

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

**Report of the Second Meeting of the
Strategy and Fisheries Management
Working Group Meeting**

**14 - 16 April 2010
Tokyo, Japan**

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Agenda Item 1. Opening of meeting

1.1 Welcome

1. Mr Masanori Miyahara (Japan) welcomed participants and outlined the importance of this working group meeting, particularly in respect of developing a robust rebuilding strategy for the southern bluefin tuna fishery.

1.2 Confirmation of Chair

2. Mr Miyahara was confirmed as the Chair of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG) meeting.

1.3 Introduction of participants

3. Participants introduced themselves. The list of meeting participants is included at **Attachment 1**.
4. Indonesia was not able to attend the meeting and sent its apologies through the Secretariat.

1.4 Terms of Reference and Adoption of agenda

5. The agenda was adopted and is included at **Attachment 2**.
6. The list of documents submitted to the meeting is at **Attachment 3**.

Agenda Item 2. Development of the CCSBT Strategic Plan

7. The meeting considered the draft strategic plan for the CCSBT that was presented in Annex 1 of CCSBT-SFMWG/1004/04. The draft plan incorporated comments provided by Members prior to CCSBT 16 and was agreed with minor modifications. The strategic plan recommended for adoption at CCSBT 17 by the SFMWG is at **Attachment 4**.

Agenda Item 3. Development of the rebuilding strategy for managing the SBT stock

8. The meeting noted that 20% of the spawning stock biomass before fishing commenced (SSB_0) is the interim rebuilding target reference point agreed by the CCSBT. It was also noted that based on the 2009 stock assessment, even in the absence of fishing, it would take around 15 years (with median recruitment) to

reach this level and that shorter term checkpoints would be useful for describing and monitoring progress in rebuilding the SBT stock towards the interim target.

9. Two ways of describing short term checkpoints were suggested. The first was a lower value of SSB_0 (e.g. 10%) that could be achieved earlier than the interim rebuilding target reference point. This short term checkpoint provides a relative measure for checking progress and aligning with the interim rebuilding reference point of 20% SSB_0 . The second was based on current stock levels and was to double the current spawning stock biomass in a specified number of years. Some Members considered that the latter checkpoint has the advantage of being easily explained and being less subject to change as a consequence of revised estimation methods and data than an SSB_0 based checkpoint.
10. The short term checkpoint and the timeframe for achieving both the interim rebuilding target and any short term checkpoints are subject to further discussion. Current discussion seems to be narrowing to 25 or 30 years for the interim rebuilding target and around 12 or 15 years for reaching a short term checkpoint of 10% of SSB_0 or doubling of current SSB).
11. It was agreed that a rebuilding probability of 50% was not sufficient and that 60% would be the minimum acceptable rebuilding probability with probabilities of 70% and 90% also agreed. It was also agreed that it was important to have a high probability of rebuilding the SBT stock in the short term.
12. As part of a package of measures for ensuring recovery of the stock, the meeting considered possible emergency measures that could be taken in exceptional circumstances of significant concern, such as recruitment failure or a sudden decline in catch rates. There were mixed views on the merits of trying to predetermine the actions for possible exceptional circumstances.
13. The meeting noted that metarules for exceptional circumstances had been considered by past Management Procedure Workshops and the Extended Scientific Committee, and that the Draft CCSBT Management Procedure Specifications (Attachment 6 of the Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee) contained a "Metarule Process". This is a process for determining whether exceptional circumstances exist and for providing advice to the Commission on the action to take. The meeting agreed that this is an appropriate process for detecting and responding to exceptional circumstances and recommended that this process be adopted by the Commission when adopting the MP. Members also recognised that based on advice from the Scientific Committee, if the Commission considers that exceptional circumstances warrant severe action the closure of the fishery is one of the options to take.

Agenda Item 4. Advice to the Management Procedure Technical Working Group and Extended Scientific Committee in relation to development of the management procedure

14. The SFMWG provided the following guidance to the MP technical working group and Extended Scientific Committee:
 - The frequency of TAC changes should be limited to once every three years.
 - MP testing of early TAC changes were preferred over late TAC changes.

- MP testing should be conducted for both immediate implementation of the TAC recommended by the MP and implementation one year after the MP recommendation.
 - The minimum TAC change recommended by the MP should be 100t. Maximum TAC changes by the MP of 3000t and 5000t should be explored.
 - Projections with a zero TAC should continue to be conducted to provide a baseline that can be used for comparative purposes.
 - The MP should be evaluated (or tuned) for two timeframes, these being:
 - (Option 1) reaching the interim rebuilding reference point of 20% of SSB_0 in 25 years; and
 - (Option 2) reaching the interim rebuilding reference point of 20% of SSB_0 in 30 years.
 - The above options would be assessed for their performance against two short term check points, these being:
 - 10% of SSB_0 ; and
 - double the current SSB.
- Further:
- Option 1 would be assessed in reaching the short term check points in 12 years; and
 - Option 2 would be assessed in reaching the short term check points in 15 years.
- MPs should be evaluated for 60, 70 and 90 percent probability levels.
15. Discussions were held on the possible need for a time lag between agreement by the Commission on a TAC and its implementation. Australia advised that its fishing season commences only 6 weeks after the Annual Commission meeting and that for operational reasons, it required a one year time lag for implementation of TAC changes.
 16. Two different suggestions for a possible time lag were discussed by the meeting. These were:
 - A one year time lag for implementation of TAC changes by all Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs); and
 - A flexible arrangement similar to that for 2010 and 2011 whereby Members may apportion their allocation of the new TAC in different quantities over the three year period providing that there is no initial increase in catch and that the three year allocation is not exceeded.
 17. It was noted that if a one year time lag was agreed, a separate decision would need to be made for the TAC in 2012 because the Resolution on the Total Allowable Catch and Future Management of Southern Bluefin Tuna adopted at CCSBT16 envisaged that the MP would be the basis for setting the TAC for 2012.
 18. The Secretariat was requested to investigate the possibility of holding the 2011 meeting of the Extended Scientific Committee one month earlier than usual (i.e. early August).
 19. The request was also given to the Scientific Committee to estimate the level of the available yield when the interim reference rebuilding target is reached, while

noting that SSB_{msy} is the long term target. A request was also made for an estimate of MSY.

Agenda Item 5. Presentation of action plans developed by Members in accordance with the “Resolution on action plans to ensure compliance with Conservation and Management Measures”

Compliance Action Plans

20. Compliance Action Plans were developed and submitted by all CCSBT Members and two of the three Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs). These plans are provided as meeting documents CCSBT-SFMWG/1004/ 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.
21. Members and the one participating CNM presented their Compliance Action Plans and responded to questions concerning those plans. All plans presented showed improvements in one or more areas such as designated foreign ports of landing and/or transshipment, plans for achieving or maintaining at least a 10% observer coverage in 2010, verification and/or cross checking of catches, improved patrol coverage and/or capacity, and reviews of certain existing management and/or monitoring arrangements. However, in some instances, concern was expressed that verification and validation of catches was not sufficient and that in these instances, more effort was required in this area.
22. Members agreed to reflect on comments made at this meeting on their Compliance Action Plans and will consider appropriate action to address those comments, including reporting back to the Compliance Committee on any additional actions taken as a result.
23. The meeting tasked the Secretariat with developing a template that all Members and CNMs can use for preparation of their Compliance Action Plans. In developing this template, the Secretariat was asked to avoid duplicating the content of annual reports and to include details of the monitoring and control processes for each point from the fishing ground to the market and to include the following types of items:
 - The type of catch monitoring tools being used (e.g. observer, daily reporting, logbooks), the method of verifying and validating the data including the class of person who conducts this work (e.g. government official, authorised third party);
 - Commentary on the effectiveness of controls and monitoring tools;
 - References to applicable legislation;
 - Applicable penalties; and
 - Basic fishery information such as the number of vessels, target or bycatch fishing, the method of allocating quota and information required in other reports to the Compliance Committee such as the VMS report to avoid the need for separate reports.

Inter-sessional Compliance Risk Assessment Working Group

24. New Zealand presented paper CCSBT-SFMWG/1004/07 which describes progress to date by the inter-sessional working group formed to undertake a compliance risk assessment. New Zealand will contact Member's nominated representatives soon to provide an outline of the remaining work line. A report from the group, including priorities for action and possible draft resolutions, will be provided to the Compliance Committee for discussion at the Committee's October meeting.
25. The meeting thanked New Zealand for its leadership of the group.

Agenda Item 6. Future work for the SFMWG

26. The meeting agreed that the need for an SFMWG meeting in 2011 would be decided at CCSBT 17.

Agenda Item 7. Other business

27. In response to a request from the Executive Secretary, Members agreed that the Chair of the Extended Scientific Committee be invited to attend the Joint Tuna RFMO Workshop to Share Best Practices on the Provision of Scientific Advice on behalf of the CCSBT. The Executive Secretary advised that the cost of the Chair's attendance could be funded by the Secretariat within existing resources.

Agenda Item 8. Close of meeting

8.1 Adoption of Report

28. The report was adopted.

8.2 Close of Meeting

29. The meeting closed at 11:05am, 16 April 2010.

List of Attachments

Attachments

- 1 List of Participants
- 2 Agenda
- 3 List of Documents
- 4 Strategic Plan for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

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Second Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group

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Agenda
Second Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group
14-16 April, 2010
Tokyo, Japan

1. Opening of the Meeting
 - 1.1. Welcome
 - 1.2. Confirmation of Chair
 - 1.3. Introduction of participants
 - 1.4. Terms of Reference and Adoption of Agenda
2. Development of the CCSBT Strategic Plan
3. Development of the rebuilding strategy for managing the SBT stock
4. Advice to the Management Procedure Technical Working Group and Extended Scientific Committee in relation to development of the Management Procedure.
5. Presentation of action plans developed by Members in accordance with the “Resolution on action plans to ensure compliance with Conservation and Management Measures”
6. Future work for the SFMWG
7. Other Business
8. Close of Meeting
 - 8.1. Adoption of Report
 - 8.2. Close of meeting

List of Documents
Second Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group

(CCSBT- SFMWG/1004/)

1. Provisional Agenda
2. List of Participants
3. Draft List of Documents
4. (Secretariat) Relevant Attachments from CCSBT 16 for the Second Meeting of the SFMWG
5. (New Zealand) Draft fisheries plan for southern bluefin tuna
6. (New Zealand) New Zealand action plan to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures
7. (New Zealand) Summary of the work to date of the inter-sessional working group on compliance
8. (Japan) Action Plan of Japan
9. (Australia) Australia's compliance action plan for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
10. (Taiwan) Taiwan's Action Plan for Implementing the Conservation and Management Measures for Southern Bluefin Tuna
11. (South Africa) Action Plan to Ensure Compliance with CCSBT Conservation and Management Measures
12. (Indonesia) Action Plan to Comply with Resolution on the Implementation of a CCSBT-CDS
13. (Korea) Korea's compliance Action Plan for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
14. (EU) European Union compliance Action Plan with CCSBT Conservation and Management Measures

(CCSBT- SFMWG/1004/BGD)

1. (New Zealand) Harvest strategy standard for New Zealand Fisheries (Originally CCSBT-SFMWG/0904/04)

(CCSBT- SFMWG/1004/Rep)

1. Report of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2009)
2. Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Compliance Committee (October 2009)
3. Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (September 2009)

4. Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (September 2009)
5. Report of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group Meeting (April 2009)
6. Report of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2008)
7. Report of the Independent Expert on the Performance Review (September 2008)
8. Report of the Performance Review Working Group (August 2008)

**Strategic Plan for the Commission for the
Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna**

April 2010

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1. Introduction

A strategic plan for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

This strategic plan outlines a common vision for how members would like to see the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna in the future. Components of that vision include the state of the southern bluefin tuna stock; how the Commission operates to effectively manage the stock; and how members are implementing their obligations and benefiting from their successful management of the stock.

A strategic plan outlines not only a desired future state, but also specific strategies and tasks associated with achieving the desired future state (even if achieving that state is a long term goal). The strategic plan will become the basis for the Secretariat and members to compile annual operating plans.

A recent review of the Commission's performance provided many suggestions for areas in which performance may be improved. A strategic plan allows these suggested actions to be incorporated, as appropriate, into future work plans. Suggested actions are prioritised so that the overall work plan is achievable.

The Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Origins

Southern bluefin tuna (SBT) were heavily fished in the past, with annual catches reaching 80,000 tonnes in the early 1960s. Heavy fishing resulted in a significant decline in the numbers of mature fish, and the annual catch began to fall rapidly. In the mid 1980s it became apparent that a way of limiting catches was needed. To enable the SBT stocks to rebuild, the main nations fishing SBT at the time – Australia, Japan and New Zealand – began to apply strict quotas to their fishing fleets from 1985.

On 20 May 1994, the voluntary management arrangement between Australia, Japan and New Zealand was formalised when the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, which the three countries signed in May 1993, came into force.

The role of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

The objective of the Convention is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of the global SBT fishery. The Convention created the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and describes how it operates and functions. The functions of the CCSBT include—

- collecting information,
- deciding on a total allowable catch (TAC) and its allocation,
- deciding on additional measures including monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures considered necessary in order to achieve effective implementation of the Convention,
- agreeing an annual budget, and

- encouraging accession by other states.

The CCSBT meets annually. The CCSBT has six subsidiary bodies which provide advice on their areas of expertise—

- the Scientific Committee (SC)/Extended Scientific Committee (ESC),
- Stock Assessment Group (SAG),
- Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG),
- the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG),
- Compliance Committee (CC),
- the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC).

A panel of independent scientists attend SC and SAG meetings and are able to provide advice directly to the CCSBT if required.

The Convention also provided for the establishment of the CCSBT Secretariat, which supports the running of the Commission. The Secretariat is based in Canberra, Australia. Staff include an Executive Secretary, Deputy Executive Secretary, a Data Manager and other support staff.

Membership of the Commission

Membership of the CCSBT is only open to States. To facilitate the participation of fishing entities, the CCSBT established the extended CCSBT (ECCSBT) and the extended scientific committee (ESC) in 2001. Membership of the ECCSBT and the ESC includes all parties to the Convention, and fishing entities may also be admitted. The fishing entity of Taiwan was admitted in 2002.

The ECCSBT and the ESC perform the same functions as the CCSBT and the SC respectively. Each member has equal voting rights. Decisions of the ECCSBT that are reported to the CCSBT become decisions of the CCSBT unless the CCSBT agrees otherwise. Any decision of the Commission that affects the operation of the ECCSBT or the rights, obligations, or status of any individual member within the ECCSBT should not be taken without prior due deliberation of that issue by the ECCSBT.

Currently the ECCSBT consists of six members and three cooperating non-members:

Members

- Australia
- Fishing entity of Taiwan (member of the ECCSBT only)
- Indonesia
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Republic of Korea

Cooperating Non-Members

- European Union
- Philippines
- South Africa

The southern bluefin tuna fishery

Characterisation of the fishery

The primary market for SBT is the Japanese Sashimi market, where premium prices can be obtained, largely because of the high fat content of SBT flesh. The total value of the SBT global fishery is estimated to be about \$AUD1 billion.

The main methods used for catching SBT are longline fishing and purse seining.

Longlining involves using long lengths of fishing line with many hooks. The SBT caught are mainly frozen at very low temperatures (-60C) and either unloaded at intermediate ports and shipped to markets in Japan or unloaded directly at markets in Japan.

Purse seining involves using purse seine nets to enclose schools of SBT. This method is currently only used in the Australian SBT fishery. The enclosed schools of fish are towed to waters near the Australian mainland and placed in floating cages anchored to the ocean floor. The tuna are fattened for several months and sold direct to Japanese markets as frozen or chilled fish.

Status of the stock

Southern bluefin tuna are recognised as being at a small fraction of their pre-exploitation biomass. The Extended Scientific Committee reported in 2008 that the scenarios analysed indicate that spawning stock biomass is still at a very low level (generally below 10% of pre-exploitation spawning stock biomass). This was recognised as a level at which recruitment may be at risk of further decline. Further, the stock is below the level that could produce maximum sustainable yield, a level that is generally recognised internationally as a benchmark for sustainably managing fishstocks. The scientific committee also noted that there is no sign of the spawning stock biomass rebuilding at present.

Strategic issues

This section highlights strategic issues facing the Commission that this plan will seek to address. These issues have been identified recently through a performance review; the first meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group; and through an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) facing the Commission. This SWOT analysis helped highlight any other areas outside the performance review that might help the Commission in developing its strategic plan (see below).

In 2008, a Performance Review Working Group made up of representatives from the Commission undertook a self assessment of the Commission's performance, using the criteria adopted at the 2006 Joint Meeting of the five Tuna RFMOs in Kobe, Japan. An independent expert, United States Ambassador David Balton, reviewed the self assessment.

The 2008 meeting of the CCSBT agreed to various initiatives in order to implement recommendations of the performance reviews (see paragraph 41 of the meeting report).

One important outcome of the performance review was to establish a Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG), to develop a strategic plan for the Commission and a fisheries management plan comprising management objectives for SBT and ecologically related species, consistent with modern fisheries management principles. The Commission tasked the SFMWG with the development of a strategic plan, as a way of creating a common vision of where members want the Commission to be heading.

Performance review

The performance review highlighted areas where the Commission is doing well, including the inclusion within the Commission as members or cooperating non-members of virtually all fishing activity for SBT; recent improvements in the transparency with which the Commission operates; and the undertaking of the Commission's first performance review.

The performance review also highlighted a number of areas in which the performance of the Commission could improve, as outlined below. The recommendations of the performance review working group and the independent expert have been incorporated into the goals and strategies described later in the plan.

General

- The CCSBT should examine its Convention, compare it to more modern instruments, and seriously consider the need to renegotiate it. Even if it is not amended at this time, many of the modern standards for fisheries management can be incorporated into the work of the Commission in other ways, including through adoption of additional conservation and management measures and an updated management procedure.
- A strategic plan and management plan could provide direction and common vision, and greatly improve the functioning and performance of the CCSBT.

Conservation and management

Status of living marine resources

- Determine management objectives and a rebuild strategy consistent with UNFSA requirements to guide future scientific assessments.
- Develop the most accurate stock assessment possible in light of uncertainties caused by under-reported past catches, then set catches at a level that will allow the stock to rebuild, taking into account precautionary principles.
- Develop and implement a strategy to address the impacts of SBT fisheries on ecologically related species, including collection and sharing of data between CCSBT members and Secretariats of other RFMOs.

Data collection and sharing

- Focus effort on improving data collection and reporting through full and urgent implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the CCSBT at its annual meeting in 2006.
- Pursue opportunities to harmonise data collection and sharing with the other four tuna RFMOs.
- Ensure clear standards are set for the level of detail and type of data provided by members, so the science process has the information it requires (including provision of data that meets UNFSA minimum requirements; commercial confidentiality should no longer limit access to data within the CCSBT).

Quality and provision of scientific advice

- Maintain the structure of the Extended Scientific Committee, including the independent chairs and advisory panel, but review the number and skill sets of independent experts required in support of the scientific process.
- Consider the balance of effort between SBT and ecologically related species.

- Adopt and implement measures to minimise pollution, waste, discards or catch by lost and abandoned gear.

Adoption of conservation and management measures

- Continue to make conservation and management measures that are consistent with scientific advice from the Extended Scientific Committee.
- Develop a strategic plan and management plan to implement minimum standards for the fishery.

Capacity management

- Discuss with Indonesia the capacity for temporal and spatial closures in the SBT spawning ground.
- Implement the recommendations set forth in the FAO International Plan of Action on the management of fishing capacity.

Fishing allocations and opportunities

- Once long term allocations are finalised among members, including the CCSBT 1 MoU, consider moving to national allocations based on alternative principles, such as proportional allocations, rather than set tonnages.

Compliance and enforcement

Flag state measures

- All members and cooperating non-members should continue to take all necessary actions to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the CCSBT.
- Institute promptly an integrated VMS system.

Port state measures

- When considering implementation of any port state measure, the CCSBT should bear in mind the need to avoid duplication of effort, and consider the 'FAO technical consultation on port state measures'.
- Adopt port state measures designed to prevent the landing and transshipment of illegal, unreported and unregulated SBT catches – including by vessels on the CCSBT authorised vessel list.

Monitoring, control and surveillance

- Cooperate with other tuna RFMOs to optimise harmonisation, improve global effectiveness, and avoid duplication of work.
- Prioritise the development of MCS in the context of a compliance plan.
- Develop effective measures relating to transshipment, a regional observer programme, and high seas boarding and inspection (as set forth in the UNFSA).

Follow up on infringements

- As a minimum, establish agreed rules on the treatment of overcatch (requirement of payback).
- Ideally, establish a range of penalties in relation to all conservation measures.

Cooperative mechanisms to detect and deter non-compliance

- All members and cooperating non-members should submit their national reports to the CCSBT.

- Allocate sufficient time to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission to allow them to complete both routine and development work each year.

Market related measures

- Implement a CDS as a matter of urgency.
- Pending implementation of a CDS, all members and cooperating non-members should be required to implement the TIS.
- Monitor all market and port states and encourage compliance with CCSBT monitoring and trade measures.

Decision-making and dispute resolution

Decision making

- Consider devolving some day to day operational decision making to the Chair or the Executive Secretary (by the unanimous decision of the Commission).

Dispute settlement

- Note the dispute settlement rules established under the UNFSA that may make it unnecessary to amend the Convention to achieve a compulsory and binding regime for the settlement of disputes.

International cooperation

Transparency

- Improve openness by better publication of the rules for observers (e.g. placing information on the CCSBT website).
- Consider revising current rules and procedures for observers, since they appear to create an unduly restrictive process that is not in line with other tuna RFMOs (or Article 12(2) of the UNFSA).

Cooperation with other RFMOs

- Make working more closely with and harmonising measures with other RFMOs a priority area (including on ERS mitigation, impacts of fishing on the environment, data collection, and combating IUU fishing).

Financial and administrative issues

Availability of resources for RFMO activities

- Consider establishing a position at the Secretariat to provide policy and fisheries management advice.
- Provide the necessary resources to the Commission to implement agreed measures (e.g. the CDS).

Efficiency and cost-effectiveness

- If the CCSBT has not always received full and timely payment of member financial contributions, discuss what could be done to prevent the problem in the future.

SWOT analysis

The following SWOT analysis outlines the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats that the Commission may face in achieving its objective. In relation to the opportunities and threats, these include both potential and actual outcomes that may occur. The strategic plan allows strategies to be developed to work towards the opportunities while avoiding threats that are identified as high risk.

The SWOT analysis gives an indication of both internal and external factors that need to be addressed in the goals and strategies outlined below. The strengths, opportunities, and threats sections, in particular, have helped identify areas outside the scope of the performance review where further effort by the Commission may be beneficial.

Key challenges

Taking into account the wide range of recommendations made by the performance reviews of the CCSBT, and the other strategic issues identified above, the following key challenges can be identified:

- To provide for the rebuild of the SBT fishery to the level that can sustain maximum sustainable yields (stock re-building);
- To ensure all catches are accounted for within national allocations, and unreported catches are prevented (compliance); and
- To balance the competing demands of those who harvest SBT against the biological demands of stock rebuilding (TAC setting and allocation)

Objective: to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission already incorporates almost all fishing effort for SBT - well-regarded model for provision of science advice - decision-making components established (including compliance committee, scientific committee, annual meeting, centralised Secretariat) - coordination with other regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) - Agreements reached on basic monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) components (e.g. catch documentation) - Competency for all areas in which SBT found - agreed mechanism for controlling fishing for SBT (global Total Allowable Catch) - formation of a strategy and fisheries management working group to develop fisheries management options and advice for the Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - currently SBT stock at around 10% or less of virgin spawning stock biomass - history of failure to decide on and implement key management measures (e.g. TACs) - information base for stock assessment is poor - objective of Convention relates only to single species (SBT) - approach to controlling fishery does not address potential over-capacity issues - Members have not always met their obligations under the Convention, including implementing agreed measures - application of precautionary principle not explicit - commercial imperatives sometimes override the obligations of member states to cooperatively manage the stock - no specific provisions in the Convention for developing countries
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increased value (economic, catch per unit effort, social) from stock at the biomass that supports maximum sustainable yields - harmonisation with other RFMOs to increase efficiencies and improve management - taking advantage of developing concepts of best practice for fisheries management including for tuna RFMOs - developing innovative measures to allow more efficient fishing - opportunity to incorporate modern standards of fisheries management (e.g. precautionary principle, ecosystem approach) through development and implementation of management procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increased illegal fishing, including by non-members - failure of Commission to follow scientific advice - disruption to industry caused by stock collapse - international community condemnation over failure to fulfil mandate - consumer resistance to poorly managed stocks - CITES listing (trade prohibitions) - continuation of catch anomalies

2. Objective, vision, and goals

This strategic plan sets out the objective of the Commission (as outlined in the Convention text). The plan also establishes a common vision for how members would like to see the Commission in the future. Components of that vision include the state of the southern bluefin tuna stock; how the Commission operates to effectively manage the stock; and how members are implementing their obligations and benefiting from their successful management of the stock. Each of these components is associated with specific **goals** – the desired future state of the Commission – and **strategies** – the suggested approach to achieving the desired future state.

Convention objective

The objective of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna.

Vision and goals

A. Management of SBT

Southern bluefin tuna stocks are managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks of fishing for SBT are mitigated

This category includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation, ecologically related species.

B. Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat

The Commission is operating effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT

This category includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, including harmonization with other RFMOs.

C. Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance

Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission, and implementing its decisions

This category includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions, assistance to developing countries.

A. Goals concerning management of SBT	
Goals	Strategies
1. Re-building SBT	
<p>1.1 Stock is at a biomass level that supports the MSY</p> <p>Priority: Very High</p>	<p>(i) Adopt an interim rebuilding target reference point, with timeframe and desired probabilities</p> <p>(ii) Adopt a target biomass of achieving B_{MSY}, with timeframe and desired probabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confirm Commission's target for SBT stock and adopt an interim rebuilding target reference point (e.g. 20% of the original spawning biomass) (annual meeting October 2009) ▪ Develop goal for timeframe for rebuilding SBT stock (at 2010 annual meeting, based on report of the SC) ▪ Agree on desirable probability associated with meeting rebuild target (at 2010 annual meeting, based on report of the SC) <p>(iii) Set limits below which stock size should not be allowed to fall, and strategies for managing if limits are breached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ at 2010 annual meeting
2. Sound scientific basis for setting TAC	
<p>2.1 A management procedure is used to provide guidance on TAC setting</p> <p>Priority: High/Very High</p>	<p>(i) Task the Scientific Committee to review management procedure to ensure it will achieve rebuild targets and timeframes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review parameters and decision rules for candidate Management Procedures (MPs) to ensure they will contribute to meeting management objectives (Commission meeting 2010) ▪ Develop candidate MPs and adopt preferred candidate (2010) <p>(ii) Use MP as input to setting global TAC (2011 onwards)</p> <p>(iii) Review of stock status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of stock and fishery indicators (annual) ▪ In depth stock assessment (every 3 years)
3. Quality and provision of scientific advice	
<p>3.1 Accurate verified data is provided to the Scientific Committee and Commission in a timely manner</p> <p>Priority: Very High</p>	<p>(i) Reinforce the role of the Compliance Committee so that the Commission can obtain accurate data on all fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See also goal 8 (monitoring, control and surveillance) <p>(ii) Adoption and implementation of common standard/procedure for data verification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See also goal 8 (monitoring, control and surveillance) <p>(iii) Set rules for commercially confidential data (e.g. operational catch and effort data)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set confidentiality rules and other relevant rules (i.e. usage, ownership) ▪ Agree on data provision rules that ensure Members report accurate and complete data on all sources of mortality for SBT.

<p>3.2 Science process provides best available independent advice for management decisions</p> <p>Priority: Medium/High</p>	<p>(i) Maintain the independent chairs and advisory panel for the scientific process, but periodically review the number and skill sets of independent experts required</p> <p>(ii) Develop a CCSBT research plan including Member-funded, collaborative and CCSBT-funded projects (2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of CCSBT five year research plan ▪ Implement necessary scientific research by Commission and/or Members (e.g. CCSBT tagging program)
<p>4. Ecologically related species</p>	
<p>4.1 Risks to ecologically related species caused by fishing for SBT are identified and appropriately managed</p> <p>Priority: High/Medium</p>	<p>(i) Implement the Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on ERS of fishing for SBT, including collection and reporting of data on ERS (para 3), implementation of mitigation measures (para 2) and assessment of the risks caused by fishing for SBT (para 7) in each fishery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All Members implement the Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on ERS of Fishing for SBT ▪ Review the implementation of the Recommendation on ERS ▪ Agree on data provision requirements for ERS that ensure full reporting of bycatch and mitigation measures used in each fishery; this could occur through other RFMOs (e.g. WCPFC, IOTC) if they have appropriate protocols in place for ERS data reporting. ▪ Assess how well the mitigation measures adopted by other area-based RFMOs mitigate the risks caused by fishing ▪ Where necessary, identify and adopt additional mitigation measures to manage risk taking into account the coordination and harmonization with other RFMOs <p>(ii) Coordination and harmonization with area-based RFMOs, including on data reporting (see above)</p>
<p>4.2 Predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock are monitored</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p>	<p>(i) Instruct the ERSWG to monitor predator and prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock and report its findings to the Commission</p>
<p>5. Allocation</p>	
<p>5.1 The global TAC is allocated amongst members, including new members, in accordance with Article 8(4) of the Convention</p> <p>Priority: Medium/high</p>	<p>(i) Implement existing decisions of the CCSBT that impact upon member allocations</p> <p>(ii) Establish principles for allocation to members, following Article 8(4) of the Convention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop options (based on Convention text) for long term allocation arrangements for all Members, including new members, and apply to TAC increases or decreases

6 Flexible management arrangements	
<p>6.1 The SBT resource is harvested efficiently, and members and cooperating non-members have incentives to comply with TACs</p> <p>Priority: Low/Medium</p>	<p>(i) In the longer term, implement flexible management arrangements such as quota trading and under and over fishing rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a framework to provide for underfishing and respond to low levels of overfishing ▪ Develop a framework for quota trading between members and cooperating non-members; this might be contingent on stock size reaching an agreed level ▪ Decide on and implement framework
<p>6.2 SBT fishing capacity is commensurate with fishing opportunities</p> <p>Priority: Low/Medium</p>	<p>(i) Assess capacity in the fishery in relation to available catches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flag state/fishing entity self assessment of capacity with respect to national allocations ▪ Flag state/fishing entity to take corrective action if required ▪ Develop proposal for a CCSBT active vessel list to be managed by the Secretariat ▪ Assess threats to SBT from over capacity in other fleets ▪ International advocacy for capacity constraint/ management
<p>6.3 Members are able to optimise the value they obtain from harvesting SBT</p> <p>Priority: Low</p>	<p>(i) Analysis of maximum economic yield (MEY, which occurs at the catch or effort level that maximises profits for the fishery as a whole, while recognising the different harvest strategies of each member; in the context of current stock status this would be a long term goal)</p> <p>(ii) Evaluation of harvest strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluate alternative harvest strategies to optimise returns from the SBT stock including the adoption of maximum economic yield as the rebuilding reference point ▪ Distribute benefits of yield increases once stock is rebuilt

B. Goals concerning Operation and Administration of the Commission and Secretariat	
Goals	Strategies
7. Operation of the Commission	
<p>7.1 The Commission is running effectively and efficiently</p> <p>Priority: High</p>	<p>(i) Streamline Commission processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify ways to streamline Commission processes (including annual and subsidiary meetings) <p>(ii) Deepen the involvement of chairperson and vice-chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider appointing Chairperson and vice-chairperson for a period of two years with the opportunity for a further 2 years, but maintain the rotation of meeting venue <p>(iii) Coordinate services amongst regional fisheries management organisations (e.g. transshipment management, management of ERS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Instruct the Secretariat to identify opportunities for services to be coordinated amongst regional fisheries management organisations and to provide suggestions to the Commission <p>(iv) Undertake Commission performance reviews periodically to routinely assess opportunities for improvements, including both self-assessment and independent reviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agree on regular reviews of Commission performance (including

	timeframes, running and funding of the review, criteria (including any changes proposed through the joint tuna RFMO process), involvement of independent experts, and links between review outcomes and the CCSBT strategic plan)
7.2 The Commission is running in an open and transparent manner <i>Priority: Medium</i>	<p>(i) Clearly document the reasons for decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement a rule that the Commission must clearly document the rationale for decisions, including where they differ from the science advice provided to the Commission <p>(ii) Continue with open publication of Commission documents in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of CCSBT</p> <p>(iii) Continue to allow access to observers in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of CCSBT</p>
7.3 Modern fisheries management standards (e.g. precautionary principle, ecosystem management) are incorporated into the Commission's decisions <i>Priority: Medium</i>	<p>(i) Review Convention text (if member/s propose such negotiations) and/or incorporate through decisions of the Commission e.g. in adopting management procedure; measures to manage ERS (noting the latter option may be more efficient)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set parameters for the management procedure that ensure the precautionary principle is applied and ecosystem management is incorporated ▪ Task the SC with incorporating standards (precautionary, ecosystem) into its advice to the Commission ▪ Review decisions of the Commission to ensure standards are incorporated <p>(ii) Clarify the ongoing role of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG), including to ensure modern fisheries management standards are incorporated into the Commission's decision making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clearly define the on-going role of the SFMWG ▪ Include provision in the SFMWG's terms of reference for incorporating modern fisheries management standards into its advice to the Commission

C. Goals concerning participation and implementation by Members

Goals	Strategies
8. Monitoring, control, and surveillance	
<p>8.1 Integrated, targeted and cost-effective monitoring, control and surveillance measures are in place to ensure the Commission's goals are met</p> <p>Priority: High</p>	<p>(i) Implementation by Members of agreed MCS measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a checklist of the Commission's conservation and management measures and audit members against the checklist at the compliance committee to obtain accurate data on all fisheries (2009 onwards) ▪ Adopt standards and procedures to ensure data integrity (e.g. certain percentage of complete correct documentation accompanying landings and export/ domestic sales; certain percentage of inspection) (2009 or 2010 annual meeting) <p>(ii) Develop and implement an MCS strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess the necessity of additional MCS measures and/or improvement of agreed MCS measures to meet Commission objectives (e.g. eliminate unreported catch and have accurate verified data) (at 2010 annual meeting) ▪ Identify any gaps between MCS measures in place and any improvements or additional measures required ▪ Develop a plan for implementing any changes needed
9. Members' obligations	
<p>9.1 All Members comply with rules of CCSBT</p> <p>Priority: High</p>	<p>(i) Routinely audit members' implementation, enforcement, and compliance with conservation and management measures and international obligations as they relate to CCSBT (e.g. UN Fishstocks Agreement)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See above (8.1) <p>(ii) Establish fair, transparent and non-discriminatory procedures for penalties (e.g. payback of overcatch, quota reduction) and incentives to promote compliance</p>
10. Supporting developing countries	
<p>10.1 Developing country members and cooperating non-members are able to comply with the Commission's management measures and other requirements</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p>	<p>(i) Develop programme to assist developing countries with Commission requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with developing country members and cooperating non-members to identify areas where assistance would be beneficial to ensure they meet obligations under Commission decisions ▪ Identify ways in which assistance may be provided (e.g. up-skilling, secondments, workshops etc) ▪ Develop and implement a programme to assist developing countries with Commission requirements

[11. Participation in the CCSBT]¹

[11.1 Ensure that all states and Regional Economic Integration Organisations (REIOs) and entities catching SBT are engaged in the cooperative management of SBT.

Priority: Medium]

- [(i) Develop mechanisms for extending CCSBT Membership to REIOs.
- [(ii) Define processes for those seeking cooperating non-member or membership status to the CCSBT.]

¹ This goal will be reviewed at CCSBT 17 and a timeline will be determined at that time.

3. Action plan

Priority			Short term		Medium term		Long term
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
A) MANAGEMENT OF SBT							
1	Re-building SBT						
1.1(i&ii)	Adopt a target (B_{MSY}) and an interim rebuilding target reference point (20% of SSB_0), with timeframe & desired probabilities	Very High					
1.1(iii)	Set limits below which stock size should not be allowed to fall, and strategies for managing if limits are breached	Very High					
2	Sound scientific basis for setting TAC						
2.1(i)	Review parameters & decision rules for candidate management procedures (MPs) to ensure they will contribute to meeting management objectives	High					
2.1(i)	Develop candidate MPs & adopt preferred candidate	High					
2.1(ii)	Use MP as input to setting global TAC	Very High					
2.1(iii)	Review of stock and fishery indicators (annual)	Very High					
2.1(iii)	In depth stock assessment (every 3 years)	Very High					
3	Quality & provision of scientific advice						
3.1(i)	Reinforce the role of the Compliance Committee so that the Commission can obtain accurate data on all fisheries	Very High					

Priority			Short term		Medium term		Long term
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
3.1(ii)	Adoption & implementation of common standard/procedure for data verification	Very High					
3.1(iii)	Set confidentiality rules & other relevant rules for commercially confidential data	Very High					
3.1(iii)	Agree on data provision rules that ensure members report accurate & complete data on all sources of mortality for SBT	Very High					
3.2(i)	Maintain the independent chairs & advisory panel for the scientific process, but periodically review the number & skill sets of independent experts (as required)	Medium					
3.2(ii)	Develop a CCSBT research plan	High					
3.2(ii)	Implementation of CCSBT 5 year research plan	High					
3.2(ii)	Implement necessary scientific research by Commission and/or members	Medium					
4	Ecologically related species						
4.1(i)	All members implement the Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on ERS of Fishing for SBT	High					
4.1(i)	Review the implementation of the Recommendations on ERS	Medium					
4.1(i)	Agree on and implement data provision requirements for ERS that ensure full reporting of bycatch & mitigation measures used in each fishery	High					

Priority			Short term		Medium term		Long term
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
4.1(i)	Assess how well the mitigation measures adopted by other area-based RFMOs mitigate the risks caused by fishing	Medium					
4.1(i)	Identify & adopt additional mitigation measures to manage risk taking into account the coordination & harmonization with other RFMOs (where necessary)	Medium					
4.1(ii)	Coordination & harmonization with area-based RFMOs, including on data reporting	Medium					
4.2(i)	Instruct the ERSWG to monitor predator & prey species which may affect the condition of the SBT stock & report its findings to the Commission	Medium					
5	Allocation						
5.1(i)	Implement existing decisions of the CCSBT that impact upon member allocations	Medium					
5.1(ii)	Establish principles for allocation to members	Medium					
5.1(ii)	Develop options for long term allocation arrangements for all members including new Members, and apply to TAC increases or decreases	Medium					
6	Flexible management arrangements						
6.1(i)	Develop a framework to provide for underfishing and respond to low levels of overfishing	Low					
6.1(i)	Develop a framework for quota trading between members & cooperating non-members	Low					
6.1(i)	Decide on and implement framework	Low					

Priority			Short term		Medium term		Long term
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
6.2(i)	Flag state/fishing entity self assessment of capacity with respect to national allocations	Low					
6.2(i)	Flag state/fishing entity to take corrective action (if required)	Low					
6.2(i)	Develop proposal for CCSBT active vessel list to be managed by the Secretariat	Low					
6.2(i)	Assess threats to SBT from over-capacity in other fleets	Low					
6.2(i)	International advocacy for capacity constraint/management	Low					
6.3(i)	Analysis of MEY	Low					
6.3(ii)	Evaluate alternative harvest strategies to optimise returns from the SBT stock including the adoption of MEY as the rebuilding reference point	Low					
6.3(ii)	Distribute benefits of yield increases once stock is rebuilt						
B) OPERATION & ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMISSION & SECRETARIAT							
7	Operation of the Commission						
7.1(i)	Identify ways to streamline Commission processes	High					
7.1(ii)	Consider appointing Chairperson & Vice-chairperson for a period of 2 years with the opportunity for a further 2 years, but maintain the rotation of meeting venue	High					

Priority			Short term		Medium term		Long term
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
7.1(iii)	Instruct the Secretariat to identify opportunities for services to be coordinated amongst RFMOs & to provide suggestions to the Commission	High					
7.1(iv)	Agree on regular reviews of Commission performance (every 5 years)	High					
7.2(i)	Implement a rule that the Commission must clearly document the rationale for decisions, including where they differ from the science advice provided to the Commission	Medium					
7.2(ii)	Continue with open publication of Commission documents in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of CCSBT	Medium					
7.2(iii)	Continue to allow access to observers in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of CCSBT	Medium					
7.3(i)	Set parameters for the management procedure that ensure the precautionary approach is applied & ecosystem management is incorporated	Medium					
7.3(i)	Task the SC with incorporating modern fisheries management standards into its advice to the Commission	Medium					
7.3(i)	Review decisions of the Commission to ensure modern fisheries management standards are incorporated into the Commission's decisions	Medium					
7.3(ii)	Clearly define the ongoing role of the SFMWG	Medium					

Priority			Short term		Medium term		Long term
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
7.3(ii)	Include provision of the SFMWG's terms of reference for incorporating modern fisheries management standards into its advice to the Commission	Medium					
C) PARTICIPATION & IMPLEMENTATION BY MEMBERS							
8	Monitoring, control & surveillance						
8.1(i)	Develop a checklist of the Commission's conservation & management measures	High					
8.1(i)	Audit members against the checklist at the Compliance Committee to obtain accurate data on all fisheries	High					
8.1(i)	Adopt standards & procedures to ensure data integrity	High					
8.1(ii)	Assess the necessity of additional MCS measures and/or improvement of agreed MCS measures to meet Commission objectives	High					
8.1(ii)	Identify any gaps between MCS measures in place and any improvements or additional measures required	High					
8.1(ii)	Develop a plan for implementing any changes needed	High					
8.1(ii)	Implement identified MCS measures	High					

Priority			Short term		Medium term		Long term
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014++
9	Members' obligations						
9.1(i)	Audit members' implementation, enforcement & compliance with conservation & management measures and international obligations as they relate to CCSBT (link 8.1(i))	High					
9.1(ii)	Establish fair, transparent & non-discriminatory procedures for penalties & incentives to promote compliance	High					
10	Supporting developing countries						
10.1(i)	Work with developing country members & cooperating non-members to identify areas where assistance would be beneficial to ensure they meet obligations under Commission decisions	Medium					
10.1(i)	Identify ways in which assistance may be provided	Medium					
10.1(i)	Develop & implement a programme to assist developing countries with Commission requirements	Medium					