convergence. In addition, the study involved actual data recorded by observers on fishing vessels, not an experimental approach. More detailed experiments would be required and this is suggested at the end of the paper.

47. Taiwan asked if Japan had considered using 2 tori lines. Japan advised that some of the Japanese vessels use 2 tori lines, one on the port side and one as a supplementary line set up on the stern. This was included in the model but it was not selected so Japan cannot say much about its effect. However if one tori line was used in an effective way then the effect should be sufficient.

5.2 Predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock

48. Japan presented paper CCSBT-ERS/0707/17. Japan collected and analysed stomach contents of SBT and other large pelagic fishes caught by Japanese longline during 1999-2006 for 5,610 individuals (of which 3,113 were SBT). In the 4,873 samples from eight species groups (SBT, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, albacore, butterfly tuna, swordfish, lancetfishes and opah), it was common that Cephalopoda and Osteichthyes occupied the majority of the wet weight composition of stomachs.

Compared to SBT, prey weight compositions of Osteichthyes were larger for yellowfin tuna, butterfly tuna, swordfish and opah and smaller for albacore. Prey weight composition, as well as the ratio of prey weight to body weight of predator (%BW), were similar regardless of body size of SBT. %BW of SBT by area was higher in the western area, i.e. %BW in area 9 (0.432%) was about four times as large as in area 4 (0.112%). Composition of Cephalopoda in SBT stomach contents increased in the western area. To understand the feeding ecology of SBT for the whole distribution range and for the whole its life history, investigations and cooperation among the members of the Extended Commission should be encouraged.

49. Taiwan acknowledged the large sample size (n=5610 individuals with 3113 SBT) collected and hard work on the feeding study. Yet the SBT, being a cold-blood animal, has very low feeding rate (<0.5% BW) in comparison with same sized (warm-blooded) dolphins and seals that may consume >5% BW. This may be due to the regurgitation. Also, seasonal variation may reflect prey species since SBT can serve as the biological sampler. In addition, comparison between samples from continental area and from high seas would be interesting that may relate to their feeding/breeding migration. Japan commented that it took samples during its longline fishing season so the season data is limited and there it does not have area specific coverage for an entire year

50. In response to questions from Korea, Japan responded that the timing of capture is hard to determine for longline fisheries and that for the past three years, observers report empty stomachs in addition to collecting stomachs that had contents.

51. New Zealand commented that it also has a data collection program in this area which it reported in detail at ERSWG6 and that it would be worthwhile for Japan and New Zealand to integrate their analyses for presentation to the next ERSWG. Australia also mentioned that it had ecosystems projects in this area and that contact between Australian and Japanese researchers may provide some benefits.

52. Japan presented paper CCSBT-ERS/0707/18 concerning large-scale environmental changes in the Antarctic/Southern Ocean and its possible influence to ecosystem of the habitat of southern bluefin tuna in the southern Indian Ocean. Various reports for environmental and ecological changes in the Southern Ocean were summarised. The serious impacts of global warming on penguins was pointed out, and it was suggested that the same kind of impact is on southern bluefin tuna such as weight-at-length, integrated water temperature of the foraging depth and spawning areas should be noted in conjunction with regional environmental changes influenced as an alternative approach.

53. Taiwan commented that (1) A long-term ecosystem approach, particularly on regime shift should be emphasised (e.g. between krill and salps in southern ocean, between Atlantic cod and queen crab in NW Atlantic, as well as among skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tunas in tropical ocean); (2) Penguin populations are declining in recent years and it may also affect the seabirds. In other words, seabird declining may be partly due to climate change and not necessarily by longlining fisheries only.

Agenda Item 6. Advice to the Extended Commission on:

6.1 Data collection and provision for ERS

54. New Zealand introduced their recommendation on data collection and provision, jointly formulated with Australia (CCSBT-ERS/0707/08). The draft recommendation was based on the text emerging from ERSWG6 (ERSWG Report, Attachment 7) and shows changes they considered necessary for a more effective recommendation especially given international progress on data in other international forums. New Zealand noted that ERSWG6 had already recognised the paucity of data describing ERS interactions with SBT fisheries and that this causes challenges and confounds analyses of ERS interactions. Further, CCSBT-ERS/0707/05, which summarises RFMO resolutions relating to incidental catches of ERS, highlights the need for CCSBT to make progress in this area. The ERSWG is yet to meet the Commission's request for management advice on ERS in SBT fisheries, and related data collection and provision.

55. New Zealand and Australia considered that recommendations should be made for binding resolutions.

56. Japan queried whether in the main text of the draft recommendation this included all SBT fishing operations including recreational fishing. New Zealand responded that because of a single hook fishery there is no bycatch in recreational fisheries and Australia responded that it was the same for Australian recreational fisheries.

57. Japan further queried the language in paragraph 3 of the draft recommendation and New Zealand clarified that the intent was that observers would report on those operations they observed.

58. Japan presented its recommendation on interactions between ecologically related species and surface fisheries including SBT farming activities (CCSBT-ERS/0707/22). Japan stated that about half of the SBT total allowable catch (TAC) set by the CCSBT is used in the surface fisheries. However, compared to the longline fisheries, ERSWG have received less information on interaction between ERS and surface fisheries including SBT farming activities. Researches on surface fisheries including farming activities could provide important information on feeding ecology of SBT. Japan stated that the CCSBT Convention covers SBT farming activities, and ERSWG have had discussion on the ERS in relation with the SBT farming (Paragraphs 9 and 57 of the ERSWG6 report). Japan believed that the ERSWG should monitor the impacts of SBT farming activities on ERS. Japan asked the other members to adopt the recommendation by consensus.

59. The main issues raised by Members regarding the draft recommendations included:

- From Japan:
  - Whether or not the CCSBT can make binding resolutions on ERS. Members agreed at ERSWG6 that this matter should be referred to the Commission.
  - Concern regarding the confidentiality of any data provided, particularly as there have been recent problems with people not respecting confidentiality arrangements within the CCSBT. The Chair advised that this was not an issue

for the working group and suggested that Japan refer this matter to the Extended Commission.

- Collection of ERS data by observers needs to be within the context of the agreed CCSBT Scientific Observer Standards.
- There are some parts of CCSBT-ERS/0707/08 that seek data from all fisheries and some parts that seek data from only longline fisheries. This type of recommendation must treat all fisheries that have the potential to capture SBT equally, regardless of whether they are longline, purse seine, or recreational fisheries.
- Exchange of data should be at the same level and quality.
- Data collection provisions have been specified within the four other tuna RFMOs and since the convention areas of the other tuna RFMOs cover the entire distribution of SBT fisheries, it would be duplication for this data to also be collected for and provided to CCSBT.

- From Taiwan:
  - The species of interest list to be reported on (CCSBT-ERS/0707/08) is beyond our present requirements and it would be too complicated to implement for fishers log books at this stage because they do not have the ability to identify those species. The species of interest needs to be discuss at the ERSWG before it is finalised. In addition, each Member may have their own specific lists of species because we have different fishing areas.
  - The number of Taiwanese SBT vessels has decreased, so the provision of observer data with CCSBT statistical area level may likely involve the confidentiality of individual vessels. Therefore, Taiwan suggested to enlarge the scale.
  - In relation to paper in CCSBT-ERS/0707/22, Taiwan's opinion is that in addition to longline fisheries, purse seine fisheries and SBT farming activities also have an impact on ecologically related species. For the purpose of comprehensive collection of ERS data, those data have to be collected and provided to the Extended Commission so as to evaluate the influence. We therefore support the proposal in CCSBT-ERS/0707/22.
- From Korea:
  - Most of Korea's data comes from log books, but observer data is more useful and we support Japan's proposal in CCSBT-ERS/0707/22.
- From Australia:
  - Australia disagreed with the accuracy of what Japan had stated in terms of the lack of ERS data collection and provision from Australian fisheries. Australia again reiterated that ERS data had been provided previously and at this meeting. Australia noted that it was unclear why there was a need to separate purse seine fisheries from longline fisheries as reflected in CCSBT-ERS/0707/22 when it is clear that there are data quality issues in a range of fisheries.
  - Australia supported the recommendations presented in CCSBT-ERS/0707/08. Australia supported some of the principles within CCSBT-ERS/0707/22 and

that these could be incorporated into CCSBT-ERS/0707/08. Specifically: (1). The principle for collection and provision of data on ERS from all SBT fisheries; (2) the principle of encouraging Members to share information on research activities undertaken in relation to ERS. Australia provided suggested draft text to incorporate these.

- Australia expressed concern that a recommendation had been tabled (CCSBT-ERS/0707/22) targeted at one particular fishery without a robust or valid scientific basis.

60. ACAP commented that Japan's point of having a consistent approach and avoiding duplication was well made. For ACAP, it would be a significant gap if it did not have data from the SBT fishery. Its work on status and trends requires information from all fisheries and to be accurate it should be based on observer and scientific data. This would not be a duplication because the data is unique. In relation to the housing of the data, ACAP advised that it would be willing to manage a database for the collection of these data and would be willing to be a central repository for all seabird bycatch data from all RFMOs.

61. Birdlife International advised that it would have concerns if the CCSBT abdicated ERS data collection to other RFMOs. It is important for both the conservation of seabirds and the credibility of the Commission to have proper data collection protocols.

62. There was general agreement between Members on the need to collect ERS data from all SBT fisheries.

63. Japan stated that the CCSBT convention covers SBT farming. Japan further stated that the ERSWG should sincerely tackle ERS issues, and that the ERSWG should monitor the SBT farming effect on ERS.

64. The Chair requested the opinion of all Members on whether the ERSWG should monitor the effect of farming on ERS.

- Australia stated that SBT farms are domestic aquaculture activities. Australia clarified that data collection and information is undertaken and is publicly available. Australia considered that when the Extended Commission provides advice on the definition of fishing with respect to ERS, we will be guided by that advice. Finally, Australia considered that even on a technical basis this is akin to a discussion about monitoring the effects on seabirds of unloading fish from vessels in port.
- Korea noted that according to article 2 of the CCSBT convention, fishing means "the catching, taking or harvesting of fish, or any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking or harvesting of fish". Consequently, Korea considered that all kinds of fishing including farming has to belong and that the ERSWG should discuss SBT farming at the same level as other fishing activities.
- Taiwan supported that the ERSWG should be monitoring the ERS impacts on all SBT fishing, including farming.

- New Zealand believed that the jurisdictional issues should be left to the Commission to decide. New Zealand believed that the scientists should discuss technical issues and leave the definition of whether farming is considered to be fishing under the convention up to the Commission to determine. If the Commission decides that farming is included in the definition of fishing then it will be necessary for the ERSWG to discuss ERS issues associated with farming. However, even at a scientific level, it is a complex issue because for farming, as the SBT has been removed from its natural environment so the ERS issues are different than for other fishing activities.
- Japan stated that it was seeking a technical and scientific evaluation of the impacts of SBT farming on sharks and seabirds in a similar manner as is conducted for fishing vessels. Japan was also concerned that if the ERSWG waited for guidance from the Commission, it would further delay the evaluation of the impacts of SBT farming on ERS.

65. There was a difference of understanding between Australia and Japan in relation to discussions that occurred during the meeting and all Members agreed that Australia and Japan should include statements of their own understanding.

- Australia was of the understanding that:
  - There was disagreement and uncertainty on what is covered by "fishing" with respect to ERS. The Chair suggested to refer this matter to the Extended Commission and Members accepted the Chair's suggestion.
  - As noted in paragraph 64 the issue of whether the ERSWG should discuss the impact of SBT farming on ERS, regardless of the definition of "fishing" was raised. As noted in paragraph 64 some Members regarded that this issue would be covered by the guidance from the Extended Commission provided above.
  - There was no resolution of text on how to request guidance on what is covered by "fishing" with respect to ERS.
- Japan was of the understanding that:
  - When attempting to draft a modified recommendation on ERS data collection and provision, some Members were uncertain and some Members disagreed on whether the term "fishing" includes SBT farming. The Chair suggested referring this matter to the Extended Commission, and Members accepted the Chair's suggestion.
  - Also, there were different views among some Members on whether or not ERSWG should monitor effects of SBT farming on ERS irrespective of the interpretation of the term "fishing".
  - Members, particularly Australia and Japan, spent considerable time and made a significant effort to draft and agree on the wording of a request for advice from the Commission on whether SBT farming should be considered as being a type of "fishing" and whether the ERSWG should monitor the impacts of SBT farming on ERS under the terms of reference of the ERSWG. However, despite these efforts it was not possible to reach agreement on the wording of this request for advice

6.2 Reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds

66. Australia introduced the joint Australian and New Zealand draft recommendation on measures to reduce seabird bycatch in CCSBT (CCSBT-ERS/0707/06). Australia highlighted the fact that all three joint Australian and New Zealand draft recommendations reflect recent international commitments made at three key fora, namely: the Kobe joint RFMO meeting, UNGA61 and COFI27. It was also noted that one of the key drivers for the establishment of the ERSWG was concern about the incidental catch of seabirds.

67. Australia outlined the principles behind its recommendation: 1) Recognition that the CCSBT should have a goal for reducing seabird bycatch; 2) The importance of the IPOA-SEABIRDS and the commitment of members to implementation; 3) Recognition of CCSBT's mandatory requirement for tori poles. The recommendation strengthens this by requiring a robust second measure; 4) Data collection and provision are covered by the draft recommendation on data; 5) That members provide information on how they will ensure compliance and reporting.

68. Japan presented its recommendation on seabirds (CCSBT-ERS/0707/20). Japan stated that all the other four tuna RFMOs, namely IOTC, IATTC, ICCAT, and WCPFC, have had resolutions and/or decisions on seabirds. The number of members in these four tuna RFMOs is much larger than the number of members in CCSBT. Furthermore, CCSBT could handle seabird incidental take in relation with fisheries targeting for SBT only, while the other tuna RFMOs cover seabird incidental take issues in relation with tuna fisheries in their areas of jurisdiction, regardless of the target species. Japan also pointed out the necessity to avoid duplication of work between CCSBT and the other tuna RFMOs. Japan asked the other members to adopt the recommendation on seabirds by consensus.

69. Taiwan commented that in ERSWG6, we spent a lot of time discussing the proposals on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds proposed by Australia and New Zealand but could not reach agreement. From that meeting to now, we are aware that other tuna regional fisheries management organizations, such as IOTC, WCPFC and ICCAT have adopted resolutions or recommendations on mitigation measures of incidental catch of seabirds. And those measures are inconsistent. Since our vessels fishing for SBT cover three oceans, including Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean, if CCSBT adopts its own resolution, we don't know how to manage our vessels. Besides, it is also difficult for us to require our fishermen to comply with different regulation for vessels fishing in the same area just because of fishing for different species. For the consistency of management, we support Japan's proposal in compliance with the measures adopted by each RFMO according to the fishing area of each vessels.

70. New Zealand felt that the justifications for the approach on seabird mitigation were well summarised in the preamble to the Australian and New Zealand proposal. In short, this highlighted CCSBT's responsibility under a range of international agreements and expressed in a range of international fora most recently at Kobe this year.

71. New Zealand emphasised that while tori lines are mandatory in SBT longline fisheries, best practise now favours deployment of multiple mitigation measures. Further, given seabird abundances south of 30°S, recommending the deployment of more than one measure was justified on scientific grounds. However issues relating to implementation of such measures could be left to the Commission.

72. Australia noted that the research suggestions in CCSBT-ERS/0707/20 were of value and could be amalgamated into the recommendation from CCSBT-ERS/0707/06. Australia commented that CCSBT-ERS/0707/20 focused on implementation issues. As a technical working group the focus should be on providing specific advise on seabird bycatch mitigation and monitoring, particularly to assist CCSBT to meet its responsibilities under international agreements. Implementation approaches are a decision for the Extended Commission.

73. Japan noted the progress made in IOTC and WCPFC and reiterated Taiwan's concerns regarding consistency between RFMO's. They pointed out that CCSBT needs to respect the decisions of other RFMO's. Japan argued that the stated objective of reducing bycatch to zero was inappropriate as an objective.

74. The Chair noted that the two proposals were good starting points with the Australian and New Zealand proposal refining current arrangements and noted that Japan's approach developed particular implementation issues and listed research requirements. He did express concern about the issue of overlapping jurisdiction between RFMOs. He felt that harmonization would be possible between the current resolutions of IOTC and WCPFC and the proposal by Australia and New Zealand.

75. Australia clarified that there was a sound scientific basis for CCSBT to consider appropriate mitigation measures for its activities. The other tuna RFMOs cover predominantly tropical waters. CCSBT is unique in terms of the high level of overlap with the distribution of seabirds, as detailed by analyses undertaken by BirdLife International. The seabird issues within CCSBT are likely to have more in common with CCAMLR than with the other tuna RFMOs. Australia recognised the need to move towards harmonisation over time. This requires the CCSBT to understand the specifics of how it should address seabird mitigation and should include moves to best practise.

76. ACAP expressed the view that elements in the Japanese proposal concerning research were very valuable. ACAP has working groups established to collect this data and offered to work with the Commission to provide an analysis of that information. ACAP would welcome the delivery of data on breeding sites from the northern hemisphere, and offered to assist in analysis of this kind of data for provision to the Commission.

77. The ERSWG acknowledged the value of ACAP's offer and recognised the information they could provide in terms of assessment of species status and reviewing the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

78. Japan pointed out that the fishers in CCSBT had led the world in seabird mitigation practice and that the work of Japan particularly with initiative by Japanese fishermen and the help of Nigel Brothers needed to be recognised.

79. Birdlife noted the early research efforts of Japan and the CCSBT in being the first RFMO to require the mandatory use of tori poles south of 30 degrees. They also noted that much has happened since 1997 and believed that the Australian and New Zealand proposal wasa sound basis for additional measures to be adopted.

80. Birdlife provided the ERSWG with the information from the Global Procellariform Tracking Database that breeding albatross and petrels of conservation concern had a 67% overlap with CCSBT fishing effort which is markedly higher than the level of other tuna RFMOs. This proportion could increase when new information on non-breeding and juvenile birds are included, as they become available.

81. The Chair again emphasized that the ERSWG needed to focus on technical advice to the Commission and let the Commission resolve implementation issues.

82. Japan raised the issue of the use of other measures not included in the current Australian and New Zealand proposal such as bait casting machines, thawed baits, dyed baits and offal control.

83. ACAP provided the advice that the mitigation measures identified in CCSBT-ERS/0707/06 has been endorsed by its Seabird Working Group particularly when one or more are used in combination. Further research is required on other mitigation techniques before they can be endorsed.

84. There was a general discussion concerning which mitigation measures would apply to different SBT fisheries and the applicability of this proposal to those fisheries.

6.3 Conservation and sustainable utilisation of sharks

85. Australia introduced the joint Australian and New Zealand draft recommendation on measures to ensure the conservation and management and sustainable use of sharks taken in SBT fisheries (CCSBT-ERS/0707/09).

86. Australia outlined the principles behind its recommendation: 1) The need to collect and provide data to assess and monitor shark catches, which links to the draft recommendation on data collection and provision (CCSBT-ERS/0707/07); 2) Management leading towards sustainable utilization; 3) Promoting full use of retained catch, which members have agreed within other RFMOs; and, 4) Reducing the catch of unwanted sharks.

87. Japan presented its recommendation on sharks which are caught in association with SBT fisheries (CCSBT-ERS/0707/21). Japan stated that all the other four tuna RFMOs, namely IOTC, IATTC, ICCAT, and WCPFC, have had resolutions and/or decisions on sharks. The number of members in these four tuna RFMOs is much larger than the number of members in CCSBT. Furthermore, CCSBT could handle shark bycatch in relation with fisheries targeting for SBT only, while the other tuna RFMOs cover shark bycatch in relation with tuna fisheries, regardless of the target species. Also, the other tuna RFMOs has distinct convention areas that cover almost all distribution ranges of pelagic shark stocks. Japan further pointed out the necessity to avoid duplication of work between CCSBT and the other tuna RFMOs. Japan asked the other members to adopt the recommendation on sharks by consensus.

88. The following general comments were made in relation to paper CCSBT-ERS/0707/09:

- Japan advised that CCSBT does not have a mandate to manage sharks and that paragraphs 3, the third option of paragraph 4 and paragraphs 5 to 8 of this paper were therefore not appropriate. Japan further advise that it would be compliant with the 5% fin to weight rule through its Membership with the other tuna RFMOs.
- New Zealand noted that as ERSWG had been asked by the Commission to provide advice on sharks that it should do so. Implementation would be an issue for the Commission to determine. New Zealand also commented that it believed that the third alternative in paragraph 4 was important to enable it to manage its ERS obligations for sharks in an effective way. However, New Zealand emphasised that these bullet points were suggested alternatives and not all would be required to be used by each Member.
- Taiwan made the following two comments in relation to paragraph 4.
  - The options of management measures for full use of sharks should be decided by flag states rather than coastal states. For the purpose of a clear definition, we suggest to amend "the members and cooperating non-members" to "the flag members and flag cooperating non-members".
  - In respect of the third option of setting total allowable catch limits for individual shark species taken in SBT fisheries, in the resolution of other tuna-RFMOs, they have no such regulation. I don't know why CCSBT needs to have this special regulation. For consistency with other RFMOs, we suggest that this option be deleted.
  - Taiwan commented that it preferred the recommendations from Japan in CCSBT-ERS/0707/21 over those from Australia and New Zealand in CCSBT-ERS/0707/09. However, at this initial stage, Taiwan remains flexible.

89. Australia made the following comments in relation to the two draft shark recommendations:

- Similar to the seabird recommendation, Australia reflected that the group should be focusing on technical aspects and not implementation. Australia recognised that some of the technical aspects of the recommendation in CCSBT-ERS/0707/21 could be integrated into the recommendation in CCSBT-ERS/0707/09.
- The ERSWG has a responsibility to provide technical advice on shark issues in order to meet commitments made at the Kobe meeting and the request from the Extended Commission on advice in terms of implementation of IPOA.
- Australia queried the rational behind a separate paragraph on the fin to weight ratio with the recommendation in CCSBT-ERS/0707/21. It was unclear what "cooperation" referred to if this was not already covered.

Agenda Item 7. Education and public relations activities

90. The ERSWG highly appreciated the hard work that Members have put into public relations education of ERS matters and thanked Members for their efforts. The ERSWG encouraged Members to continue their efforts. A range of educational material was brought to the meeting including:

- Korea: Fishes of the Pacific Ocean (I and II), a guide to the demersal species of the Korean distant water fisheries, and a guide to the by-catch species in tuna fisheries.
- New Zealand: A new guide for fishers to Protected Species and Non-Fish species and a draft of a reporting form for use when reporting these species (CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info01 and CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info02).
- Australia: A new protected species identification guide for fishers.
- Japan: Details for a presentation on guidance, extension and educational activities for reducing bycatch in longline fishery (CCSBT-ERS/0707/23).
- Taiwan: Distribution of NPOA-Seabirds, NPOA-Sharks that includes guidance on mitigation measures for reducing seabird bycatch, full utilisation of sharks and species identification for seabirds, sharks and sea turtles by fishers.

Agenda Item 8. Advice on Research Priorities for ERS (ERSWG 6 Attachment 10)

8.1 Update of the mitigation measures research table

91. ACAP provided the meeting with a summary of the outcomes of its Seabird Bycatch Working Group's (SBWG) review of seabird bycatch mitigation measures in pelagic longline fisheries (CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info11). The SBWG identified in its review those mitigation measures which it considered to have the highest priority for further research. ACAP considers this information to represent the current best scientific advice and encourages CCSBT Members and Cooperating Non-Members to use these materials to guide the development of policy and practice within the fisheries under their jurisdiction.

92. ACAP advised that it would welcome the opportunity of collaborating with the CCSBT and its Members and Cooperating Non-Members in implementing the research initiatives outlined in Table 2 of (CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info11).

93. The meeting agreed to defer the remainder of agenda item 8 until the next ERSWG meeting.

Agenda Item 9. ERSWG operational framework (ERSWG 6 Attachment 11)

94. The meeting agreed to defer this agenda item until the next ERSWG meeting.

Agenda Item 10. Future work program and inter-sessional work

95. No future work program was specified.

Agenda Item 11. Recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission

96. The ERSWG was unable to agree on recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission. However, the following draft recommendations developed by Members are presented for the Extended Commission's consideration:

- Data recommendations:
  - **Attachment 5** (CCSBT-ERS/0707/08): Draft ERS recommendation on data collection and provision requirements in CCSBT (Australia and New Zealand).
  - **Attachment 6** (CCSBT-ERS/0707/22): Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on interactions between ecologically related species with surface fisheries including SBT farming activities (Japan).
- Seabird recommendations:
  - **Attachment 7** (CCSBT-ERS/0707/06): Draft recommendation on measures to reduce seabird bycatch in CCSBT (Australia and New Zealand).
  - **Attachment 8** (CCSBT-ERS/0707/20): Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on seabirds (Japan).
- Shark recommendations:
  - **Attachment 9** (CCSBT-ERS/0707/09): Draft recommendation on measures to ensure the conservation and management and sustainable use of sharks taken in SBT fisheries (Australia and New Zealand).
  - **Attachment 10** (CCSBT-ERS/0707/21): Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on sharks which are caught in association with SBT fisheries (Japan).

The Chair suggested seeking guidance from the Extended Commission on how to proceed with these six draft recommendations. Members accepted the Chair's suggestion.

Agenda Item 12. Other business

97. There was no other business.

Agenda Item 13. Conclusion

13.1 Adoption of meeting report

98. The meeting adopted the report.

13.2 Recommendation of timing of next meeting

99. No recommendation was made for the timing of the next meeting as this will depend on the Extended Commission's decision on the future of the ERSWG and on how the Extended Commission decides to progress the draft recommendations.

13.3 Close of meeting

100. Members and observers provided closing remarks or statements. These are provided at **Attachment 11**.

101. The meeting closed at 6:55pm on 6 July 2007.

List of Attachments

Attachment

1 List of Participants

2 Agenda

3 List of Documents

4 Revised Requirement for Member's Annual Report to ERSWG

5 Draft ERS recommendation on data collection and provision requirements in CCSBT (Australia and New Zealand)

6 Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on interactions between ecologically related species with surface fisheries including SBT farming activities (Japan)

7 Draft recommendation on measures to reduce seabird bycatch in CCSBT (Australia and New Zealand)

8 Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on seabirds (Japan)

9 Draft recommendation on measures to ensure the conservation and management and sustainable use of sharks taken in SBT fisheries (Australia and New Zealand)

10 Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on sharks which are caught in association with SBT fisheries (Japan)

11 Closing Remarks or Statements

Attachment 1

List of Participants

Seventh Ecologically Related Species Working Group
3-6 July 2007
Tokyo, Japan

CHAIR

Dr Yuji UOZUMI
Counsellor
Resource Enhancement Promotion Department
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8907
Phone:+81 3 6744 2372
Fax: +81 3 3591 5314
Email: uozumi@affrc.go.jp

AUSTRALIA

Dr Ilona STOBUTZKI
Senior Research Scientist
Fisheries & Marine Sciences Programme,
Bureau of Rural Sciences
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Phone:+61 2 6272 4781
Fax: +61 2 6272 3882
Email: ilona.stobutzki@brs.gov.au

Mr Neil BENSLEY
Scientist
Fisheries & Marine Sciences Programme
Bureau of Rural Sciences
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Phone:+61 2 6272 4243
Fax: +61 2 6272 3882
Email: neil.bensley@brs.gov.au

Ms Nicole FLINT
Senior Management Officer
Tuna and International Fisheries
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Box 7051 Canberra Business Center Canberra
ACT 2610 Australia
Phone:+61 2 6225 5373
Fax: +61 2 6225 5439
Email: nicole.flint@afma.gov.au

Ms Karina McLACHLAN
Assistant Director
Sustainable Fisheries Policy and Assessment
Marine Environment Branch
Department of the Environment and Water
Resources
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Phone:+61 2 6274 2800
Fax: +61 2 6274 2286
Email: karina.mclachlan@environment.gov.au

Ms Gemma HUNNEYBALL
Program Officer
Humane Society International
PO Box 439 Avalon 2107 NSW Australia
Phone:+61 2 9973 1728
Fax: +61 2 9973 1729
Email: gemma@hsi.org.au

FISHING ENTITY OF TAIWAN

Ms Shiu-Ling LIN
Specialist
Fisheries Agency
No.2, Chaochow St. Taipei, TAIWAN 100
Phone:+886 2 3343 6129
Fax: +886 2 3343 6268
Email: shiuling@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Prof I-Hsun NI
Dean
College of Ocean Science & Resource
National Taiwan Ocean University
Keelung, Taiwan 20224
Phone:+886 2 2462 2192 ext 6800
Fax: +886 2 2463 3985
Email: niih@mail.ntou.edu.tw

Dr Chin-Lau KUO
Deputy Director
Econimic and Commercial Affairs
Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative
Office in Japan
5-20-2, Shiroganedai, Minato – ku
Tokyo 108-0071, Japan
Phone:+81 3 3280 7886
Fax: +81 3 3280 7928
Email: clkuo@roc-taiwan.or.jp

JAPAN

Mr Jun YAMASHITA
Director-General
Resource Management Department
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8907

Mr Koichi MIZUTANI
Section Chief
Resources and Environment Research Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8910
Phone:+81 3 3502 8487
Fax: +81 3 3592 0759
Email : koichi_mizutani@nm.maff.go.jp

Mr Takafumi URA
Section Chief
Resources and Environment Research Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8909
Phone:+81 3 6744 2380
Fax: +81 3 3592 0759

Mr Takaaki SAKAMOTO
Assistant Director
International Affairs Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8907
Phone:+81 3 3502 8459
Fax: +81 3 3502 0571
Email: takaaki_sakamoto@nm.maff.go.jp

Mr Yukito NARISAWA
Planner
Far Seas Fisheries Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8911
Phone:+81 3 3591 6582
Fax: +81 3 3595 7332
Email: yukito_narisawa@nm.maff.go.jp

Mr Kiyoshi KATSUYAMA
Director for international negotiation
International Affairs Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8907
Phone:+81 3 3502 8459
Fax: +81 3 3502 0571

Dr Tokimasa KOBAYASHI
Director
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries
Fisheries Research Agency, Japan
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka
424-8632 Japan
Phone:+81 54 336 6000
Fax: +81 54 335 9642

Mr Hirohide MATSUSHIMA
Staff
International Affairs Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8908
Phone:+82 3 3502 8459
Fax: +82 3 3502 0571
Email: hirohide_matsushima@nm.maff.go.jp

Dr Hitoshi HONDA
Director, Tropical Tuna Resources Division
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries
Fisheries Research Agency, Japan
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka
424-8633 Japan
Phone:+81 54 336 6000
Fax: +81 54 335 9642
Email: hhonda@affrc.go.jp

Dr Naozumi MIYABE
Director, Temperate Tuna Resources Division
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries
Fisheries Research Agency, Japan
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka
424-8633 Japan
Phone:+81 54 336 6000
Fax: +82 543 359 642

Dr Tomoyuki ITOU
Senior scientist, Bluefin Tuna Section
Temperate Tuna Resources Division
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries
Fisheries Research Agency, Japan
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka
424-8633 Japan
Phone:+81 54 336 6000
Fax: +81 54 335 9642
Email: itou@affrc.go.jp

Dr Masashi KIYOTA
Chief, Ecologically Related Species Section
Tropical Tuna Resources Division
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries,
Fisheries Research Agency, Japan
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka
424-8633 Japan
Phone:+81 54 336 6000
Fax: +81 54 335 9642
Email: kiyo@affrc.go.jp

Dr Mikio NAGANOBU
Chief, Southern Ocean Living Resources Section
Oceanic Resources Division
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries
Fisheries Research Agency, Japan
2-12-4 Fukuura, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama
Kanagawa, 236-8648 Japan
Phone:+81 45 788 7517
Fax: +81 45 788 5004
Email: naganobu@affrc.go.jp

Dr Hiroshi MINAMI
Senior scientist, Ecologically Related Species Section
Tropical Tuna Resources Division
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries
Fisheries Research Agency, Japan
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka
424-8633 Japan
Phone:+81 54 336 6000
Fax: +81 54 335 9642
Email: hminami@affrc.go.jp

Dr Hiroshi OKAMURA
Senior scientist, Cetacean Resources Management Section
Oceanic Resources Division
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries
Fisheries Research Agency, Japan
2-12-4 Fukuura, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama
Kanagawa, 236-8648 Japan
Phone:+81 45 788 7517
Fax: +81 45 788 5004
Email: okamura@affrc.go.jp

Dr Kosuke YOKOTA
Scientist, Ecologically Related Species Section
Tropical Tuna Resources Division
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries
Fisheries Research Agency, Japan
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka
424-8633 Japan
Phone:+81 54 336 6000
Fax: +81 54 335 9642
Email: yokotaks@affrc.go.jp

Mr Nozomu MIURA
Manager
Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association
31-1 Eitai 2-chome, Koutou-ku
Tokyo 135-0034
Phone:+81 3 5646 2382
Fax: +81 3 5646 2652
Email: miura@japantuna.or.jp

Dr Takashi HOSONO
Scientist, Ecologically Related Species Section
Tropical Tuna Resources Division
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries
Fisheries Research Agency, Japan
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka
424-8633 Japan
Phone:+81 54 336 6000
Fax: +81 54 335 9642
Email: thosono@affrc.go.jp

Mr Kosuke HIGAKI
Manager
National Ocean Tuna Fisheries Association
Coop Bldg7F 1-1-12 Uchida, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 101-8503
Phone:+81 3 3294 9633
Fax: +81 3 3296 1397
Email: k-higaki@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp

Mr Masamichi MOTOYAMA
Consultant
National Ocean Tuna Fisheries Association
Coop Bldg7F 1-1-12 Uchida, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 101-8504
Phone:+81 3 3294 9634
Fax: +81 3 3296 1391

Mr Yuichiro HARADA
Managing Director
Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT)
Sanakaido Bldg9F 1-9-13 Akasaka, Minato-ku
Tokyo 107-0052
Phone:+81 3 3568 6388
Fax: +81 3 3568 6389
Email: harada@oprt.or.jp

NEW ZEALAND

Mr Neville SMITH
Principal Scientist
Ministry of Fisheries
PO Box 1020, Wellington, NEW ZEALAND
Phone:+64 4 819 4263
Fax: +64 4 819 4261
Email: Neville.Smith@fish.govt.nz

Dr Johanna PIERRE
Marine Conservation Services Manager
Department of Conservation
PO Box 10420, Wellington, NEW ZEALAND
Phone:+64 4 471 3204
Fax: +64 4 471 1082
Email: jpierre@doc.govt.nz

Dr Susan WAUGH
Principal Scientist
Ministry of Fisheries
PO Box 1020, Wellington, NEW ZEALAND
Phone:+64 4 819 4252
Fax: +64 4 819 4261
Email: Susan.Waugh@fish.govt.nz

Mr Bruce MCCALLUM
First Secretary
New Zealand Embassy
20-40 Kamiyama-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
Phone:+81 3 5478 9680
Fax: +81 3 3467 6843
Email: bruce.mccallum@mfat.govt.nz

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr Seon-Jae HWANG
Fisheries Scientist
Distant Water Fisheries Resources Team
National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
408-1 Shirang-ri, Gijang-eup, Gijang-gun, Busan 619-902, Korea
Phone:+82 51 720 2325
Fax: +82 51 720 2337
Email: hwangseonjae@hanmail.net

OBSERVER

Mr Warren PAPWORTH
Executive Secretary
The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, Interim Secretariat
Suite 25, Salamanca Square, Hobart 7000
Tasmania, Australia
Phone:+61 3 6233 3123
Fax: +61 3 6233 3549
Email: warren.papworth@acap.aq

Dr Ben SULLIVAN
BirdLife Global Seabird Programme
BirdLife International
C/Australian Antarctic Division, Channel Highway, Kingston 7050
Tasmania, Australia,
Phone:+61 3 62323209
Email: ben.sullivan@rspb.org.uk

CCSBT SECRETARIAT

PO Box 37, Deakin West ACT 2600
Australia
Phone:+61 2 6282 8396
Fax: +61 2 6282 8407

Mr Neil HERMES
Executive Secretary
Email: nhermes@ccsbt.org

Mr Kiichiro MIYAZAWA
Deputy Executive Secretary
Email: kmiyazawa@ccsbt.org

Mr Robert KENNEDY
Database Manager
Email: rkennedy@ccsbt.org

INTERPRETERS

Ms Saemi BABA

Ms Kumi KOIKE

Ms Yoko YAMAKAGE

Attachment 2

Agenda
Seventh Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group

1. Opening
   1.1. Election of the Chair
   1.2. Adoption of the Agenda
   1.3. Appointment of Rapporteurs
   1.4. Secretariat/host explain meeting arrangements

2. Reports
   2.1. Member reports (activities undertaken since last meeting in February 2006)
   2.2. Non-members reports

3. Review of Relevant International Instruments

4. Reports of meetings of other organisations relevant to the ERS Working Group

5. Provide information and advice on issues relating to species associated with southern bluefin tuna (SBT) (ecologically related species), with specific reference to:
   (a) Species (both fish and non-fish) which may be affected by SBT fisheries operations:
      - Summary of the nature and extent of ERS interactions in SBT fisheries for the Commission, based on Country reports
      - Discussion on the development of standardized methodologies for estimating bycatch rates of ERS
      - Others
   (b) Predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock

6. Advice to the Extended Commission on:
   (a) Data collection and provision for ERS
   (b) Reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds
   (c) Conservation and sustainable utilisation of sharks

7. Education and public relations activities

8. Advice on Research Priorities for ERS (ERSWG 6 Attachment 10)
   8.1. Update of the mitigation measures research table
   8.2. Proposals for future research
   8.3. Consideration of ERSWG research priorities

9. ERSWG Operational Framework (ERSWG 6 Attachment 11)
   9.1. Consideration of progress in meeting the operational framework
   9.2. Update of the operational framework

10. Future work program and inter-sessional work

11. Recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission

12. Other business

13. Conclusion
    13.1. Adoption of meeting report
    13.2. Recommendation of timing of next meeting
    13.3. Close of meeting

Attachment 3

List of Documents
Seventh Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group

(CCSBT-ERS/0707/)

01. Draft Agenda
02. List of Participants
03. Draft List of Documents
04. (Secretariat) Review of items provided in Members reports to ERSWG7
05. (Secretariat) Update of RFMO Resolutions Concerning Incidental Catches of Ecologically Related Species
06. (Australia and New Zealand) A draft ERS WG recommendation on measures to reduce seabird bycatch in CCSBT for discussion at CCSBT-ERS-7
07. (New Zealand) Estimation of seabird captures in fisheries. Ministry of Fisheries, New Zealand
08. (Australia and New Zealand) A draft ERS recommendation on data collection and provision requirements in CCSBT for discussion at CCSBT-ERS-7
09. (Australia and New Zealand) A draft ERS recommendation on measures to ensure the conservation and management and sustainable use of sharks taken in SBT fisheries for discussion at CCSBT-ERS 7
10. (Australia) Review of International Instruments Relevant to Ecologically Related Species: changes since ERSWG 6.
14. (Japan) Estimation of incidental take of seabirds in the Japanese southern bluefin tuna longline fishery in 2005 (Masashi Kiyota, Yukio Takeuchi)
15. (Japan) Comparison of CPUE standardization methods for the main pelagic shark species caught in the high sea SBT longline fishery (Hiroaki Matsunaga, Hiroshi Shono)
16. (Japan) Effective factors of tori-poles in reducing incidental catch of albatross in southern bluefin tuna longline fishery (Kosuke Yokota, Hiroshi Minami, Masashi Kiyota)
17. (Japan) Japanese research activities on the feeding ecology of southern bluefin tuna and by-catch species caught by Japanese longline (Tomoyuki Itoh)
18. (Japan) Note on large-scale environmental changes and its possible influence to ecosystems in the Southern Ocean (Mikio Naganobu)

19. (Japan) Estimation of fisheries bycatch and risk assessment for short-tailed albatross using a Bayesian state-space model (Hiroshi Okamura, Masashi Kiyota, Hiroyuki Kurota, Toshihide Kitakado)
20. (Japan) Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on seabirds
21. (Japan) Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on sharks which are caught in association with SBT fisheries
22. (Japan) Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on interactions between ecologically related species with surface fisheries including SBT farming activities
23. (Japan) Guidance, extension and educational activities for reducing bycatch in longline fishery

(CCSBT-ERS/0707/BGD)

01. (New Zealand) CCSBT-ERS/0602/09 – Bull, L. S. A review of methodologies aimed at avoiding and/or mitigating incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries.
02. (Australia) CCSBT-ERS/0602/04 Review of international instruments relevant to ecologically related species data requirements and recommendations for sharks and seabirds

(CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info)

01. (New Zealand) The development of reporting forms for reporting ERS data in New Zealand fisheries. Ministry of Fisheries, New Zealand
02. (New Zealand) A guide for the identification of ERS species in New Zealand fisheries. Ministry of Fisheries, New Zealand
03. (New Zealand) The resolution on sharks agreed by the WCPFC in 2006. Delegation of New Zealand
04. (New Zealand) The resolution on seabirds agreed by the WCPFC in 2006. Delegation of New Zealand

    05. (New Zealand) The development of an NPOA - Sharks in New Zealand. Ministry of Fisheries, New Zealand
06. (Australia) Australia's Threat Abatement Plan 2006 for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations
07. (Australia) The implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks – Australia
09. (Japan) Review of the Japanese RTMP observer program in the high sea waters in 2005 fishing year (Masashi Kiyota, Tomoyuki Itoh)

10. (Taiwan) Application of life history strategies in managing sharks, rays and skates (Xio-Zhen DAI and X.L. HUANG, N.Z. SHI, and I-Hsun NI)
11. (ACAP) Outcomes of ACAP's Seabird Bycatch Working Group Meeting (Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels)

(CCSBT-ERS/0707/National Reports)

01. (New Zealand) New Zealand Country Report: Ecologically related species in the New Zealand southern bluefin tuna longline fisheries, 2005 to 2006. Delegation of New Zealand
02. (Australia) Australian Country Report: Ecologically Related Species in the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery.
03. (Japan) National report of Japan: overview of researches on ecologically related species in Japanese SBT longline fishery, 2005
04. (Taiwan) National Report of Taiwan for Ecologically Related Species in 2004-2005 Fisheries Agency of Taiwan
05. (Korea) Annual Report of Korean SBT Longline Fishery, 2005 - 2006

(CCSBT-ERS/0707/Rep)

01. Report of the Third Meeting of Ecologically Related Species Working Group (June 1998)
02. Report of the Fourth Meeting of Ecologically Related Species Working Group (November 2001)
03. Report of the Fifth Meeting of Ecologically Related Species Working Group (February 2004)
04. Report of the Sixth Meeting of Ecologically Related Species Working Group (February 2006)
05. Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Scientific Committee (September 2006)
06. Report of the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2005)
07. Report of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2006)

Attachment 4

Revised Requirement for Member's Annual Report to ERSWG

1. **Introduction**
   General comments on fishing methods by which southern bluefin tuna is caught in party fisheries (by fleet, area, and time).
   General comments on type and magnitude of ERS caught by fishery/method.

2. **Review of SBT Fisheries**
   Fleet size and distribution
   Brief summary of trends
   Distribution of Catch and Effort
   Summary of catch and effort by area and fleet

3. **Fisheries Monitoring for Each Fleet**
   Summary of recent observer coverage of SBT fisheries fleets and summary of data collection activities of observers. Summary of data collection activities from non observed activities.

4. **Seabird**
   Summary of cpue and total numbers of seabird incidentally caught by area and fleet and list of numbers of each seabird species observed caught. Summary of seabird capture from non observed sources.

5. **Other Non-target Fish**
   Summary of cpue and total numbers of shark and the predominant non-target fish species by area and fleet.

6. **Marine Mammal and Marine Reptile**
   Summary of total numbers of marine mammal and marine reptile incidentally caught.

7. **Mitigation Measures to Minimise Seabird and Other Species Bycatch**
   Current Measures
   Mandatory Measures for Each Fleet
   * Description of each measure
   * Compliance Monitoring System (i.e. how is compliance measured)
   * Level of Compliance for each measure

   Voluntary Measures for Each Fleet
   * Description of each measure
   * Proportion of fleet using each measure and how this proportion was determined

   Measures under Development/Testing
   * Description of each measure being developed and tested
   * Lead agency undertaking research
   * Description of any collaboration
   * Results to date

* Planned development/testing for next year
* Expected completion date and report to ERSWG

8. Public Relations and Education Activities

Public Relations Activities

* media releases
* information booklets, posters, other written material
* video
* public presentations
  - trade shows
  - forums, conference
  - school/university group

Education

* crew training, especially ship masters
* trainee fishers
* engineers
* managers
* observers

Information Exchange

* research
* educational materials
* other regional fisheries organisations
* international organisations
* non-member states and entities
* review of new ideas obtained from crew debriefings or ship fishing reports.

9. Information on other ERS (non-bycatch) such as prey and predator species

10. Others

Information obtained concerning ERS related fishing activities of non-party fleets.

11. Implementation of the IPOA-Seabirds and IPOA-Sharks

A description of activities undertaken for the implementation of NPOAs as they relate to SBT fisheries. The emphasis should be on updates and recent activities.

Also note that CCSBT 9 specified that members should provide a summary of papers submitted to the working group meeting in their national report (see paragraph 89 of the CCSBT 9 report)

Attachment 5

A draft ERS recommendation on data collection and provision requirements in CCSBT for discussion at CCSBT-ERS-7

Delegations of Australia and New Zealand

Abstract
Noting the discussions at CCSBT ERS 6 (paragraphs 47 - 50) on the provision of advice to the Commission on ERS data collection and provision in CCSBT fisheries, Australia and New Zealand have further reviewed the draft recommendation developed at that meeting (CCSBT-ERS 6 Attachment 7). The review highlighted some changes that were needed to develop a more effective recommendation. These changes have been strongly endorsed by FAO COFI and UNGA in their work since February 2006. This paper provides rationale for the changes, a revised recommendation for consideration by CCSBT ERS 7 and recommendation to the CCSBT Commission, and documentation of the changes from the ERS 6 resolution.

Introduction

This paper is structured as follows:

- An introduction and general comments (page 1);
- A draft recommendation on ERS data collection and provision requirements in CCSBT for the consideration of ERS 7 (pages 2-7);
- A version of the ERS 6 Attachment 7 recommendation annotated to show the development of the ERS 7 draft recommendation (pages 8-11); and
- A copy of the ERS 6 Attachment 7 (pages 12-15).

We would expect the discussion of this paper to focus on the draft recommendation on ERS data collection and provision requirements in CCSBT (pages y-z). We have provided the background material so that all participants are aware of improvements made to the recommendation from the version discussed at ERS 6.

General Comments

In developing this recommendation, the need for text as preamble to the recommendation was identified. Text is proposed, outlining the clear justification for the draft recommendation.

We have simplified the text in minor ways and introduced formatting changes, with the intention of making the recommendation clearer and easier to read.

We reiterate that in accordance with the CCSBT Convention, which acknowledges the importance of information and data collection related to ecologically related species (ERS) and states that the parties shall provide this to the Commission and cooperate in data collection (Article 5) and that the Commission shall collect and accumulate statistical data relating to ERS (Article 8). These data will be important for the effective implementation of the seabird and shark recommendations.

ERS DATA COLLECTION AND PROVISION REQUIREMENTS FOR CCSBT FISHERIES

The **ERSWG**:

Noting the Terms of Reference of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group

"To provide information and advice on issues relating to species associated with southern bluefin tuna (SBT) (ecologically related species), with specific reference to:

a. Species (both fish and non-fish) which may be affected by SBT fisheries operations
b. Predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock".

In accordance with the CCSBT Convention, which acknowledges the importance of collecting scientific information relating to ecologically related species (ERS) and states that parties shall expeditiously provide to the Commission scientific information, fishing catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation of ERS (Article 5), and that the Commission shall collect and accumulate statistical data relating to ERS (Article 8).

In accordance with the terms of reference for the ERSWG which specifically includes the provision of recommendations on data collection programs with respect to ERS species (TOR 4).

Recognising that data requirements and their importance have been discussed in previous meetings (ERSWG5 Agenda Item 8, paragraph 43) and that it was noted in relation to the assessment of ERS interactions, the ERSWG is yet to achieve the objective of providing the Commission with an estimate of the level of incidental seabird take (ERSWG5 Agenda Item 8, Para. 44).

Recognising that at CCSBT12 there was general agreement on the importance of information on non-target species to aid with interpretation of CPUE data (CCSBT12 Agenda Item 18, Para. 123).

Recognising that at CCSBT12 there was general agreement that if advice on the management of ERS was not forthcoming from the ERSWG then consideration would need to be given as to whether it would be better to discuss ERS issues as part of annual meetings of the Extended Commission rather than as a stand alone group (CCSBT12 Agenda Item 18, Para. 121).

Recognising that at CCSBT13 the ERSWG expressed a commitment to conclude agreements on advice to the CCSBT on data collection and provision for ERS at ERSWG7 (in 2007).

Recalling the agreed Course of Actions for RFMOs from the Kobe meeting of joint tuna RFMOs, January 26, 2007 which included reviewing the performance of tuna RFMOs, implementation of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management including improved data collection on incidental by-catch and non-target species and development of data collection for shark fisheries under the competence of tuna RFMOs.

Noting the UNGA resolution on sustainable fisheries calls upon States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to collect and, where appropriate, report to FAO required catch and effort data, and fishery-related information, in a complete, accurate and timely way, including for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks within and beyond areas under national jurisdiction, discrete high seas fish stocks, and by-catch and discards (OP8).

Further noting the UNGA resolution on sustainable fisheries requests States and regional fisheries management organizations to promote and strengthen data collection programs to obtain standardized information to develop reliable estimates of the bycatch of seabirds and sea turtles (OP62).

Recommends that the Commission adopt the following Recommendations to enter into force from 01 January 2008:

Recommendation ERSWG – 2007-xx

Collection and submission of data on ERS catch and interactions

Recording of ERS in logbooks

1. Catch of all shark and non-fish species, and finfish species of interest to the ERSWG and Commission[1], both retained and non-retained, shall be recorded in the logbooks for each fishing operation[2]. Retained species shall be recorded at the species level, for non-retained species at the lowest taxonomic level that is practical. Catch shall be recorded in numbers and where applicable for retained species, catch weight. The weight should be individual weight or at least total weight (for a given number) and accompanied by details of the type of processing state (e.g. headed and gutted or whole).

2. Interactions[3] with non-retained species, particularly seabirds, marine mammals, marine reptiles and sharks should also be recorded in logbooks.

   Note: All Members of Extended Commission collect data on retained ERS catch in their logbooks to varying levels of species identification. If Members of Extended Commission are to change their logbooks to meet this data requirement it is recognised that this could take some time to implement. Logbooks that reflect these requirements should be in place by December 2009.

Recording of ERS by observers

3. Catch of all shark and non-fish species, and finfish species of interest, both retained and non-retained, shall be recorded by observers for each fishing operation. The

[1] The list is attached as Appendix A.
[2] Fishing operation includes all fishing methods.
[3] An 'interaction' is defined as any physical contact a fishing operation has with any retained or non-retained species. This includes all catching (hooked, netted, entangled) and collisions with an individual of these species.

catch shall be recorded at the species level. Catch shall be recorded in numbers and where possible, catch weight. The weight should be individual weight or at least total weight (for a given number). For retained species, the weight should be accompanied by details of the type of processing state (e.g. headed and gutted or whole).

4. Interactions with non-retained species, particularly seabirds, marine mammals, marine reptiles and sharks shall also be recorded at the species level where possible. Both the setting and hauling of longlines shall be monitored to observe any interactions or catch of non-retained species.

5. Observers shall also describe the use of mitigation methods[4] and record which mitigation methods were used for each fishing operation.

6. Given the need for observers to collect data on target species and ERS, the ERS should be part of hierarchy of data collection (see Appendix B). The mode in which the observer is working shall be recorded for each fishing operation.

7. The hierarchy would ensure that for observed effort, catch (retained and non-retained) of all species, by species, is recorded for each fishery operation (Appendix A).

Provision of ERS logbook data

8. The catch, both retained and non-retained, and interaction data by species (or for non-retained catch at the species level where possible) in 5° x 5° squares for longline and 1° x 1° squares for all other gears, by each calendar month shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type. This shall be matched to SBT catch and effort reporting.

Provision of ERS observer data

9. The catch, both retained and non-retained, and interaction data by species in 5° x 5° grids for longline and 1° x 1° squares for all other gear, by each calendar month shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type. The mode of the observer shall be reported. This shall be matched to SBT catch and effort reporting.

10. The proportion of fishing operations where various mitigation devices or practices were used shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type. This would be summarised by 5° x 5° grids for longline and 1° x 1° squares for all other gears, by each calendar month.

    Note: in instances where the provision of data at this spatial scale would result in breaches of domestic confidentiality agreements (e.g. identification of individual vessel operations), data should be provided at the finest possible scale, but no larger that the level of CCSBT Statistical area. Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission are encouraged to reconsider their domestic obligations regarding confidentiality in light of the CCSBT confidentiality arrangement given the benefits for ERSWG in having these finer scale data for future analysis.

[4] Mitigation methods refers to mitigation devices (e.g. tori lines) and mitigation practices (e.g. night setting, offal discharge).

Logbook and observer data exchange and storage

11. The data shall be provided annually as part of the annual data exchange with the Commission, commencing May 2008. The Secretariat shall develop an appropriate database for the storage of ERS data.

    Note: it is recognised that the time required to provide logbook data and observer data could differ.

Provision of historical data

12. Countries shall report to the Commission on the historical data available for ERS from logbooks, observers and other relevant sources by December 2007. The historical data will be provided to the Commission with the appropriate descriptions (metadata) by December 2008. The data shall include catch by species, or higher taxonomic level where species is not available, in 5° x 5° grids, during each calendar month for each gear type. The catch shall be matched to SBT effort data.

Data access arrangements

13. The access arrangements to the ERS data will be consistent with the Commission's data confidentiality policy.

Appendix A

Species of interest list for ERS data collection by fishers:

Species/Family/Order common name	Scientific name
Blue shark	*Prionace glauca*
Albacore	*Thunnus alalunga*
Ray's bream	*Brama brama*
Porbeagle shark	*Lamna nasus*
Dealfish	*Trachipterus trachypterus*
Lancetfish	*Alepisaurus ferox & A. brevirostris*
Moonfish	*Lampris guttatus*
Oilfish	*Ruvettus pretiosus*
Deepwater dogfish*	Squaliformes
Swordfish	*Xiphias gladius*
Butterfly tuna	*Gasterochisma melampus*
Mako shark	*Isurus oxyrinchus*
Rudderfish	*Centrolophus niger*
Bigeye tuna	*Thunnus obesus*
Yellowfin tuna	*Thunnus albacares*
Striped marlin	*Tetrapturus audax*
Bigscale pomfret	*Taractichthys longipinnis*
Thresher shark	*Alopias vulpinus*
Albatrosses	Diomedeidae
Shearwaters, petrels, and prions	Procellariidae
Storm petrels	Hydrobatidae
Diving petrels	Pelecanoididae
Cormorants	Phalacrocoracidae
Gulls	*Laridae*
Terns	*Sternidae*
Gannets and Boobies	*Sulidae*
Pelicans	*Pelecanidae*
Penguins	*Spheniscidae*
True Seals (e.g. elephant seals)	*Phocidae*
Eared seals (e.g.fur seals and sea lions)	*Otariidae*
Hard-shell sea turtles	*Chelonioidea*
Leatherback sea turtle	*Dermochelyidae*
Snakes	*Hydrophiidae*
Toothed whales & Dolphins	*Order: Cetacea, Suborder Odontoceti*
Baleen whales	*Order: Cetacea Suborder Mysticeti*

Appendix B

Recommended hierarchy for data collection

1. All vessel and shot information should be collected prior to the collection of catch/biological information

During the setting of the line
2. Record all species caught or interacted with.

During the Haul
3. Record all species caught and interacted with, including the number of individuals of each species.
4. Record whether the specimen was retained, landed and discarded or released without landing.
5. Record life status at time of landing and life status at time of release (where applicable).
6. Collect data on length and whole and/or processed weight (including processed state).
7. Check for presence of tags.
8. Record sex.
9. Collect biological samples.
10. Take photos.

Hierarchy for data collection by species for items 6-10 above

Species	Mode (1 is the highest priority)
SBT	1
Sharks, other tunas, billfish.	2
All other species (fish, birds, turtles etc)	3

CCSBT-ERS-6 Report Attachment 7 – ANNOTATED

Draft ERS Data Collection and provision requirements
(for discussion by members at national level)

Rationale

Noting the Terms of Reference of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group

"To provide information and advice on issues relating to species associated with southern bluefin tuna (SBT) (ecologically related species), with specific reference to:

c. Species (both fish and non-fish) which may be affected by SBT fisheries operations
d. Predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock"

In accordance with the CCSBT Convention, which acknowledges the importance of collecting scientific information relating to ecologically related species (ERS) and states that parties shall expeditiously provide to the Commission scientific information, fishing catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation of ERS (Article 5), and that the Commission shall collect and accumulate statistical data relating to ERS (Article 8);

In accordance with the terms of reference for the ERSWG which specifically includes the provision of recommendations on data collection programs with respect to ERS species (TOR 4);

Recognising that data requirements and their importance have been discussed in previous meetings (ERSWG5 Agenda Item 8, paragraph 43) and that it was noted in relation to the assessment of ERS interactions, the ERSWG is yet to achieve the objective of providing the Commission with an estimate of the level of incidental seabird take (ERSWG5 Agenda Item 8, Para. 44);

Recognising that at CCSBT12 there was general agreement on the importance of information on non-target species to aid with interpretation of CPUE data and it was noted that if advice on the management of ERS was not forthcoming from the ERSWG then consideration would need to be given as to whether it would be better to discuss ERS issues as part of annual meetings of the Extended Commission than as a stand alone group (CCSBT12 Agenda Item 18, Para. 121 - 123);

Recommendation ERSWG - XXXX
Collection of data on ERS catch

1. Recording of ERS in logbooks

Catch of (and interactions with) both retained and non-retained species of interest to the ERSWG and Commission[5], shall be recorded in the logbooks for each fishing operation[6]. Catch shall be recorded in numbers and where applicable for retained fish (including sharks), catch weight. The weight should be individual weight or at least total weight (for a given number) and accompanied by a details of the type of processing state (e.g. headed and gutted or whole).

Note: All Members of Extended Commission collect data on retained ERS catch in their logbooks to varying levels of species identification. If Members of Extended Commission are to change their logbooks to meet this data requirement it is recognised that this could take several years.

2. Recording of ERS by observers

Catch of (and interactions with) both retained and non-retained species of interest to the ERSWG and Commission shall be recorded by observers for each fishing operation. The catch shall be recorded at the species level consistent with the existing CCSBT species identification guides[7]. Catch shall be recorded in numbers and where applicable for retained fish (including sharks), catch weight. The weight should be individual weight or at least total weight (for a given number) and accompanied by a details of the type of processing state (e.g. headed and gutted or whole).

Observers will also record the use of mitigation devices or practices for each fishing operation.

Given the need for observers to collect data on target species and ERS, the ERS should be part of hierarchy of data collection (see Appendix A). The mode in which the observer is working shall be recorded for each fishing operation.

The hierarchy would ensure that for observed effort, catch of all species, by species is recorded for each fishery operation (Appendix A). If this is not feasible, an alternative is that for at least one in 10 fishing operations the observer shall only collect information on the catch of all species, including those cut off without being landed. In this case the observer should record whether they are recording all catch for a shot or only catch of particular groups.

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[5] There were differing views about the extent of the list of species of interest. It was noted that this list needs to be developed and could change over time and desired taxonomic level of recording of these species may differ between logbook and observer recorded data

[6] Fishing operations includes all fishing methods including farming operations

[7] These id guides may need to be improved, this should be discussed with observers and fishers

Recommendation ERSWG - XXXX
Provision of ERS data to the Commission

1. Provision of ERS logbook data
The catch and interactions by species (or taxonomic group) in 5° x 5° squares for longline and 1° x 1° squares for all other gears, by each calendar month shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type. This shall be matched to SBT catch and effort reporting.

2. Provision of ERS observer data
The catch and interactions by species in 5° x 5° grids for longline and 1° x 1° squares for all other gears, by each calendar month shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type. The mode of the observer shall be reported. This shall be matched to SBT catch and effort reporting.

Proportion of fishing operations where various mitigation devices or practices were used. This would be summarised by 5° x 5° grids for longline and 1° x 1° squares for all other gears, by each calendar month shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type.

Note: in instances where the provision of data at this spatial scale would result in breaches of domestic confidentiality agreements (e.g. identification of individual vessel operations), data should be provided at the finest possible scale, but no larger that the level of CCSBT Statistical area. Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission were encouraged to consider their domestic obligations regarding confidentiality in light of the CCSBT arrangement regarding confidentiality given the benefits of the ERSWG having these finer scale data for future analysis.

3. Logbook and observer data exchange and storage
The data shall be provided as part of the annual data exchange commencing within a timeframe to allow the ERSWG to begin analysing available data in preparation for its next meeting. The Secretariat shall develop an appropriate database for the storage of ERS data.

Note: it is recognised that the time required to provide logbook data and observer data could differ. Available historical data will also be provided.

**

4. Data access arrangements
The access arrangements to the ERS data will be consistent with the Commission's data confidentiality policy.

Appendix A
Recommended hierarchy for data collection

1. All vessel and shot information should be collected prior to the collection of catch/biological information

During the Haul

2. Record all species caught
3. Record whether the specimen was retained, landed and discarded or released without landing.
4. Record life status at time of landing and life status at time of release (where applicable)
5. Collect data on length and whole and/or processed weight (including processed state)
6. Check for presence of tags
7. Record sex
8. Collect biological samples
9. Take photos

Hierarchy for data collection by species for items 5-9 above

Species	Mode (1 is the highest priority)
SBT	1
Sharks, Other tunas, billfishes, *Gasterochisma*	2
All other species (fish, birds, turtles etc)	3

Example of a Species List for fish (including sharks).

Species common name	**Scientific name**
Blue shark	*Prionace glauca*
Albacore	*Thunnus alalunga*
Ray's bream	*Brama brama*
Porbeagle shark	*Lamna nasus*
Dealfish	*Trachipterus trachypterus*
Lancetfish	*Alepisaurus ferox* & *A. brevirostris*
Moonfish	*Lampris guttatus*
Oilfish	*Ruvettus pretiosus*
Deepwater dogfish*	Squaliformes
Swordfish	*Xiphias gladius*
Butterfly tuna	*Gasterochisma melampus*
Mako shark	*Isurus oxyrinchus*
Rudderfish	*Centrolophus niger*
Bigeye tuna	*Thunnus obesus*
Yellowfin tuna	*Thunnus albacares*
Striped marlin	*Tetrapturus audax*
Bigscale pomfret	*Taractichthys longipinnis*
Thresher shark	*Alopias vulpinus*

CCSBT-ERS-6 Report Attachment 7 - ORIGINAL

Draft ERS Data Collection and provision requirements
(for discussion by members at national level)

Rationale

Noting the Terms of Reference of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group

"To provide information and advice on issues relating to species associated with southern bluefin tuna (SBT) (ecologically related species), with specific reference to:

e. Species (both fish and non-fish) which may be affected by SBT fisheries operations
f. Predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock"

In accordance with the CCSBT Convention, which acknowledges the importance of collecting scientific information relating to ecologically related species (ERS) and states that parties shall expeditiously provide to the Commission scientific information, fishing catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation of ERS (Article 5), and that the Commission shall collect and accumulate statistical data relating to ERS (Article 8);

In accordance with the terms of reference for the ERSWG which specifically includes the provision of recommendations on data collection programs with respect to ERS species (TOR 4);

Recognising that data requirements and their importance have been discussed in previous meetings (ERSWG5 Agenda Item 8, paragraph 43) and that it was noted in relation to the assessment of ERS interactions, the ERSWG is yet to achieve the objective of providing the Commission with an estimate of the level of incidental seabird take (ERSWG5 Agenda Item 8, Para. 44);

Recognising that at CCSBT12 there was general agreement on the importance of information on non-target species to aid with interpretation of CPUE data and it was noted that if advice on the management of ERS was not forthcoming from the ERSWG then consideration would need to be given as to whether it would be better to discuss ERS issues as part of annual meetings of the Extended Commission than as a stand alone group (CCSBT12 Agenda Item 18, Para. 121 - 123);

Recommendation ERSWG - XXXX
Collection of data on ERS catch

3. Recording of ERS in logbooks

Catch of (and interactions with) both retained and non-retained species of interest to the ERSWG and Commission[8], shall be recorded in the logbooks for each fishing operation[9]. Catch shall be recorded in numbers and where applicable for retained fish (including sharks), catch weight. The weight should be individual weight or at least total weight (for a given number) and accompanied by a details of the type of processing state (e.g. headed and gutted or whole).

Note: All Members of Extended Commission collect data on retained ERS catch in their logbooks to varying levels of species identification. If Members of Extended Commission are to change their logbooks to meet this data requirement it is recognised that this could take several years.

4. Recording of ERS by observers

Catch of (and interactions with) both retained and non-retained species of interest to the ERSWG and Commission shall be recorded by observers for each fishing operation. The catch shall be recorded at the species level consistent with the existing CCSBT species identification guides[10]. Catch shall be recorded in numbers and where applicable for retained fish (including sharks), catch weight. The weight should be individual weight or at least total weight (for a given number) and accompanied by a details of the type of processing state (e.g. headed and gutted or whole).

Observers will also record the use of mitigation devices or practices for each fishing operation.

Given the need for observers to collect data on target species and ERS, the ERS should be part of hierarchy of data collection (see Appendix A). The mode in which the observer is working shall be recorded for each fishing operation.

The hierarchy would ensure that for observed effort, catch of all species, by species is recorded for each fishery operation (Appendix A). If this is not feasible, an alternative is that for at least one in 10 fishing operations the observer shall only collect information on the catch of all species, including those cut off without being landed. In this case the observer should record whether they are recording all catch for a shot or only catch of particular groups.

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[8] There were differing views about the extent of the list of species of interest. It was noted that this list needs to be developed and could change over time and desired taxonomic level of recording of these species may differ between logbook and observer recorded data

[9] Fishing operations includes all fishing methods including farming operations

[10] These id guides may need to be improved, this should be discussed with observers and fishers

Recommendation ERSWG - XXXX
Provision of ERS data to the Commission

1. Provision of ERS logbook data
The catch and interactions by species (or taxonomic group) in 5° x 5° squares for longline and 1° x 1° squares for all other gears, by each calendar month shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type. This shall be matched to SBT catch and effort reporting.

2. Provision of ERS observer data
The catch and interactions by species in 5° x 5° grids for longline and 1° x 1° squares for all other gears, by each calendar month shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type. The mode of the observer shall be reported. This shall be matched to SBT catch and effort reporting.

Proportion of fishing operations where various mitigation devices or practices were used. This would be summarised by 5° x 5° grids for longline and 1° x 1° squares for all other gears, by each calendar month shall be provided to the Commission for each gear type.

Note: in instances where the provision of data at this spatial scale would result in breaches of domestic confidentiality agreements (e.g. identification of individual vessel operations), data should be provided at the finest possible scale, but no larger that the level of CCSBT Statistical area. Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission were encouraged to consider their domestic obligations regarding confidentiality in light of the CCSBT arrangement regarding confidentiality given the benefits of the ERSWG having these finer scale data for future analysis.

3. Logbook and observer data exchange and storage
The data shall be provided as part of the annual data exchange commencing within a timeframe to allow the ERSWG to begin analysing available data in preparation for its next meeting. The Secretariat shall develop an appropriate database for the storage of ERS data.

Note: it is recognised that the time required to provide logbook data and observer data could differ. Available historical data will also be provided.

5. Data access arrangements
The access arrangements to the ERS data will be consistent with the Commission's data confidentiality policy.

Appendix A
Recommended hierarchy for data collection

10. All vessel and shot information should be collected prior to the collection of catch/biological information

During the Haul

11. Record all species caught
12. Record whether the specimen was retained, landed and discarded or released without landing.
13. Record life status at time of landing and life status at time of release (where applicable)
14. Collect data on length and whole and/or processed weight (including processed state)
15. Check for presence of tags
16. Record sex
17. Collect biological samples
18. Take photos

Hierarchy for data collection by species for items 5-9 above

Species	Mode (1 is the highest priority)
SBT	1
Sharks, Other tunas, billfishes, *Gasterochisma*	2
All other species (fish, birds, turtles etc)	3

Example of a Species List for fish (including sharks).

Species common name	**Scientific name**
Blue shark	*Prionace glauca*
Albacore	*Thunnus alalunga*
Ray's bream	*Brama brama*
Porbeagle shark	*Lamna nasus*
Dealfish	*Trachipterus trachypterus*
Lancetfish	*Alepisaurus ferox* & *A. brevirostris*
Moonfish	*Lampris guttatus*
Oilfish	*Ruvettus pretiosus*
Deepwater dogfish*	Squaliformes
Swordfish	*Xiphias gladius*
Butterfly tuna	*Gasterochisma melampus*
Mako shark	*Isurus oxyrinchus*
Rudderfish	*Centrolophus niger*
Bigeye tuna	*Thunnus obesus*
Yellowfin tuna	*Thunnus albacares*
Striped marlin	*Tetrapturus audax*
Bigscale pomfret	*Taractichthys longipinnis*
Thresher shark	*Alopias vulpinus*

Attachment 6

Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on interactions between ecologically related species with surface fisheries including SBT farming activities
生態学的関連種と表層漁業（ミナミマグロ蓄養を含む）の相互作業に関する拡大委員会への勧告案

(Proposal from Japan)
（日本提案）

The Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission:
拡大委員会のメンバー及び協力的非加盟国は、

(Information collection)情報の収集

1. collect information on stomach contents of juvenile SBT, especially from the SBT which die during purse seine catch.ミナミマグロ若齢魚、特にまき網による漁獲時に死亡したミナミマグロの胃容物の情報を収集する

2. collect information, in number and quantity, on bycatch of ERS (ecologically related species) in purse seine fisheries まき網漁業における ERS（生態学的関連種）の混獲について、数量及び重量で、情報を収集する

3. Collect information on interactions between ecologically related species (especially sharks and seabirds) and SBT farming.ミナミマグロ蓄養と生態学的関連種（特にサメ及び海鳥）との相互作用に関する情報を収集する

4. Collect information on impacts of SBT farming (i.e. faeces and uneaten feed) on benthic animals. ミナミマグロ蓄養（例：糞及び残餌）が底性動物に与える影響に関する情報を収集する

5. Collect information on digestive rates of SBT and relationship between prey species and growth of SBT.ミナミマグロの消化率及び、餌生物とミナミマグロの成長の関係に関する情報を収集する

(Information provision)情報の提供

1. Provide the above-mentioned information to the ERS working Group through the Extended Commission in appropriate format.上述した情報を、拡大委員会を通じ、ERS 作業部会へ適当な様式で、提供する

Attachment 7

A draft ERS WG recommendation on measures to reduce seabird bycatch in CCSBT for discussion at CCSBT-ERS-7

Delegations of Australia and New Zealand

Abstract

Noting the discussions at CCSBT ERS 6 (paragraph 50 of the meeting report) on measures to reduce seabird bycatch in CCSBT fisheries, Australia and New Zealand have further reviewed the draft recommendation developed at that meeting (CCSBT-ERS 6 Attachment 8a). The review highlighted several changes that were needed to develop an effective recommendation. These changes have been strongly endorsed by FAO COFI and UNGA in their work since February 2006. This paper provides rationale for the changes, a revised recommendation for consideration by CCSBT ERS 7 and recommendation to the CCSBT Extended Commission, and documentation of the changes from the ERS 6 resolution.

Introduction

This proposal recognises the CCSBT5 request to the ERS4 to provide specific advice about how the CCSBT might fulfil the FAO call for regional fisheries management bodies to cooperate in the implementation of the IPOA-SEABIRDS and is in accordance with the commitment expressed by the ERS at CCSBT13 to conclude agreements on advice to the CCSBT Extended Commission on reducing incidental seabird catch at ERS7 (in 2007).

This paper is structured as follows:

- An introduction and general comments (pages 1 - 2);
- A draft recommendation on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in CCSBT longline fisheries for the consideration of ERS 7 (pages 3 – 6);
- A version of the ERS 6 Attachment 8a recommendation annotated with comments to show the development of the ERS 7 draft recommendation (pages 7 – 8); and
- A copy of the ERS 6 Attachment 8a (pages 9 – 10).

We would expect the discussion of this paper to focus on the draft recommendation on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in CCSBT longline fisheries (pages 3 – 5). We have provided the background material so that all participants are aware of improvements made to the recommendation from the version discussed at ERS 6.

General Comments

In developing this recommendation, the need for text as preamble to the recommendation was identified. Text is proposed, outlining the clear justification for the draft recommendation.

It is recognised that considerable progress has been made by other RFMOs in developing Resolutions or Conservation and Management Measures since February 2006. In particular, the FAO IPOA-Seabirds emphasises the need for effective mitigation measures with proven performance to be taken up, and for multiple measures to be adopted depending on the fishing situation.

Further, the recognition of the utility of multiple measures in latitudes south of the equator was recognised in 2006 when the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission adopted Conservation and Management Measure 2006-02 (CCSBT-ERS/0707/Info-04). Key concepts from that measure are carried through into the proposed text of this recommendation.

In other international agreements, there has been recognition of the need to put in place measures to reduce seabird bycatch in longline fisheries. Examples include the recent UNGA Sustainable Fisheries resolution, the report of the recent FAO-COFI meeting, and the Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs in Kobe, Japan in 2007 recognised the need for urgency in establishing effective measures and data collection systems for minimising adverse effects of fishing mortality on seabirds, and the need to implement and monitor best practice in tuna longline fisheries.

We have simplified the text in minor ways and introduced formatting changes, with the intention of making the recommendation clearer and easier to read.

We have separated the data provision requirements from this recommendation and addressed them in a separate data resolution. However we reiterate that in accordance with the CCSBT Convention, which acknowledges the importance of information and data collection related to ecologically related species (ERS) and states that the parties shall provide this to the Commission and cooperate in data collection (Article 5) and that the Commission shall collect and accumulate statistical data relating to ERS (Article 8). These data will be important for the effective implementation of this seabird recommendation.

We suggest three changes of substance to the recommendation, to reflect the urgency for results and to provide consistency with what other regional fishery organisations are currently putting into place as best practice:

1. A requirement of at least two mitigation measures;
2. A timeline for implementation of analysis and data review; and
3. A timeline for review of the effectiveness of the recommendation.

This recommendation would replace the agreement at CCSBT-4 (CCSBT-4 Attachment U).

REDUCING INCIDENTAL BYCATCH OF SEABIRDS IN CCSBT LONGLINE FISHERIES

The **ERSWG**:

Noting the Terms of Reference of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group:
"To provide information and advice on issues relating to species associated with southern bluefin tuna (SBT) (ecologically related species), with specific reference to:

a) Species (both fish and non-fish) which may be affected by SBT fisheries operations;
b) Predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock.

Further noting in the Terms of Reference of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group, with respect to species identified in a) above, "to monitor trends and review existing information and relevant research, including but not limited to studies on:

a) The population biology of ecologically related species;
b) The identification of factors affecting populations of ecologically related species;
c) The assessment of the SBT and other fisheries effects on ecologically related species and of the proportion of the SBT and other fisheries effects to the overall effects;
d) Modification to gear and operational aspects of the SBT fishery to minimise the effects on ecologically related species.

Recognising the importance of SBT habitat to albatrosses and petrels and the globally threatened status of many albatross and petrel species.

Recalling that CCSBT 4 agreed measures to mitigate seabird bycatch, including the use of tori lines and through the use of education.

Recognising that Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Conservation and Management Measure 2006-02 requires more than one mitigation measure to be implemented at any time in fishery areas below 30 degrees south.

Noting that CCSBT-ERS 5 reported that the use of multiple mitigation measures was the most effective mode of mitigating seabird mortalities in pelagic longline fisheries *(Paragraphs 20, 33, 41).*

Recognising that New Zealand has increased its requirement for pelagic longline fisheries to use two mitigation measures when fishing in the New Zealand Economic Zone at all times, including mandatory use of tori lines and night setting.

Emphasising the concern expressed in the 2006 UNGA Resolution on sustainable fisheries over reports of continued losses of seabirds, particularly albatrosses and petrels as a result of incidental mortality in fishing operations, particularly longline fishing.

Noting the 2006 UNGA Sustainable Fisheries Resolution requests States and regional fisheries management organizations to urgently implement, as appropriate, the measures recommended in the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries in order to prevent the decline of seabird

populations by reducing bycatch and increasing post-release survival in their fisheries, including through research and development of gear and bait alternatives, promoting the use of available bycatch mitigation technology, and promotion and strengthening of data collection programs to obtain standardized information to develop reliable estimates of the bycatch of these species (OP62).

Recalling the agreed Course of Actions for RFMOs from the Kobe meeting of joint tuna RFMOs, January 26, 2007 which included reviewing the performance of tuna RFMOs, implementation of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management including improved data collection on incidental by-catch and non-target species and establishment of measures to minimize the adverse effect of fishing for highly migratory fish species on ecologically related species, particularly seabirds, taking into account the characteristics of each ecosystem and technologies used to minimize adverse effect.

Noting the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) agreed in 2007 that the FAO, in collaboration with Birdlife International and other relevant organisations should develop best practice guidelines to assist RFMOs and flag States in the implementation of National Plans of Action – Seabirds.

Further noting that the FAO IPOA-Seabirds indicates that States implementing NPOA-SEABIRDS should prescribe appropriate mitigation methods, where assessment indicates that a seabird mortality problem occurs in their fisheries, "These measures should have a proven efficiency … it is likely that each State will find it advantageous to implement a number of different measures that reflect the need and particular circumstances of their specific longline fishery.".

Noting that the ultimate aim of the CCSBT and the Members and Cooperating Non-members is to achieve a near zero bycatch of seabirds, especially threatened albatross and petrel species in longline fisheries.

Recommends that the Commission adopt the following Recommendation to enter into force from 01 January 2008:

Recommendation ERSWG – 2007 - XX

Reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds

Goal

1. The Extended Commission agrees to the goal of significantly reducing seabird mortality by either continual substantive annual reductions in the level of seabird bycatch or substantive reductions in bycatch rates over intermediate time steps.

IPOA – Seabirds

2. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission shall implement the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries and provide progress reports to the Commission, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries.

Information

3. Data on seabird interactions and mortalities and seabird bycatch mitigation measures in use shall be collected by observers and in logbooks and reported annually to CCSBT by Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission in accordance with the standards and specifications outlined in the agreed data collection and provision recommendation (Recommendation ERSWG – XXXX)].

Bycatch Mitigation Measures

4. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission shall require their longline vessels in areas south of 30°S to use tori lines. Further the Commission requests non parties to adopt mandatory use of tori lines in all longline SBT fisheries south of 30°S. Guidelines for the design and deployment of tori lines adopted by the Commission are provided in CCSBT-5 (Attachment 30).

5. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission shall encourage their vessels operating in all longline SBT fisheries to:
   a) use a tori line in areas not covered by 4 above at times of high bird abundance or activity; and
   b) carry back up tori lines, or materials necessary to make one, ready for immediate use.

6. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission shall encourage their vessels to undertake offal management to minimise offal discarding (including used bait, discards, fish waste) and eliminate the discharge of offal during line setting and hauling.

7. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission shall ensure that two or more measures that are effective in mitigating seabird bycatch are used in pelagic longline fishing operations below 30°S. In addition to the use of a tori line, fishermen shall use:

   a) Night setting (longlines to be set after nautical dusk and before nautical dawn and with minimum deck lighting, noting requirements for safety and navigation); or

   b) Line weighting (to enable the bait to be rapidly taken below the reach of most seabirds the minimum weighting regime is not less than 45 grams weight attached to all branch lines and if less than 60 grams weight it must be within 1 meter of the hook, if greater than 60 grams and less than 98 grams it must be within 3.5 meters of the hook, and if greater than 98 grams it must be within 4 meters of the hook); or

   c) A second tori line, with the design conforming to the Guidelines adopted by the Commission at CCSBT-5 (Attachment 30).

8. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission shall take steps to ensure that seabirds captured alive during longlining are released alive and

in as good condition as possible and that wherever possible hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird concerned.

9. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission shall as of 1 January 2008 initiate a process to ensure that vessels flying their flag are able to comply with the provisions of paragraphs 3 to 8.

Research

10. The Extended Commission should continue to encourage Members and Cooperating Non-Members to undertake research into new mitigation measures and their effectiveness.

Review

11. The Extended Commission encourages Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission to develop a seabird bycatch mitigation best practice guide for their SBT fleets, and audit implementation through the collection of observer information.

12. The Commission requests ERS to undertake biennial assessment, or more frequently where required, of bycatch data to estimate seabird mortality in all SBT longline fisheries and facilitate spatial and temporal management of seabird-fishery interactions in the SBT fishery, with the first assessment to be completed by August 2008.

13. The Commission requests ERS to undertake biennial review, or more frequently where required, of any new information on new or existing mitigation measures and where necessary provide the Commission with an updated suite of mitigation measures, specifications for mitigation measures, or recommendations for areas of application.

CCSBT-ERS-6 Report Attachment 8a - ANNOTATED

Reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in CCSBT longline fisheries

Rationale

Draft recommendations on reducing seabird bycatch were considered by the ERSWG6, and all parties agreed that the following recommendations would be made to the Commission:

Recommendation ERSWG – XXXX
Reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds

1. **[[The Extended Commission agree to a goal for the reduction of seabird mortality:**
All parties are
to reduce seabird bycatch mortality, to less than 0.05 birds/1000 hooks in all fishing areas (defined at a statistical reporting area spatial scale), seasons or fisheries within five years; following the achievement of this level, parties will
OR

- **seek tTo achieve a continual improvent reduction in the level of seabird bycatch.]]**

2. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission[should develop and implement NPOAs, and provide progress reports to CCSBT on their implementation.

3. Until such time that agreement is reached on specifications for the collection and provision of ERS data to the Extended Commission, Ddata on seabird interactions shall should be collected by observers [and in logbooks] and reported to CCSBT by CCSBT statistical area and quarter.

as agreed in the data collection and provision recommendation (ERSWG – XXXX)];

[Until such time that agreement is reached on specifications for the collection and provision of ERS data to the Extended Commission, data on numbers of species specific seabird catches and interactions (e.g. entanglements and deck strikes) and the use of mitigation devices or practices shall be collected by observers at the level of fishery operation. These data shall be provided to the Extended Commission by CCSBT statistical area for all gears, by each quarter including available historic data.

4. **[As agreed at CCSBT-4 (Attachment U), CCSBT "requires mandatory use by all Commission parties of Tori poles in all long-line SBT fisheries *below 30 degrees south" and "requests non parties to adopt mandatory use of Tori poles* in all long-line**

SBT fisheries ***below 30 degrees south". Guidelines for the design and deployment of tori lines adopted by the Commission are provided in CCSBT-5 (Attachment 30).***

5. That vessels operating in all longline SBT fisheries:

- be encouraged to use a second tori pole at time of high bird abundance or activity;
- Carry back up Tori lines, or materials necessary to make one, ready for immediate use

~~5~~6. New para on offal management

~~7~~6. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission ~~parties~~ shall ensure that one or more measures that are effective in mitigating seabird bycatch are in use in pelagic longline fishing operations below 30 degrees south. If required, in addition to the use of Tori poles, fishermen may choose one or more effective measures depending on the area and / or fishing conditions. ~~P~~Possible options include, but are not limited to:

- Night setting (longlines are to be set after nautical dusk and before nautical dawn);
- Line weighting (enable the bait to be rapidly taken below the reach of most seabirds) ;
- Bait thawing (baits should be thawed baits prior to deployment on hooks);
- Avoid offal (including old bait, discards, fish waste) discharge during line setting and hauling.

8. New para on live release of seabirds

9. New para on implementation of mitigation

10~~7~~. CCSBT should continue to encourage Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission to undertake research into new mitigation measures and their effectiveness.

11~~8~~. The Extended Commission encourage Members and Cooperating Non-members of the Extended Commission to develop a best practice guide for their SBT fleets, and audit implementation through the collection of observer information.

12 & 13~~9~~. Biennial assessment of bycatch data and risk assessment to facilitate spatial and temporal management of seabird-fishery interactions in the SBT fishery.

CCSBT-ERS-6 Report Attachment 8a - ORIGINAL

Reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in CCSBT longline fisheries

Rationale

Draft recommendations on reducing seabird bycatch were considered by the ERSWG6, and all parties agreed that the following recommendations would be made to the Commission:

Recommendation ERSWG – XXXX
Reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds

1. **[[The Extended Commission agree to a goal for the reduction of seabird mortality:**
All parties are

- ***to reduce seabird bycatch mortality, to less than 0.05 birds/1000 hooks in all fishing areas (defined at a statistical reporting area spatial scale), seasons or fisheries within five years*; ~~following the achievement of this level, parties will~~**

OR

- **~~seek t~~To achieve a continual ~~improvent~~ reduction in the level of seabird bycatch.]]**

2. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission~~]~~ should develop and implement NPOAs, and provide progress reports to CCSBT on their implementation.

3. Until such time that agreement is reached on specifications for the collection and provision of ERS data to the Extended Commission, ~~D~~data on seabird interactions ~~shall~~ should be collected by observers ~~[and in logbooks]~~ and reported to CCSBT by CCSBT statistical area and quarter.

~~as agreed in the data collection and provision recommendation (ERSWG – XXXX)~~];

[Until such time that agreement is reached on specifications for the collection and provision of ERS data to the Extended Commission, data on numbers of species-specific seabird catches and interactions (e.g. entanglements and deck strikes) and the use of mitigation devices or practices shall be collected by observers at the level of fishery operation. These data shall be provided to the Extended Commission by CCSBT statistical area for all gears, by each quarter including available historic data.

4. **[As agreed at CCSBT-4 (Attachment U), CCSBT "requires mandatory use by all Commission parties of Tori poles in all long-line SBT fisheries *below 30 degrees south" and "requests non parties to adopt mandatory use of Tori poles* in all long-line**

SBT fisheries ***below 30 degrees south". Guidelines for the design and deployment of tori lines adopted by the Commission are provided in CCSBT-5 (Attachment 30).***

5. That vessels operating in all longline SBT fisheries:

- be encouraged to use a second tori pole at time of high bird abundance or activity;
- Carry back up Tori lines, or materials necessary to make one, ready for immediate use

~~5~~6. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission ~~parties~~ shall ensure that one or more measures that are effective in mitigating seabird bycatch are in use in pelagic longline fishing operations below 30 degrees south. If required, in addition to the use of Tori poles, fishermen may choose one or more effective measures depending on the area and / or fishing conditions. ~~P~~Possible options- include, but are not limited to:

- Night setting (longlines are to be set after nautical dusk and before nautical dawn);
- Line weighting (enable the bait to be rapidly taken below the reach of most seabirds) ;
- Bait thawing (baits should be thawed baits prior to deployment on hooks);
- Avoid offal (including old bait, discards, fish waste) discharge during line setting and hauling.

7. CCSBT should continue to encourage Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission to undertake research into new mitigation measures and their effectiveness.

8. The Extended Commission encourage Members and Cooperating Non-members of the Extended Commission to develop a best practice guide for their SBT fleets, and audit implementation through the collection of observer information.

9. Biennial assessment of bycatch data and risk assessment to facilitate spatial and temporal management of seabird-fishery interactions in the SBT fishery.

Attachment 8

Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on seabirds
(Proposal from Japan)
海鳥に関する拡大委員会への勧告案
（日本提案）

The Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission:
拡大委員会のメンバー及び協力的非加盟国は、

1. cooperate with the other tuna-RFMOs on the following basis:以下の基準により、他のマグロ地域漁業管理機関と協力する
- for such vessels fishing in the IOTC Area, in accordance with IOTC Resolution 06/04 (Resolution on incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries); ＩＯＴＣ水域で漁業を行う船については、ＩＯＴＣ決議 06/04 に従って、
- for such vessels fishing in the WCPFC Area, in accordance with WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2006-02 (Conservation and management measure to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds); ＷＣＰＦＣ水域で漁業を行う船については、ＷＣＰＦＣ保存管理措置 2006-02 に従って、
- for such vessels fishing in the IATTC Area, in accordance with IATTC Resolution C-05-01 (Resolution on incidental mortality of seabirds) and IATTC 水域で漁業を行う船については、IATTC 決議 C-05-01 に従って、及び
- for such vessels fishing in the ICCAT Area, in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 02-14 (resolution by ICCAT on incidental mortality of seabirds). ＩＣＣＡＴ水域で漁業を行う船については、ＩＣＣＡＴ勧告 02-14 に従って、

2. be encouraged to undertake research into new mitigation measures and their effectiveness.
新たな混獲回避措置及びその実用性の研究することが奨励される

3. be encouraged to conduct research on population dynamics of seabird breeding colonies to access reproductive parameters and negative impacts affecting breeding colonies.
再生産パラメータ及び繁殖コロニーへの悪影響の査定するために、海鳥繁殖コロニーにおける個体群動向の調査を行うことを奨励する

4. be encouraged to reduce negative impacts on seabird breeding colonies and to conduct colony enhancement activities.
繁殖コロニーでの悪影響の削減及び、コロニー増殖活動を行うことを奨励する

5. exchange information on the above-mentioned research and enhancement activities of seabirds on breeding colonies.
繁殖地における上記調査及び増殖活動に関する情報を交換する

6. develop and implement NPOA-SEABIRDS (National Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries) and provide CCSBT with information on their implementation.
海鳥国内行動計画の作成及び実施し、並びに、実施状況に関する情報をＣＣＳＢＴへ提供する

Attachment 9

A draft ERS recommendation on measures to ensure the conservation and management and sustainable use of sharks taken in SBT fisheries for discussion at CCSBT-ERS 7

Delegations of Australia and New Zealand

Abstract

Noting the discussions at CCSBT ERS 6 (paragraph 50 of the meeting report) on measures to ensure the conservation and management and sustainable use of sharks taken in SBT fisheries, Australia and New Zealand have further reviewed the draft recommendation developed at that meeting (CCSBT-ERS 6 Attachment 8b). The review highlighted several changes that were needed to develop an effective recommendation. This paper provides rationale for the changes, a revised recommendation for consideration by CCSBT ERS 7 and recommendation to the CCSBT and documentation of the changes from the ERS 6 resolution.

Introduction

This proposal recognises the direction in the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-SHARKS) that States should implement a national programme for conservation and management of shark stocks if their vessels conduct directed fisheries for sharks or if their vessels regularly catch sharks in non-directed fisheries. A number of shark species are routinely taken during fishing for SBT.

The IPOA-Sharks further directs that data collected by States should, where appropriate, be made available to, and discussed within the framework of, relevant subregional and regional fisheries organizations and FAO. International collaboration on data collection and data sharing systems for stock assessments is particularly important in relation to transboundary, straddling, highly migratory and high seas shark stocks.

This proposal is prepared to facilitate the commitment expressed by the ERS 6 to conclude agreements on the advice to the CCSBT on conservation and sustainable utilisation of shark bycatch at ERS 7 (para 50 of ERS 6 Meeting Report).

Members should note further that the status of highly migratory sharks is to be considered at a meeting of parties to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals in December 2007. Continued inaction by tuna RFMOs on the issue of highly migratory shark species can not be sustained.

This paper is structured as follows:

- An introduction and general comments (pages 1 - 2);

- A draft recommendation on conservation and sustainable utilisation of sharks taken as bycatch SBT fisheries for the consideration of ERS 7 (pages 3 – 5);and

- A copy of the ERS 6 Attachment 8b (page 6).

We would expect the discussion of this paper to focus on the draft recommendation on the conservation and sustainable utilisation of shark bycatch in SBT fisheries (pages 3 – 4). We have provided the background material so that all participants are aware of changes made to the recommendation from the version discussed at ERSWG 6.

General Comments

In developing this recommendation, the need for text as preamble to the recommendation was identified. Text is proposed, outlining the clear justification for the draft recommendation.

It is recognised that considerable progress has been made by other RFMOs in developing Resolutions or Conservation and Management Measures since February 2006. In particular, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission adopted a binding conservation measure in December 2006 and the joint Tuna RFMO meeting in Kobe (January 2007) confirmed the need for RFMOs to cooperate to address bycatch issues associated with their target fisheries.

We have simplified the text in minor ways and introduced formatting changes, with the intention of making the recommendation clearer and easier to read.

We have separated the data provision requirements from this recommendation and addressed them in a separate data resolution. However we reiterate that in accordance with the CCSBT Convention, which acknowledges the importance of information and data collection related to ecologically related species (ERS) and states that the parties shall provide this to the Commission and cooperate in data collection (Article 5) and that the Commission shall collect and accumulate statistical data relating to ERS (Article 8). These data will be important for the effective implementation of this shark recommendation.

With the exception of additional preamble and wording changes to improve the resolution, we suggest changes of substance to the recommendation, considered by ERS 6 as follows:

1. Recommendations relating to the collection and exchange of shark bycatch data have been deleted subject to the agreement on a general data collection and exchange resolution;
2. Requirements to ensure full utilization of retained shark species.

Resolution on the conservation and sustainable use of sharks taken in SBT fisheries

In accordance with the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, which acknowledges the importance of information and data collection related to ecologically related species (ERS) and states that the parties shall provide this to the Commission and cooperate in data collection (Article 5) and that the Commission shall collect and accumulate statistical data relating to ERS (Article 8);

In accordance with the ERSWG terms of reference, the ERSWG shall provide:

- Information and advice on issues relating to species associated with SBT, with specific reference to species (both fish and non-fish) which may be affected by SBT fisheries operations (TOR 2a);
- Advice on measures to minimise fishery effects on ERS, including but not limited to gear and operational modifications (TOR 5); and
- Advice on other measures which may enhance the conservation and management of ERS (TOR 6);

Recognising the FAO International Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-SHARKS) with the objective to ensure the conservation and management of sharks and their long-term sustainable use, including: minimizing unutilized incidental catches of sharks and encouraging full use of dead sharks. The IPOA-SHARKS recommends that:

- States should implement a National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Shark-plan) if their vessels conduct directed fisheries for sharks or if their vessels regularly catch sharks in non-directed fisheries.
- Data collected by States should, where appropriate, be made available to, and discussed within the framework of, relevant subregional and regional fisheries organizations and FAO.
- Where transboundary, straddling, highly migratory and high seas stocks of sharks are exploited by two or more States, the States concerned should strive to ensure effective conservation and management of the stocks.

Recognising that certain species of sharks, such as great white shark, whale shark and basking shark, have been listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and the Convention on the Conservation o f Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);

Acknowledging that Members and Cooperating Non-members are engaged in the preparation and implementation of national Shark-plans, with Shark-plans compiled to date for Japan and Australia;

In accordance with the CCSBT5 request to the ERS 4 to provide specific advice about how the CCSBT might fulfil the FAO call for regional fisheries management bodies to cooperate in the implementation of the IPOA-SHARKS. Also in accordance with the commitment expressed by the ERS 6 at CCSBT13 to conclude agreements on the advice to the CCSBT on reducing incidental seabird catch, conservation and sustainable utilisation of sharks and data collection and provision for ERS at ERS 7 (in 2007);

Recalling the agreed Course of Actions for RFMOs from the Kobe meeting of joint tuna RFMOs, January 26, 2007 which included:

- Reviewing the performance of tuna RFMOs.
- Implementation of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management including improved data collection on incidental by-catch and non-target species and establishment of measures to minimize the adverse effect of fishing for highly migratory fish species on ecologically related species, particularly sea turtles, seabirds and sharks, taking into account the characteristics of each ecosystem and technologies used to minimize adverse effect.
- Development of data collection, stock assessment and appropriate management of shark fisheries under the competence of tuna RFMO.

Recommends that the Commission adopt the following Recommendation to enter into force from 01 January 2008:

Recommendation ERSWG – 2007 - XX

Conservation and sustainable use of sharks taken in SBT fisheries

1. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall implement the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and provide progress reports to the Commission on their implementation, including, as appropriate, the status of their National Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks;

Data and monitoring

2. Data on catch of sharks in SBT fisheries shall be collected by observers and in logbooks and reported annually to CCSBT by Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission in accordance with the standards and specifications outlined in the data collection and provision recommendation (Recommendation ERS – XXXX)].

Management Measures

3. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall take measures necessary to limit shark catches to sustainable levels, minimise unutilised incidental catches of sharks and encourage full use of dead sharks. Full use is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, and skins, to the point of first landing or transshipment.

4. In relation to 3. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall implement at least one of the following options:
    - requiring their vessels to have on board fins that total no more than 5% (based on the wet weight of the primary fin set) of the dressed weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing;
    - requiring their vessels land sharks with fins attached to the carcass or that fins not be landed without the corresponding carcass;
    - Set total allowable catch limits for individual shark species taken in SBT fisheries through a quota management system.

Research and review

5. The Extended Commission requests that by August 2008 the ERS review existing data on sharks catches, life histories, and abundance trends to assess potential risks to shark populations of shark bycatch from SBT fisheries. This review should draw on work undertaken in other relevant RFMOs.

6. The Extended Commission requests the ERS regularly assess the status of shark stocks, ideally in collaboration with other RFMO's, in line with providing management advice to the Commission. The stocks to be assessed should be identified based on the outcomes of 5 with the first assessment completed by August 2009. Such assessments will be used as the basis for determining sustainable catch limits for sharks taken in SBT fisheries.

7. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall report annually to the Commission on the management in place and measures of their effectiveness, commencing in May 2008.

8. The Extended Commission requests that the ERS regularly review points 3 and 4, and provide recommendations on any other management measures necessary, based on the outcomes of 6 and 7.

Conservation and sustainable utilisation of sharks taken in SBT fisheries

Noting that

- Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission ~~Member~~ are engaged in preparation and implementation of NPOA-sharks
- Shark NPOAs aim to ensure that catches from directed and non-directed fisheries are sustainable and unutilised incidental catches should be minimised
- There is limited information available to assess the impact of shark bycatch across SBT fisheries

~~We suggest that~~ ERSWG6 **recommends** to the Commission for consideration at CCSBT-13 the following:

1. [Data on shark catch and interactions shall be collected by observers. Observer data and available logbook data on shark catch ~~[and in logbooks] and reported to CCSBT~~ by 5° x 5° grids for longline and 1° x 1° squares for all other gears, by each calendar month shall be provided to the Commission~~[as agreed in the data collection and provision recommendation (ERSWG – XXXX)]~~. In instances where the provision of data at this spatial scale would result in breaches of domestic confidentiality agreements (e.g. identification of individual vessel operations), data should be provided at the finest possible scale, but no larger that the level of CCSBT Statistical area.]~~)~~
2. All Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission should develop and implement NPOAs, and provide progress reports to CCSBT on their implementation;
3. Requests the ERSWG the review existing data on sharks catches, life histories, and abundance trends to assess potential risks to shark populations of shark bycatch from SBT fisheries.
4. CCSBT should assess the status of relevant shark stocks ~~and~~, where appropriate, ~~collaborate~~ in collaboration with other RFMO's
5. ~~e~~Encourages Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission to achieve conservation and sustainable utilisation of sharks or avoid catches of unwanted sharks
6. to promote full utilisation of retained catches, options could include:
   - Setting of trip or overall catch limits;
   - Prohibiting vessels from carrying, retaining, or landing all shark dorsal, pectoral, caudal, pelvic and anal fins that are not attached to their carcass;
   - Setting fin to whole weight ratios for catches to the first point of landing.
7. encourage the release of unwanted shark bycatch in a live state
8. Requests that the ERSWG regularly review points 5 and 6, based on the outcomes of 3 and 4 above.

Attachment 10

Draft recommendation to the Extended Commission on sharks which are caught in association with SBT fisheries
(Proposal from Japan)
ミナミマグロ漁業とともに混獲されるサメに関する拡大委員会への勧告案
（日本提案）

The Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the Extended Commission:
拡大委員会のメンバー及び協力的非加盟国は、

1. cooperate with the other tuna RFMOs on the following basis: 以下の基準により、他のマグロ地域漁業管理機関と協力する

- for such vessels fishing in the IOTC Area, in accordance with IOTC Resolution 05/05 (Resolution concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC); ＩＯＴＣ水域で漁業を行う船については、ＩＯＴＣ決議 05/05 に従って、

- for such vessels fishing in the WCPFC Area, in accordance with WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2006-05 (Conservation and management measure for sharks in the western and central pacific ocean); ＷＣＰＦＣ水域で漁業を行う船については、ＷＣＰＦＣ保存管理措置 2006-05 に従って、

- for such vessels fishing in the IATTC Area, in accordance with IATTC Resolution C-05-03 (Resolution on the conservation of sharks in association with fisheries in the eastern pacific ocean); and ＩＡＴＴＣ水域で漁業を行う船については、ＩＡＴＴＣ決議 C-05-03 に従って、及び

- for such vessels fishing in the ICCAT Area, in accordance with ICCAT Recommendations 06-10 (supplementary recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT), 05-05 (Recommendation by ICCAT to amend recommendation [Rec.04-10] concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT) and 04-10 (Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT). ICCAT 水域で漁業を行う船については、ＩＣＣＡＴ勧告 06-10、05-05 及び 04-10 に従って、

2. promote full utilization of retained catch through, if appropriate, the implementation of the 5 % rule (fin to whole weight ratio) as described in the other tuna RFMOs' resolutions/recommendations.
適当な場合には、他のマグロＲＦＭＯの決議・勧告に記載されている５％ルール（ヒレと全体の比率）を実施することにより、保持する漁獲の全体利用を促進する

3. develop and implement NPOA (National Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Shark Stocks) and provide CCSBT with information on their implementation. サメ国内行動計画の作成及び実施し、並びに、実施状況に関する情報をＣＣＳＢＴへ提供する

Attachment 11

Closing Remarks or Statements

(1) Closing Statement from New Zealand

A key objective for New Zealand at this meeting was to ensure that the working group delivers on its terms of reference and maintains an acceptable level of functionality. Progress made at ERSWG-6 had been promising in that regard.

At this meeting we did reach agreement that data on all fisheries need to be used for examining effects of fishing on ERS species. We also saw progress in mitigation research and the reporting of captures of ERS species in national reports.
However, the ERSWG failed yet again to reach any significant outcomes.

We are mindful that at the two most recent meetings of the CCSBT, Commissioners have expressed frustration at the lack of output from the ERSWG and noted that if advice from the ERSWG was not forthcoming then the Commission would need to consider its usefulness and look at discussing ERS issues as part of the annual meetings of the CCSBT rather than in a stand alone working group.

We also note that our responsibilities under this working group's terms of reference, which set out our intended contribution to the functions and objectives of the CCSBT as a whole, together with the broader range of international instruments which bind and guide us as members of the CCSBT, place on us moral and legal obligations to take steps to address the impacts of fishing on ecologically related species.

We therefore take very seriously the failure of this meeting to make any significant progress, and the implications this has for the broader functioning of CCSBT, and we will be reporting this outcome to Ministers upon our return to capital.

(2) Closing Statement from Australia

Australia is disappointed that the ERSWG has failed to address the Extended Commission's requests or deliver on its Terms of Reference at this meeting and throughout its history. Australia has endeavoured at this meeting to cooperate with the other parties to fulfil the commitment made by all Members to CCSBT13 to provide management related advice.

In bringing joint draft recommendations with New Zealand to the meeting we were enthusiastic about the prospect of engaging in constructive discussions. We have made significant efforts to identify and accommodate the concerns of other Members in order to reach consensus on the recommendations. Australia is heartened by the willingness of some Members to contribute to constructive discussion. However, we have been

increasingly frustrated by interventions that are inappropriate for this forum and that have continued to limit its effectiveness.

Australia has clearly shown our willingness to progress these issues with other parties within the ERSWG and other RFMOs.

We are extremely disappointed by the repeated attacks on the integrity of Australia and its SBT industry, as well as the continued lack of cooperation exhibited by some members. This is particularly concerning in light of the commitment made by all CCSBT members at the recent joint tuna RFMO meeting in Kobe.

We will be raising our concerns with our Commissioner and Ministers. We will be pursuing an effective mechanism for CCSBT to rapidly address these important ERS issues at the next Extended Commission meeting.

(3) Closing Statement from Japan

1. As a responsible fishing country, Japan has been conducting long-term data collection, surveys, and analyses through research vessels and scientific observers in order to deal with interactions with ERS. Also, regarding the bycatch issues on fisheries, Japan played a leading role, with the United States and the EC, in the establishment of the IPOAs and implemented National Plans of Action for seabirds and sharks as a world pioneer. Relating to the SBT Fishery, we promote development and dissemination of the tori-pole and the BCM (bait casting machine) to reduce the incidental take of the seabirds with fishermen's participation and with collaboration from Nigel Brothers from Tasmania government in Australia. These practical and effective bycatch-preventing techniques are used not only by the SBT fishery but also by a wide variety of fisheries over the world, such as the bottom longline fishery and the troll fishery. In addition, with respect to the short-tailed albatross, which lives in Torishima of Japan, it came out of a critical situation and has been successfully increasing its numbers and breeding areas thanks to significant efforts by Prof. Hasegawa of the Toho University and the Ministry of Environment. This raises an important issue for considering interactions between seabird and bycatch.

2. For development of bycatch-avoidance techniques, one of the important things is effectiveness in reducing bycatch. However, at the same time, the techniques have to be easy to be introduced for fisherman. Any technique which needs drastic renovation on fishing vessels and/or significant costs will not become widely used even if it is outstandingly effective in the reduction of bycatch. Fishermen are interested in the effectiveness of baits to catch target species and have an incentive to avoid unnecessary bycatch as far as possible. Therefore, they welcome effective, safe and inexpensive bycatch-avoidance techniques. Taking seriously into account such desires from fishermen, government and its concerned institutions should make efforts to further develop bycatch-avoidance techniques and to conduct public relations and educational activities. We have prepared and distributed a number of

brochures and pamphlets to increase fishermen's understanding of major species of seabirds and sharks. Also we have distributed tutorial manuals, which can be used at sea, on how to use bycatch-avoidance techniques properly. Furthermore, we have been collecting information on techniques that are designed and used by fishermen themselves and continuing dialogue and discussion with fishermen to strengthen the effectiveness of bycatch-avoidance measures. OPRT and GGT are playing positive roles in these activities.

3. Concerning interactions between fisheries and ERS, Japan has been conducting researches for non-target fish species over the years. As a consequence, it is possible to carry out stock assessments of major pelagic shark species caught by the tuna longline fishery, to some extent. These assessments were reported to Tuna RFMOs, such as ICCAT, IOTC, which gave high marks on them. Also Japan has a strong interest in the relationship between tuna resources, marine environment/ecosystem and has been conducting data and information collection as well as research and studies. In terms of SBT, we have conducted research and studies on its feeding habitat and relationship between marine environment and SBT distribution/migration/reproduction and we subsequently reported outcomes of such researches and studies to the ERSWG. To contribute to sustainable utilization of the SBT stock and conservation of marine ecosystem, Japan will continue these researches and studies.

4. Japan has a keen interest in SBT farming, which occupies the great proportion of the SBT production in recent years. It is known that the SBT farming, towing and capturing by purse seiners have interactions with juveniles of various fish species, sea birds, sharks and marine mammals. However, there is little information on the degree of the interactions, what kind of measures could be taken to reduce the interactions, and which measures are used. Japan would like to express its concern on this issue and ask Australia to take a proactive approach and participation to the ERSWG to collect and provide information and to resolve the issue in responsible manner.

(4) Closing Remarks from Korea

First of all, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the all participants of the ERS working group meeting, especially to the Dr. Uozumi and secretariats for the effort that has brought us here.

During the process of meeting, I found that all members saw good partners in each other, through the heated debate and discussions for a better ERS WG meeting.
I think this meeting aims to focus on the providing information and advice on issues to species associated with SBT.

So, I believe that this meeting has provided a great contribution for both conservation of SBT and studying ecologically related species under the CCSBT.

Finally, I also extend my gratitude to Japanese delegations for hosting this meeting and interpreters for their efforts.
Thanks so much.

(5) Closing Remarks from Taiwan

First of all, let me extend my appreciation to the Government of Japan for its warm hospitality and providing this comfortable venue.

I also wish to express my appreciation to the chairman, the staff of the Secretariat, and interpreters for your hard work and contributions.

From last ERS working group meeting to this meeting, even though we have worked hard, we do not make much progress. The critical issue of the recognition differences between members on the competence of CCSBT must be resolved first. Then ERS would be easier to proceed.

In closing, I would like to say farewell to all participants. I wish you all a pleasant journey back to your home countries

(6) Closing Remarks from BirdLife International and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

BirdLife International and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) would like to thank CCSBT for accepting our organisations as observers to the 7th meeting of ERSWG.

However, we would like to express our concern and disappointment at the lack of progress made in the adoption of resolutions on data collection and provision, and measures to reduce seabird and shark bycatch, which was the specific task of the meeting. Given recent developments made in these areas by other tuna RFMOs, we feel that CCSBT has missed an important opportunity to meet its international commitments to improve the sustainability of SBT fisheries, particularly in regard to reducing bycatch of seabird and other non-target species.

It is critical that in the near future ERSWG make tangible steps toward these goals. Both ACAP and BirdLife would be pleased to assist members with this task.