

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

Report of the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Commission

**12 October 2023
Busan, Korea**

Report of the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Commission

12 October 2023

Online

Agenda Item 1. Opening of meeting

1. Dr. Dae-Yeon Moon (Korea) was confirmed as the Chair of the Thirtieth Annual meeting of the Commission (CCSBT 30) and Professor Indra Jaya (Indonesia) was confirmed as the Vice Chair of CCSBT 30.
2. The Chair welcomed participants and opened the meeting.

1.1 Adoption of agenda

3. The agenda was adopted and is included at **Appendix 1**.
4. The list of meeting participants is included at **Appendix 2**.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of decisions taken by the Extended Commission

5. The Commission approved the decisions taken by the Extended Commission (EC) for the Thirtieth Meeting of the Commission, which is at **Appendix 3**.

Agenda Item 3. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair for CCSBT 31 and venue

6. Indonesia and South Africa advised that they would nominate the Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for CCSBT 31 as soon as possible, and advise the Secretariat of those nominations.
7. CCSBT 31 will be opened in Taiwan in accordance with rule 2.2b of the CCSBT Rules of Procedure, but report adoption and closing of the meeting will be conducted electronically through the intersessional decision-making process after Members have returned from the meeting.

Agenda Item 4. Other business

8. There was no other business.

Agenda Item 5. Adoption of report of meeting

9. The report was adopted.

Agenda Item 6. Close of meeting

10. The meeting was closed at 16:26pm, on 12 October 2023.

List of Appendices

Appendix

- 1 Agenda
- 2 List of Participants
- 3 Report of the Extended Commission for the Thirtieth Annual Meeting
 of the Commission

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

Agenda

**Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna
12 October 2023
Busan, Korea**

1. Opening of the meeting
 - 1.1. Adoption of agenda
2. Approval of decisions taken by the Extended Commission
3. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair for CCSBT 31 and venue
4. Other business
5. Adoption of report of meeting
6. Close of meeting

List of Participants

The Thirtieth Annual Commission Meeting

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AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

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Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなみまぐろ保存委員会

Appendix 3

Report of the Extended Commission of the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Commission

9 –12 October 2023

Busan, Korea

**Report of the Extended Commission of the
Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Commission**

9 –12 October 2023

Busan, Korea

Agenda Item 1. Opening of meeting

1.1. Confirmation of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Extended Commission of the Thirtieth Meeting of the Commission

1. Dr. Dae-Yeon Moon (Korea) was confirmed as the Chair of the Extended Commission of the Thirtieth meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (EC 30), and Mr Tsu-Kang Wen (Fishing Entity of Taiwan) was confirmed as the Vice Chair.
2. The Chair welcomed Members and observers and opened the meeting. The Chair advised that the meeting this year is the first in-person meeting of the EC since CCSBT 26 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and was pleased to be able to host participants. The Chair also noted that discussion for some agenda items had commenced in advance of the meeting by correspondence.
3. The list of participants is provided at **Attachment 1**.

1.2. Adoption of agenda

4. The agenda was adopted and is included at **Attachment 2**. The Chair advised that a proposal for the introduction of a secondment program between the Korean government and the CCSBT will be discussed under Agenda item 15 – Other Business.
5. The list of documents submitted to the meeting is provided at **Attachment 3**.

1.3. Opening statements

6. The Minister of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, Mr Cho Seung Hwan, provided his opening remarks, which are shown in **Attachment 4**.
7. Opening statements were circulated in advance of the meeting and were taken as having been read.

1.3.1. Members

8. Opening statements by Members of the Extended Commission (EC) are provided at **Attachment 5**.
9. New Zealand also took the floor to express its thanks to the Korean government for hosting this meeting. New Zealand also noted the importance of the meeting in terms of decision-making and looked forward to working collaboratively with other Members to reach a successful outcome.

1.3.2. Observers

10. Opening Statements by Observers are provided at **Attachment 6**.

11. Birdlife International reminded Members of the key recommendations from the 2021 Performance Review in relation to the ongoing issues with addressing seabird bycatch.

Agenda Item 2. Report from the Secretariat

12. Discussion for this agenda item commenced by correspondence in advance of the EC meeting.
13. The Report from the Secretariat was provided to the meeting as paper CCSBT-EC/2210/04 and was considered during the pre-meeting discussion process. The report contained two matters for consideration by the EC as follows:
 - The reappointment of Dr Kevin Stokes for a third and final term as Chair of the Scientific Committee; and
 - The reappointment of Professor Sean Cox for a second term to the Scientific Advisory Panel.
14. The Chair advised that Heads of Delegations have agreed to renew the appointments of Dr Kevin Stokes and Professor Sean Cox for another three-year term respectively and congratulated both on their reappointment.
15. The meeting noted the activities of the Secretariat as reported.

2.1. Proposed Amendments to CCSBT Staff Regulations

16. Discussion for this sub-agenda item commenced by correspondence in advance of the EC meeting.
17. The Chair advised that the Secretariat submitted paper CCSBT-EC/2310/05, which proposed amendments of the CCSBT Staff Regulations to align the Staff Regulations with modern staffing practices, better reflect current UN staffing rules, eliminate ambiguity, meet Australian employment regulatory standards, and bring additional transparency.
18. The Chair recognised that some of the proposed changes may impact on future budgets and referred further discussion of this item to the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC).
19. During pre-meeting discussions, one Member asked whether there would be increased staffing costs associated with the proposal. The Secretariat clarified that the proposal would not increase staffing costs and would in fact limit the future earnings of professional Secretariat staff.
20. The meeting agreed to adopt the proposed revised CCSBT Staff Regulations, which is shown in **Attachment 7**.

Agenda Item 3. Finance and Administration

21. The Chair advised that the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) was announced intersessionally in Circular #2023/040. The Chair thanked Mr Neil Hughes for agreeing to Chair the FAC. It was also noted that the FAC has already commenced its work.

22. The Executive Secretary provided a brief presentation of the draft revised budget for 2023 (CCSBT-EC/2310/06), the proposed budget for 2024 and the indicative budget for 2025 - 2026 (CCSBT-EC/2310/07). The Executive Secretary noted that the CCSBT is currently in a strong financial position based on the past accumulation of savings, particularly during the pandemic.
23. For the revised 2023 budget, the Executive Secretary noted that:
 - All Members have paid their 2023 contributions to the CCSBT in full.
 - The total expenditure for 2023 is forecast to be approximately \$3,371,558, which is a ~\$207,542 (6%) saving on the amount previously approved for 2023.
 - Income was also forecast to be ~\$130,000 more than budgeted.
24. For the 2024 draft budget, the Executive Secretary noted that proposed expenditure would put a significant strain on CCSBT's financial position, and the Secretariat has put forward several areas of potential savings that will need to be considered by the FAC.
25. Detailed consideration of the two budget papers was referred to the FAC.
26. The FAC was convened to consider:
 - The revised budget for 2023;
 - The proposed budget for 2024;
 - The indicative budget for 2025 – 2026; and
 - Proposed Amendments to CCSBT Staff Regulations.

3.1. Report from the Finance and Administration Committee

27. The EC thanked the FAC Chair and the FAC for its hard work.
28. The EC Chair also thanked CC Chair for his concessions regarding TCWG being merged with CC.
29. One Member expressed concerns about significantly drawing down the Commission's Contribution Stabilisation Fund (CSF) and also about the disparity between science and compliance spending.
30. Members discussed whether savings could be made by making the OM development meeting virtual rather than in-person, but it was agreed the in-person meeting provided an important capacity building opportunity, particularly for Indonesia.
31. There was also consideration of whether EC 31 could be decreased from four down to three days, but it was agreed that a four-day EC meeting should be retained given that important discussions around future allocations were to commence in 2024.
32. The EC adopted the report of the FAC, noting the revised 2023 budget (Annex A), approving the budget for 2024 (Annex B) and noting the indicative budgets for 2025-2026 (Annex B).
33. The Chair of the FAC reported back the following key points from the Report of the FAC:

- The FAC noted the 2024 budget includes a 5% increase in Member contributions.
 - The FAC supports the changes proposed to the Staff Regulations with the addition of travel days in the case of bereavement leave.
 - The FAC recommended the proposed Technical Compliance Working Group (TCWG) for 2024 be merged with the meeting of the CC as a cost saving.
 - The FAC recommended the EC approve a 2024 budget totalling approximately \$4,244,400 as set out in Annex B, noting this will require approximately \$600,000 from the CSF to balance income and expenses.
 - The FAC noted, with concern, that both the 2025 and 2026 budgets require a drawdown of Commission cash reserves, with the CSF completely drawn down by 2025. The FAC highlighted that under all the funding scenarios it considered, an annual increase of Member contributions of around 5% will be required from 2025 onwards unless further reductions in expenses are achieved.
 - Regarding future meeting costs, the FAC agreed that Members consider either providing funds for costs above the amount identified by the Secretariat or agree their turn to host a meeting be replaced by a meeting in Canberra or other lower cost location. However, the FAC recommends that the current approach should be retained which allows final decisions regarding cost sharing and location of annual meetings to be made by the EC, subject to advice from the FAC.
 - After considering the Secretariat's proposal to consolidate current part-time positions, the FAC recommended this not proceed, noting that additional support to the Secretariat may be available through Korea's staff secondment proposal.
 - The FAC recommended the EC agree to a proposal from the Secretariat to improve transparency of financial accounting and to better align with existing requirements under the Financial Regulations by making an additional statement to Members as part of Year End Financial Statements to advise on the CCSBT's net cash position and whether the potential exists to make a contribution to the CSF.
34. The meeting agreed to revise the 2024 budget to reflect the decision to hold a four day EC and endorsed the report of the FAC provided at Attachment 8.

Agenda Item 4. Review of SBT Fisheries and ERS Interactions

35. The Chair noted the deliberations of the CC and invited Members to ask any questions regarding Members' national reports additional to those already raised at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC 18).
36. No additional questions were asked in relation to Members' national reports.

4.1. Reports on Members' projects

37. The Chair invited Australia and Japan to provide an update on progress with trials for automated SV and Japan's Market Proposal respectively.

Automated stereo video (SV) trial by Australia

38. Australia provided an oral update on its trial of automated stereo video (SV), noting that it was meeting the milestones set out in its 2022 Workplan. Phase 1 of its Workplan is to test the accuracy of the SV camera and that was undertaken in Port Lincoln during 2023 where it was found that SV estimated fish lengths closely matched actual fish lengths, but also identified some issues to be further explored in phase 2, such as the length-weight key to be applied, and a small number of instances of counting the same fish twice or incorrect detection of fish.
39. In February 2024, phase 2 of the project will test the ability of SV to operate under Australian farm operating conditions and be used to determine likely implementation costs.
40. One Member noted that the introduction of SV has been an issue for many years and progress on SV has been previously cited as a key pre-condition to any TAC increase.
41. Another Member asked if there were any obstacles foreseen regarding the completion of phase 2 of the trial, and whether the results could be reported earlier than EC 31.
42. It was also suggested that Australia engage with other Members when developing its monitoring program.
43. In response to the questions raised, Australia advised that:
 - No barriers to implementing the trial in 2024 were foreseen;
 - The report on the trial is due by June 2024 and therefore could be provided by Circular when available and by EC 31 at the latest;
 - It will provide as much transparency as possible about the trial; and
 - Monitoring program design is a significant piece of work that as outlined in the 2022 Workplan will progress beyond CCSBT 31 but Australia can provide an update at that meeting.
44. Members thanked Australia for the update and acknowledged the progress made.

Japan's Market Proposal

45. Japan provided an update on its Market Proposal noted that it was discussed and approved by CC 18 (CCSBT-CC/2310/19) and that some results had also already been reported (CCSBT-CC/2310/13).
46. In response to a question, Japan advised that the study was examining only the markets in Toyosu and Yaizu since between them they represent the majority of the market share.
47. Members thanked Japan for its work to date.

Agenda Item 5. Report from the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group

48. The Sixth Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG 6) was held from 25 – 28 July 2023 in Tokyo, Japan, to consider

recommendations from the 2021 CCSBT Performance Review along with advice from CCSBT's subsidiary bodies in order to develop an updated draft CCSBT Strategic Plan (including a draft Five-Year Action Plan) for EC's consideration. The full report of SFMWG 6 is provided at **Attachment 9**.

49. On behalf of the Chair of the SFMWG, Mr Ichiro Nomura, the Secretariat presented paper CCSBT-EC/2310/09 summarising the outcomes of SFMWG 6 including the draft Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2028.
50. In response to a question from HSI about incorporating more modern fisheries management concepts into CCSBT's Convention, New Zealand noted that updating the Convention would be a long and complex negotiation, but that the current Convention was not an over-riding constraint and that more could be done with the Convention in its current format.
51. The EC agreed to endorse the SFMWG report and adopt the proposed Strategic Plan and its associated workplans, which is provided at **Attachment 10**.

Agenda Item 6. Report from the Compliance Committee

52. The independent Chair of the Compliance Committee (CC), Mr Frank Meere, noted that CC 18 was conducted in a very positive manner and thanked all CC 18 participants (Members, observers, the Secretariat and the interpreters) for their efforts during the meeting, including thanking Members for responding to questions in the pre-meeting discussion documents.
53. The CC Chair noted that the Fourth Meeting of Technical Compliance Working Group (TCWG 4) had been held immediately prior to CC 18 to review compliance risks and proposed Action Items for input into the Compliance Action Plan (CAP). This work was not completed and was continued by CC 18.
54. The CC Chair presented the report of CC 18 (**Attachment 11**).
55. The CC Chair highlighted some of the key Member compliance issues discussed by CC 18 which were:
 - South Africa's various compliance issues relating to the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS), non-provision of data, non-attendance of meetings, non-submission of national reports and non-submission of its Corrective Action Plan requested by EC 29;
 - The EU's lack of attendance at meetings and failure to provide some national reports;
 - Japan's lack of scientific observer coverage during 2022;
 - Korea's lack of submission of some CDS import documents;
 - Indonesia's ongoing non-compliance with CCSBT's Transshipment Resolution; and
 - Insufficient observer coverage and data reporting on compliance leading to an inability to assess the levels of compliance of Members seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
56. The CC Chair highlighted other important issues discussed including that:

- CC 18 had continued but did not complete TCWG 4's work and recommended the development of a CAP should continue intersessionally and be finalised at TCWG 5 (if convened)/CC 19 in 2024;
- CCSBT's Corrective Actions Policy (CPG3) was discussed and it was recommended to reconsider it in 2024 through a combination of an intersessional process and a possible TCWG 5;
- For QARs, CC 18's preferred approach was to utilise QARs for any new Members joining CCSBT and to also utilise targeted QARs if appropriate;
- Japan's market proposal was endorsed and Japan's proposal to develop an open-access CCSBT webpage to search individual SBT information by CDS tag number was strongly supported;
- It was agreed that consideration of the CDS Resolution (to take into account eCDS developments) be deferred until CC 19, and that the full implementation date for the eCDS be 1 January 2026 unless otherwise decided by the EC; and
- Members noted progress with the Seabird Project and their willingness to engage with it.

57. The CC Chair noted that CC 18's recommendations to EC 30 included:

- Adopting a set of High-Level Electronic Monitoring/Systems Guiding Principles for the CCSBT;
- Adopting a revised CCSBT Authorised Vessel Resolution to collect information on whether vessels are authorised to fish outside waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State; and
- Adopting a revised strengthened Transshipment Resolution, which includes improvements already adopted by ICCAT and IOTC plus some elements from the UN-FAO Voluntary Guidelines as well as a two-year transshipment at-sea trial proposal for 17 Indonesia-flagged wooden carrier vessels including a targeted Quality Assurance Review (QAR) of the trial.

58. Other CC 18 recommendations include that:

- The Executive Secretary write to the EU to determine its continued interest in CCSBT and remind the EU that it is an obligation of all Members to submit annual reports and attend all Commission meetings;
- Indonesia continue with its Payback Plan; and
- South Africa provide a Corrective Actions Plan by 31 December 2023 to address areas on non-compliance, including providing the timing for the provision of outstanding data (before 15th meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) for ERS data) and national reports.

59. Members thanked the CC Chair for his thorough report.

60. Some Members noted that the lack of a High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) Resolution in the IOTC was an area of concern and encouraged Members who are also IOTC Members to try to facilitate the introduction of such a measure in the IOTC. One Member noted that an IOTC HSBI proposal was likely to be made in 2024 but that previously such proposals had not been adopted.

61. The EC Chair confirmed that EC endorsed CC 18's report and all of its recommendations.

Agenda Item 7. Report from the Extended Scientific Committee

62. The independent Chair of the ESC, Dr Kevin Stokes, presented the report of the ESC for the Twenty Eighth meeting of the Scientific Committee (ESC 28), which is summarised in papers CCSBT-EC/2310/11, and provided in full at **Attachment 12**.
63. The ESC conducted a stock assessment in 2023, with key points as follows:
- The 2019 Operating Model (OM) was used for tuning the Cape Town Procedure (CTP) such that the stock should reach 30% Total Reproductive Output (TRO) by 2035;
 - The baseline reference set of OM's in the 2023 Stock Assessment still result in a relative TRO estimate of 30% in 2035, with a range of 19-45%;
 - All sensitivity tests suggest that the CTP would ensure the stock does not decline, and all would be picked up through testing for exceptional circumstances;
 - A wide range of projections and sensitivity tests show similar or slightly more positive stock estimates for 2025, with some exceptions; and
 - Overall, the assessment is robust and accepted by the ESC. The stock is estimated to be on track to meet CCSBT objectives under continued use of the MP.
64. The ESC Chair highlighted the key management recommendations from ESC 28 were:
- The ESC 27 recommended TAC for 2024-2026 is 20,647 t.
 - ESC 28 concluded that there is no reason to modify the 2024-2026 TAC recommendation on the basis of Exceptional Circumstances;
 - An allocation of 3.0 t be made in in 2024 to cover mortality associated with agreed research projects; and
 - In projections conducted at ESC 28 based on the new stock assessment and using all available data (see 11.3 of ESC 28), the ESC noted that (noting that this advice could change in future years):
 - The probability of the 2027-2029 TAC decreasing below 20,647 t, or increasing by 0-1,999 t is small; and
 - The probability of the 2027-2029 TAC increasing by 2,000-3,000 t is high.
65. In response to questions from Members, the ESC Chair clarified that:
- Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) changes between assessments because of changes in recruitment, fishing patterns, and other biological parameters, especially the estimate of natural mortality;

- The F -to- F_{msy} ratio compares current fishing to F_{msy} , and indicates that current fishing levels are at about half the rate that could be achieved if the stock had recovered;
 - Unaccounted Mortalities (UAM) are estimated as best as can be done using indirect methods and are accounted for in testing of the Management Procedure (MP), not deducted from the total allowable catch (TAC); and
 - HSI questioned how EC can be better informed about any TAC increase implications for ERS species, in particular seabirds.
66. The EC endorsed the report of the ESC and its recommendations.

Agenda Item 8. Total Allowable Catch and its allocation

8.1. TAC Determination

67. The Chair noted that the ESC ran the Cape Town Procedure (CTP) in 2022 and has recommended a TAC of 20,647 t per year for 2024 to 2026, which is a 3,000 t increase over the TAC for 2021 to 2023. The ESC recommended the adoption of this TAC at CCSBT 29, however, Members elected to defer this decision to CCSBT 30.
68. The Chair also noted that Paragraph 2 of the Resolution on the Adoption of a Management Procedure states that “The MP shall be used to guide the setting of the global TAC for 2021 and beyond”, and the ESC 28 this year concluded that there is no evidence of exceptional circumstances and therefore confirmed the TAC recommended for 2024-2026 of 20,647 t/year.
69. The meeting noted that measurable progress had been made by Australia and Japan with respect to the issues related to the implementation of SV monitoring and the Japan market study respectively.
70. It was noted that it was important to implement the increase in the TAC that was the recommendation of the best available science, and that it was pleasing to see an increase that was a result of careful management of the stock.
71. The EC agreed to adopt the global SBT TAC of 20,647 tonnes per year from 2024 to 2026 inclusive as calculated by the MP and recommended by the ESC.

8.2. Research Mortality Allowance

72. The Chair noted that, at CCSBT 29, the EC agreed to continue 6 tonnes of fixed deduction from the TAC from 2024 to 2026 for Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) each year. The Chair advised that ESC 28 has endorsed the provision of the following amounts of RMA to cover research projects in 2023/2024:
- 1.5 t for the CCSBT Gene Tagging Project;
 - 1.0 t by Japan for an age-0 distribution survey and an age-1 trolling survey in Western Australia; and
 - 0.5 t by Australia for the e-tagging project in the Great Australian Bight.
73. The EC approved a total 3.0 t of RMA for 2023/2024 as endorsed by the ESC.

8.3. Allocation of TAC

Allocation of TAC

74. The Chair noted that the TAC for 2024 to 2026 was to be determined at CCSBT 29, however, the decision was deferred to CCSBT 30. In addition, CCSBT 29 agreed that Indonesia would provide a proposal for revising the TAC allocation at CCSBT 30 for consideration by Members, and also noted that this proposal would be for a simple adjustment to the allocation percentages and not a proposal for a completely new mechanism.
75. Indonesia presented paper CCSBT-EC/2310/17, which proposes an increase to Indonesia's allocation. In its presentation, Indonesia emphasised its status as a developing coastal State with immediate access to SBT fishing grounds within its EEZ. Indonesia stated that it possessed a demonstrated ability for greater SBT catch but had been forced to limit its catch since joining this Commission. Indonesia also highlighted its efforts to develop monitoring systems, including the CDS, and contribution to the science process as evidence of its commitment to the management of the stock.
76. Several Members raised the concern over the limited time to fully assess the proposal from Indonesia and to give it due consideration including its potential impact on the allocation of other Members. Several Members also noted that many of the reasons that Indonesia put forward to support its request for an increase in its allocation percentage also applied to them, such as SBT being present in their EEZs, past higher historical catch, and socioeconomic impact.
77. Members expressed sympathy for Indonesia's situation and recognised its status as a developing coastal State.
78. One Member sympathised with Indonesia's difficulties in managing fisheries within its allocation but also cited this as a source of concern.
79. Another Member expressed concerns about providing an increase to Indonesia prior to completion of its payback plan.
80. Indonesia reminded Members of the flexibility it has shown in considering temporary solutions to the issue of allocation given its preference for a permanent remedy through a change in the allocation percentages currently found in the Allocation Resolution.
81. Members expressed an openness to discussing a possible way forward to address the position that Indonesia is in, which may include a review of allocation percentages. It was suggested that long term arrangements could be considered next year providing a paper was put forward well in advance of the meeting (at least 60 days prior to the start of the meeting) to allow for consultations with stakeholders. It was noted that the next quota block would be the preferred timing for implementation of a change and that the earlier discussions started the better. Early discussion would be important for a proposal to succeed.
82. Recognising that the EC agreed the CTP recommended TAC of 20,647 t and also agreed to deduct 6.0 t of RMA from the recommended TAC, the TAC available for allocation to Members will be 20,641 t. Members' allocations of

this available TAC in accordance with the Allocation Resolution is provided in the column (1) of table 1.

83. In consideration of Indonesia's situation, the EC agreed that a special temporary allowance of 130 t would be provided to Indonesia per year from 2024 to 2026 inclusive.
84. Korea noted that according to CCSBT's Corrective Actions Policy (CPG3), a Member that has exceeded its catch limit is not eligible for an increase in its Effective Catch Limit¹ until its excess catch has been paid back, unless otherwise agreed by EC. Korea noted that it could be argued that this situation applies to Indonesia, but would reluctantly join consensus in agreeing the increase for Indonesia.
85. The special temporary allowance is subject to:
 - an annual review of Indonesia's compliance undertaken at CC and an ability to revoke or reduce the temporary allowance;
 - this arrangement will expire at the end of 2026 and not extended beyond; and
 - not setting a precedent for, and being without prejudice to, future discussions on allocation and interpretation of CCSBT's decisions.
86. The annual review of compliance mentioned above will include evaluation of performance against obligations, including in areas such as: catch against allocation, transshipment, CDS, management of small-scale fisheries, data exchange requirements, and observer requirements.
87. This is a temporary arrangement that does not affect Member's allocation percentage within the Annex of the Resolution on the Allocation of the Global Total Allowable Catch.
88. In addition, Japan has agreed to provide a voluntary transfer of 21 t to Indonesia and 27 t to South Africa each year for 2024 to 2026.

Table 1: Allocation and Effective Catch Limit (tonnes of SBT) to Members for 2024 - 2026.

| Member | Allocation (tonnes) (1) | Effective Catch Limit (2) ² |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Japan | 7,341 | 7,247 |
| Australia | 7,341 | 7,295 |
| New Zealand | 1,296 | 1,288 |
| Korea | 1,477 | 1,468 |
| Taiwan | 1,477 | 1,468 |
| Indonesia | 1,193 | 1,336 ³ |

¹ The Effective Catch Limit is the Member's National Allocation plus or minus any agreed short-term changes to that allocation, for example temporary transfers.

² Includes voluntary transfers to Indonesia of 21 t from Japan and a special temporary allowance of 130 t. It also includes a voluntary transfer of 27 t to South Africa from Japan.

³ Figures for Indonesia in Table 1 do not include 91.3 t to be repaid by Indonesia every year until 2026 as part of an agreed Payback Plan.

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| European Union | 13 | 13 |
| South Africa | 503 | 527 |

89. The EC agreed to the allocations specified in Table 1 and the conditions in paragraph 85 and 86.
90. Indonesia expressed its appreciation to Members for their consideration and thanked Japan for its voluntary transfer. In addition, it provided the statement below:
- Indonesia has taken reasonable approach and request in regard to allocation. Indonesia is not pushing forward the percentage change this year, as suggested in EC 29. Indonesia also counts on other possible option with the expectation that the minimum amount request to reflect the current and immediate need is fulfilled. Indonesia strongly believes that to be able to maintain and control of our healthy SBT fisheries management is through adequate allocation that truly reflects the capacity and dynamic of fishing fleet. Its population grows and demands for job, so do Indonesian fisheries, which provide significant socio-economic contribution.
 - Indonesia will continue its endeavour in the future for fair allocation, since this is the only sensible way out to avoid a series of most probable overcatch and to end up in permanent payback mechanism, and also avoid having prolong discussion on allocation. That is certainly inconvenient and unhealthy situation.
 - Furthermore, it is in its strong perspective that the percentage for quota allocation needs to be revisited next year. Indonesia is very much concern over this issue which entails the concerns and geographical position of Indonesia as a developing coastal state on the basis of relevant provisions of international law, among others, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as well as the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna. This urgent matter needs to be addressed in a timely manner and should receive a positive response considering the strategic and pivotal role of Indonesia sovereignty and sovereign rights as spawning ground and migration route of southern bluefin tuna to be conserved and managed.

Amendment to the Allocation Resolution

91. Japan presented paper CCSBT-EC/2310/18 on its proposal to amend the Resolution on the Allocation of the Global Total Allowable Catch, noting that Japan proposed further revisions to this paper during the meeting. In this proposal, Japan suggested revising provisions related to allocations for new Members or CNMs to remove any ambiguity and improve the procedures, considering the 2021 CCSBT Performance Revision Recommendations (PR-2021-59 and 62). Japan further suggested maintaining the allocation for the new Member unchanged during the first three fishing seasons unless the EC decides otherwise. Japan also proposed removing the “nominal Catch” column from the Annex of the Allocation Resolution so that the actual quota is used as the basis for calculating Members’ contributions.
92. Members collaborated on a revised draft of the proposal put forward by Japan and agreed to the amended resolution provided at **Attachment 13**.

Agenda Item 9. Ecologically Related Species (ERS)

93. Discussion for this agenda item commenced by correspondence in advance of the EC.

Update to CCSBT's Resolution on Ecologically Related Species (ERS)

94. The Chair advised that the Secretariat prepared paper CCSBT-EC/2310/13 (Rev.1), which provides a draft update to CCSBT's *Resolution to Align CCSBT's Ecologically Related Species measures with those of other tuna RFMOs* to take into account decisions taken on ERS at the Annual Meetings of the ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC.
95. Birdlife International and ACAP noted the IOTC's Resolution 23/07 on Reducing the Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries, which will enter into force on the 1 July 2024, has now added the use of hook-shielding devices (as a best practice measure) to the list of mitigation measures that can be used to reduce seabird bycatch. Hook-shielding devices can be used as a stand-alone measure and should help prevent albatross and petrel bycatch.
96. ACAP further noted that the most recent update of its [best practice advice](#) (endorsed at the 13th Meeting of its Advisory Committee - AC13 - in May 2023), continues to recommend that the most effective way to reduce seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries is to use the following three best practice measures simultaneously: (1) branch line weighting, (2) night setting and (3) bird scaring lines, or use of one of the assessed hook-shielding devices or the assessed underwater bait setting device. ACAP's latest best practice advice also provided clarification of what constitutes night setting. ACAP noted that both the IOTC and the WCPFC had endorsed the use of hook shielding devices as a best practice mitigation measure. ACAP would be pleased to provide a detailed presentation on its updated best practice advice at ERSWG 15.
97. HSI noted that it had been hoping that uncertainty around night setting be discussed at CC 18 and sought clarification on the mitigation intent of ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC measures for sets which failed to be completed within the hours of darkness. HSI also suggested that an individual and collective Member seabird catch reduction target and timeframe could help greatly in management of one species (SBT) into abundance increase whilst at the same time preventing further contribution to the extinction of others (seabirds).
98. Australia noted that it was supportive of the use of hook-shielding devices and pleased that these had been included as an option in the IOTC's ERS measure. Australia also noted its support for consideration of the use of best practice mitigation measures at ERSWG 15 in 2024, and was open to discussions about night setting.
99. New Zealand noted that it is currently reviewing its domestic seabird regulations in the surface longline fleet, which will consider ACAP best practice. New Zealand is considering strengthened regulations (three best practice mitigations simultaneously or hook shielding devices) either spatially-temporally or across all effort. It also noted the benefits of electronic monitoring

(EM), particularly the potential to analyse information to provide better understanding of seabird interactions.

100. Pew supported the views of other observers and suggested that the Commission consider the use of EM for monitoring ERS bycatch.
101. The EC agreed to adopt the revised CCSBT ERS Resolution, which is provided at **Attachment 14**.

Members' performance with respect to ERS

102. The Chair noted that the Secretariat's report on Members' performance with respect to ERS was presented to the CC in paper CCSBT-CC/2210/05.
103. Members did not raise any issues under this agenda item.

CCSBT Multi-year Seabird Strategy

104. The Chair noted that the CCSBT's Multi-year Seabird Strategy was adopted in 2022 and invited Members to discuss the progress made to date.
105. Members had no comments currently and the Chair noted this item can be discussed at ERSWG 15 in 2024.

Agenda Item 10. Relationship with Non-Members

106. Discussion for this agenda item commenced by correspondence in advance of the EC.
107. The Secretariat submitted paper CCSBT-EC/2310/14 which summarised the Secretariat's interactions with non-Members since CCSBT 29. China, Fiji, Mauritius, Panama, Singapore and the USA were invited to attend this meeting and CC 18.
108. The EC agreed to invite China, Fiji, Malaysia, Mauritius, Panama, Republic of Seychelles, Singapore, and the USA to participate as observers at CC 19 and CCSBT 31.
109. The Chair thanked the United States for its continued cooperation with the CCSBT's CDS. The Chair also thanked the Republic of Seychelles for attending this meeting, which was appreciated.

Agenda Item 11. Activities with Other Organisations

110. Discussion of this agenda item commenced by correspondence in advance of the EC.
111. The meeting noted section 4 of paper CCSBT-EC/2310/15, which explains that the CCSBT has been approached by Mr Shingo Ota in his role as the Chair of the Catch Documentation Scheme Technical Meeting, which is a subsidiary body of the joint IATTC and WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG). The JWG is seeking technical support from the CCSBT in the development of its electronic Pacific Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation. The support requested includes the sharing of resources developed by the CCSBT for its eCDS system. Discussions are underway between the various parties involved to develop an instrument that

would allow technical sharing while recognising the Pacific Community (SPC) contribution to data and the CCSBT Secretariat will continue to support these discussions.

11.1. Reports from other RFMO meetings of interest

112. Members have acted as CCSBT observers at RFMO meetings of interest, and these Members have provided reports back to the CCSBT on matters of relevance in order to improve coordination with other RFMO.
113. The following reports were provided by Members as part of their Observer duties for the CCSBT.
 - Korea's report (CCSBT-EC/2310/24) to the 19th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);
 - New Zealand's report (CCSBT-EC/2310/23) to the 41st Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR);
 - Indonesia's report (CCSBT-EC/2310/19) to the 6th Special Session and 27th Annual Meeting of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC);
 - Japan's report (CCSBT-EC/2310/20) to the 2022 Discussions on Essential Commission Business in Lieu of The 23rd Special Meeting of The International Commission for The Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); and
 - Taiwan's report (CCSBT-EC/2310/21) on the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.
114. It was agreed that the following Members would act as Observers to other RFMOs on behalf of CCSBT during 2023/24:
 - Korea to continue as Observer to WCPFC;
 - New Zealand to continue as an Observer to CCAMLR;
 - Indonesia to continue as an Observer to IOTC;
 - Japan to continue as an Observer to ICCAT; and
 - Taiwan to continue as an Observer to IATTC.

Agenda Item 12. Confidentiality of Data and Documents

12.1. Confidentiality of reports and documents from 2023

115. Discussion for this agenda item commenced by correspondence in advance of the EC.
116. The EC agreed that all the reports of meetings and documents submitted to meetings under the jurisdiction of CCSBT 30 would be made publicly available with the exception of Attachment A of paper CCSBT-ESC/2308/04 from the Secretariat titled "Secretariat Review of Catches" and the report from Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) found at Attachment A of paper CCSBT-CC/2310/14 titled "Potential Non-Member Fishing Activity/Trade & Trade Summaries".

Agenda Item 13. Meetings for 2024

117. Discussion for this agenda item commenced by correspondence in advance of the EC.
118. The EC agreed that the dates for the in-person ESC, CC and EC meetings in Taiwan during 2024 will be:
- The 29th Extended Scientific Committee meeting, from 2 to 6 September 2024;
 - The 19th Compliance Committee Meeting, from 3 to 5 October 2024; and
 - The 31st Extended Commission Meeting, from 7 to 10 October 2024.
119. The EC also agreed that the 15th Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG 15) will be held as in-person meeting from 4 to 7 June 2024 in Tokyo, Japan. It was noted that the timing of the meeting was before the 2024 ERSWG Data Exchange and that there were deficiencies in data for recent years, which would constrain progress of the ERSWG. New Zealand offered to bring additional information about hook-shielding device use in its fishery.
120. New Zealand will host a hybrid virtual meeting of the ERSWG to advance risk assessment for seabirds. The meeting will be open to attendance by Members, but it is intended to be virtual. The date and venue will be decided intersessionally in consultation with the ERSWG Chair and Members, but it will be held before ERSWG 15.
121. The EC agreed that the 14th Operating Model and Management Procedure Technical Group meeting (OMMP 14) be held during the week starting 24 June 2024 in Seattle, USA. It was noted that this OMMP meeting is held in the context of the OM Specification and software upgrade project, and consequently the nature of this meeting is informal and will not produce a meeting report.

Agenda Item 14. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair for the Extended Commission of the Thirty First Annual Meeting of the CCSBT

122. The Chair advised that there were no nominations for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the EC, and that consequently, the Chair and Vice-Chair will be determined in accordance with past practice and the rotation of meetings. Therefore, Taiwan will be Chair of the EC and Indonesia will be Vice-Chair.
123. The Chair requested that Taiwan provide its nomination for the Chair to the Secretariat as soon as possible.
124. Indonesia nominated Professor Indra Jaya as the Vice-Chair for the EC 31 meeting.

Agenda Item 15. Other Business

125. Korea presented paper CCSBT-EC/2310/22 proposing to establish a secondment program to the CCSBT Secretariat from Korea. Korea

acknowledged the pivotal role that the CCSBT plays among the tRFMOs by effectively managing fisheries and preserving ecosystem balance, and it viewed CCSBT as an ideal platform to both learn from and contribute Korea's fisheries management expertise. Therefore, Korea proposed the establishment of a secondment program, allowing Korean staff to work within the CCSBT Secretariat, noting management rules to address various aspects of the program.

126. Members were supportive of the initiative and its contribution to capacity building and the benefits of the extra capacity it would provide to the Secretariat. Members showed interest in extending the program to include other Members in the future.
127. The main concern noted by Members was that of confidentiality of data. The Secretariat confirmed that there were no issues with constraining a secondee's access to data and that this could be done in line with Members' decisions on the scope and restrictions to apply to the secondee role.
128. One Member asked a question regarding the level of experience of the candidates for the program, and Korea responded that a level did not have to be specified. The key criterion was that the secondee had an appropriate level of expertise in fisheries matters.
129. Members endorsed Korea's secondment proposal and provisionally endorsed the MOU, subject to the details regarding the scope of the secondee's work and the confidentiality agreement being shared with and approved by Members before the secondment starts.

Agenda Item 16. Close of Meeting

16.1. Adoption of report

130. The report of the meeting was adopted.

16.2. Close of meeting

131. The meeting closed at 16:04 pm, 12 October 2023.

List of Attachments

Attachment

1. List of Participants
2. Agenda
3. List of Documents
4. Welcome/Opening Remarks by the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries Republic of Korea
5. Opening Statements by Members
6. Opening Statements by Observers
7. CCSBT Staff Regulations
8. Report from the Finance and Administration Committee
9. Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group
10. Strategic Plan for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna 2023 – 2028
11. Report of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Compliance Committee
12. Report of the Twenty Eighth Meeting of the Scientific Committee
13. Resolution on the Allocation of the Global Total Allowable Catch
14. Resolution to Align CCSBT's Ecologically Related Species measures with those of other tuna RFMOs

List of Participants
The Extended Commission of the Thirtieth Annual Commission Meeting

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Agenda
Extended Commission of the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Commission
9-12 October 2023
Busan, Korea

1. Opening of the Meeting
 - 1.1. Confirmation of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Extended Commission of the Thirtieth Meeting of the Commission
 - 1.2. Adoption of Agenda
 - 1.3. Opening Statements
 - 1.3.1. Members
 - 1.3.2. Observers
2. Report from the Secretariat
 - 2.1. Proposed Amendments to CCSBT Staff Regulations
3. Finance and Administration
 - 3.1. Report from the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)
4. Review of SBT Fisheries and ERS Interactions
 - 4.1. Reports on Members' projects
5. Report from the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group
6. Report from the Compliance Committee
7. Report from the Extended Scientific Committee
8. Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation
 - 8.1. TAC Determination
 - 8.2. Research Mortality Allowance
 - 8.3. Allocation of TAC
9. Ecologically Related Species (ERS)
10. Relationship with non-Members
11. Activities with Other Organisations
 - 11.1. Reports from other RFMO meetings of interest
12. Confidentiality of Data and Documents
 - 12.1. Confidentiality of reports and documents from 2023
13. Meetings for 2024

14. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair for the Extended Commission of the Thirty-First Annual Meeting of the CCSBT
15. Other Business
16. Close of Meeting
 - 16.1. Adoption of report
 - 16.2. Close of meeting

List of Documents

The Extended Commission of the Thirtieth Annual Commission Meeting

(CCSBT-EC/2310/)

1. Provisional Agenda
2. List of Participants
3. Draft List of Documents
4. (Secretariat) Report from the Secretariat (EC agenda item 2)
5. (Secretariat) Proposed Amendment to Staff Regulations (EC Agenda item 2.1)
6. (Secretariat) Draft Revised 2023 Budget (EC agenda item 3)
7. (Secretariat) Draft 2024 and indicative 2025 - 2026 Budgets (EC agenda item 3)
8. (Secretariat) Review of SBT Fisheries and ERS Interactions (EC agenda item 4)
9. (Secretariat) Report from the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (EC Agenda item 5)
10. (Secretariat) Report from the Compliance Committee (EC agenda item 6)
11. (SC Chair) Chairman's report of the Twenty Eighth Meeting of the Extended Scientific Committee (EC agenda item 7)
12. (Secretariat) Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation (EC agenda item 8)
13. (Secretariat) Update to CCSBT's Resolution on Ecologically Related Species (ERS) (Rev.1) (EC Agenda item 9)
14. (Secretariat) Relationship with Non-Members (EC agenda item 10)
15. (Secretariat) Activities with Other Organisations (EC agenda item 11)
16. (Secretariat) Confidentiality of Data and Documents (EC agenda item 12)
17. (Indonesia) Proposal on revising TAC Allocation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (EC agenda item 8.3)
18. (Japan) Japan's Proposal to amend Resolution on the Allocation of the Global Total Allowable Catch (EC agenda item 8.3)
19. (Indonesia) Report from the CCSBT Observer (Indonesia) to the 6th Special Session and 27th Annual Meeting of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) (EC agenda item 11.1)
20. (Japan) Report from the CCSBT Observer to the 2022 Discussions on Essential Commission Business in Lieu of The 23rd Special Meeting of The International Commission for The Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) (EC agenda item 11.1)
21. (Taiwan) Report from the CCSBT Observer (TAIWAN) on the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (EC agenda item 11.1)

22. (Korea) Proposal on establishing a secondment program to CCSBT (EC agenda item 15)
23. (New Zealand) Report from the CCSBT Observer (New Zealand) to the 41st Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (EC Agenda item 11.1)
24. (Korea) Report from the CCSBT Observer (Republic of Korea) to the Nineteenth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) (EC Agenda item 11.1)

(CCSBT-EC/2310/Rep)

1. Report of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Compliance Committee (October 2023)
2. Report of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (August - September 2023)
3. Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (July 2023)
4. Report of the Thirteenth Operating Model and Management Procedure Workshop (June 2023)
5. Report of the Twenty Ninth Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2022)
6. Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Compliance Committee (October 2022)
7. Report of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Scientific Committee (August - September 2022)
8. Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (March 2022)
9. Report of the Twenty Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2021)
10. Report of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2020)

(Documents to be discussed from the Compliance Committee Meeting)¹

(CCSBT-CC/2310/SBT Fisheries -)

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Australia | Annual Report to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission |
| European Union | Annual Report to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission |
| Indonesia | Annual Report to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission |

¹ Documents from CC meeting which Members might want to discuss at the Extended Commission (EC) meeting. These documents will not be renumbered.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Japan | Annual Report to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission |
| Korea | Annual Report to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission |
| New Zealand | Annual Report to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission |
| South Africa | Annual Report to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission |
| Taiwan | Annual Report to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission |

(CCSBT-CC/2310/)

1. Provisional Agenda
4. (Secretariat) Compliance with CCSBT Management Measures (Rev.1) (CC agenda items 2.1, 2.4.1, 2.4.2)
5. (Secretariat) Annual Report on Members' implementation of ERS measures and performance with respect to ERS (CC agenda item 2.1)
6. (Secretariat) Review of Implementation of Indonesia's and South Africa's Corrective Actions (CC agenda item 2.4.2)
7. (Secretariat) CCSBT High Level Guiding Principles for EM/S (CC agenda item 5)
8. (Secretariat) Operation of CCSBT MCS Measures (Rev.1) (CC agenda items 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 6)
9. (Secretariat) Proposed Draft Revised CCSBT Authorised Vessel Resolution (CC agenda item 6)
10. (Secretariat) Review of Corrective Actions Policy (Compliance Policy Guideline 3) (CC agenda item 7.1)
11. (Secretariat) Development of a Revised Strengthened CCSBT Transshipment Resolution (CC agenda item 7.2.1)
12. (Secretariat) Potential Future Options for CCSBT's Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Programme (CC agenda item 8.1)
13. (Secretariat) Secretariat's analyses for Japan's Market Proposal related items (CC agenda item 8.2.2)
14. (Secretariat) Potential Non-Member Fishing Activity/Trade & Trade Summaries (CC agenda item 8.3)
15. (Secretariat) Update on CCSBT's Compliance Relationships with Other Bodies and Organisations (CC agenda item 8.3, 9)

16. (Secretariat) Progress Update on the CCSBT's Trial eCDS Project
(CC agenda item 10)
17. (Secretariat) Update on Seabird Project to Enhance the Implementation of Seabird Measures (CC agenda item 11)
18. (Indonesia) A Proposal for Amendment of Resolution on Establishing a Program for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels
(CC agenda item 7.2.1)
19. (Japan) Update on the work in relation to annual verification with CDS data and different data sets (CC Agenda item 8.2.1)
20. (Japan) Improvement of the estimation of Japanese southern bluefin tuna catch based on market statistics and research data
(CC Agenda item 8.2.1)

(CCSBT-CC/2310/Info)

1. (Secretariat) Discussion Paper on Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Associated System (CC Agenda item 5)
2. (BirdLife International) Global prevalence of setting longlines at dawn highlights bycatch risk for threatened albatross (CC Agenda item 2.1)
3. (Pew Charitable Trust) Approached to evaluate and strengthen RFMO compliance processes and performance – A toolkit and recommendations
(CC Agenda item 7.1 and 8.3)

(CCSBT-TCWG/2310/)

4. (Secretariat) Review of Compliance Risks & Proposed Action Items for Input into the Compliance Action Plan

(CCSBT-TCWG/2310/info)

1. (Secretariat) CCSBT Compliance Plan
2. (Secretariat) Draft Strategic Plan for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna 2023 - 2028

**Welcome/Opening Remarks
by the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries Republic of Korea**

Excellencies, Executive Secretary Mr. Dominic Vallières, Chairperson of the Commission Dr. Daeyeon Moon, Distinguished delegates from Australia, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, and the Fishing Entity of Taiwan, Respected observers,

I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 30th Annual Meeting of the CCSBT, and I extend a warm welcome to all of you here in Busan.

Busan has had the privilege of hosting numerous international fisheries-related conferences. Consequently, some of you may have hoped for this meeting to take place in different locations.

While Korea boasts many beautiful cities, Busan stands out as our nation's premier port city.

It serves as a vital port of call for both coastal and distant water fisheries vessels.

The bustling port and lively fish markets in Busan provide a unique opportunity to experience the dynamic energy of the fisheries community, right from the crack of dawn.

For this reason, Busan holds a special place in the realm of fisheries, which is why, as the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, I hold a deep attachment to this city.

Moreover, I am delighted that an important conference like the CCSBT is taking place here in Busan, allowing me the privilege of addressing all of you today in this opening speech.

Distinguished guests,

The significance of this 30th Commission Meeting cannot be overstated.

It marks our return to in-person meetings after three years of virtual gatherings necessitated by the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, it marks the first meeting with our newly appointed Executive Secretary, Dominic Vallières.

During this commission, we will deliberate on crucial matters such as the adoption of the TAC based on the outcomes of the MP and the subsequent allocation decisions.

It is indeed a fortunate opportunity for us to gather in person for these important discussions.

In accordance with the outcomes of the ESC meeting held this August in Jeju Island, we are encouraged to witness a positive trend in the SBT stock.

This encouraging trend has led to a scientific advice for a 3,000 ton increase in the current TAC.

While we anticipate further discussion, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members and fishermen for their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in contributing to the recovery for the SBT stock.

CCSBT has showcased remarkable efficiency in stock management by implementing the MP at an earlier stage compared to other T-RFMOs.

This is a legacy that all of you should take pride in. With this legacy in mind, I am confident that this year's meeting, guided by the best available scientific information, will lead to highly productive outcomes.

Esteemed guests,

RFMOs today, including CCSBT, hold a critical position in shaping strategies for protecting by-catch species and preserving marine ecosystems, extending their responsibilities beyond catch allocation and fisheries management.

In order to align ourselves with this global imperative, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Republic of Korea is committed to fostering close collaboration with RFMOs and reinforcing our national policies.

We are eager to sustain and further this proactive approach through the course of this meeting.

In closing, I wish everyone a productive and insightful week of discussions here in Busan.

May you cherish the memorable moments created during your stay in our vibrant city.

Thank you.

Opening Statement by Australia

Australia would firstly like to thank the Republic of Korea for hosting this year's meeting, and our Chair, Dr Dae Yeon Moon, and the Secretariat for the meeting papers and arrangements, which are of the usual high standard, our excellent and patient translators and of course all other delegates and delegations.

I understand Compliance Committee last week was very successful and held with a good spirit of cooperation. Australia sees compliance as a key aspect of the Commission's work and we are pleased to see continuing improvement in how we go about this.

This year the Commission will again be asked to agree catch limits for the next quota block, taking into account the very positive outcome of the Cape Town Procedure last year and the recommended maximum increase in global Total Allowable Catch.

Australia strongly supports the close link between the Management Procedure and global TAC setting, not only this year with a proposed increase but also if we are asked to agree to reduce quotas to ensure stock rebuilding in the future.

Last year Australia provided a work plan on our stereo video trial and we are pleased to note that we have met all the milestones of the plan. We will undertake the next stage of the stereo video trial in early 2024 and will report back to the Commission on this.

Australia is proud to again take on the role of Chair the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) this year. The work of the FAC is critical to for the Commission, and we note the broader backdrop of increasing cost pressures. We will work to find budget solutions for the next two budgets and seek to balance our income and expenditure in a way that is sustainable into the future.

Like everyone here, Australia is committed to working constructively with all members to achieve the best outcomes for CCSBT.

Australia's delegation to the meeting is listed in the participants lists, but let me note we have participants from the department, from our fisheries regular (AFMA) and industry members.

And finally, it would be remiss not to acknowledge that this is the last year Mr Brian Jeffriess will attend these meetings. Brian has been associated with the SBT fishery since the 1990s and has attended every CCSBT meeting since the Commission was established. Brian has a wealth of knowledge about the fishery and the Commission and will be greatly missed by the Australian delegation and all of the CCSBT.

Thank you.

Opening Statement by the Fishing Entity of Taiwan

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join you at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Commission, which is the first physical meeting after the Covid-19 pandemic. On behalf of Taiwan delegation, I would first like to commend Executive Secretary, Mr. Dominic Vallières, and his team for their excellent performance over the past year.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to Republic of Korea for their huge supports of organizing this important event as well as their warm hospitality to my delegation. In addition, I wish to thank the interpreters for their contributions in facilitating this meeting. It is indeed a huge help.

The works for the annual meeting this year will be focused on such important issues as the annual TAC for 2024-2026, the budget for 2024, and the connections with other international organizations and non-Members. All are issues of critical importance that accord with not only a sustainable SBT fishery but also a steady and stable operation of this organization. I am convinced that with the firm supports of all Members, this Commission will continue to fulfill its mandate in the years to come.

In this meeting, Members are going to decide the venue for the 31st meeting next year. Considering the transportation, safety, facilities, capacity, and convenience, I am confident that Taiwan remains the best venue for 2024 CCSBT meetings. I therefore wish to welcome you all next year in Taiwan.

I am looking forward to fruitful discussions in the meeting of the following few days.

Thank you!

Opening Statement by Indonesia

Good morning to all. Indonesia first wishes to extend our appreciation to the Government of Korea for hosting this meeting and for the warm hospitality. This meeting is the first-ever offline meeting for the Commission meeting since the Covid-19 pandemic. We are just as enthusiastic as you are to have the opportunity to reconvene with other delegates in this Extended Commission of the 30th Annual Meeting of the Commission. Ahead of us, we have a series of agendas to go through.

In this opportunity, allow us to share with you our initial thoughts pertinent to some of the key agenda items. Recalling the recommendation of the Cape Town Procedure, we are supportive of the increase of global TAC for 2024-2026. Further to that, we view that we need an amendment to the SBT quota distribution, which is fairer and reflects the interest and concerns of developing coastal states. We believe that after more than 20 years of CCSBT quota distribution in place, it is a perfect time to distribute them more equitably, which truly represents the dynamic and recent development of the fishing activities carried out by each member.

All in all, Indonesia stands ready to discuss this important matter with other distinguished delegates. We believe that this meeting will be productive. We look forward to the discussion and hope that we can reach a consensus in the days to come.

Opening Statement by Japan

Honourable Chair,

Executive Secretaries, Distinguished Delegates of All Members and Observers,

First of all, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Republic of Korea for hosting this meeting here in Busan. I would also like to extend our thanks to the Executive Secretary, Mr. Dominic Vallières, and the staff of the CCSBT Secretariat for their tireless efforts in organising the first in-person annual meeting after four years, as well as to the interpreters who always do an excellent job.

We recognise that this year is significant for CCSBT because of its task to conduct the stock assessment of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) and agree on the global Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the next three-year block, 2024 – 2026.

The 28th Extended Scientific Committee conducted the stock assessment and agreed that the stock has been rebuilding steadily toward the rebuilding target reference point of 30% of the original spawning stock biomass by 2035. It also concluded that no evidence exists for exceptional circumstances and that the TAC figure recommended last year, 20,647 tons, does not need to be modified. As CCSBT is the body that centers around the best available scientific evidence on SBT management, including the Management Procedure, and as the next TAC block will begin in a few months for some Members, this annual meeting is our last opportunity to agree on the TAC for the next TAC block. For that purpose, all Members should reaffirm the significance and necessity to discuss this agenda item cooperatively at this annual meeting.

Another topic we focus on at this year's meeting is fulfilling our obligations as CCSBT Members and ensuring compliance with CCSBT rules and conservation and management measures. Fulfilling our obligations as CCSBT members is a prerequisite for exercising our rights as CCSBT members, including the opportunity to catch SBT. While it is necessary to consider unpredictable situations such as COVID-19, we are prepared to make every effort with any Member who has difficulty in carrying out its obligations to help address such difficulty.

We hope to have a constructive discussion among all participants during this four-day meeting and make a significant step forward for better management of SBT.

Thank you very much.

Opening Statement by South Africa

Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies, and Gentlemen, the South African delegation is elated to once again be party to this 30th physical Meeting of the CCSBT Commission after such a very long time of virtual interaction. Our gratitude and compliments are extended to Republic of Korea for hosting us in this beautiful town of Busan. To the Executive Secretary, and the Secretariat staff, thanks for your excellent administration and arrangements leading to this meeting.

South African government continues to maintain and strive to enhance the management of its marine resource, including the management of all the tuna resources found both within and outside of our Exclusive Economic Zone. We understand the impact of managing these resources within the broader ecological context, their interaction, and the impact of human activities on them. As custodians of these resources on behalf of our national and global citizen, it is for these reason that we continue to participate in various national and international forums that shapes and influence strategies so as legislation governing their sustainable management continues to remain relevant.

Chairperson, this commitment, it is made against the backdrop of many other commitments we have made as a country both at national level and internationally. In delivering on these commitments we have made of sustainable management of marine resources, we have to balance these against other competing socio-economic needs to promote justifiable economic and social development in South Africa to reduce poverty, inequality, and unemployment, especially for our rural communities.

Since the 29th Meeting of the Extended Commission (EC), there has been attrition in capacity of staff responsible for tuna and tuna like species within various units in the South African Fisheries Management Branch, and this continues to remain a growing concern. The reduction thereof, has impacted negatively with regards to the management not only of the tuna and tuna like species. Although, there are processes underway to address the reduction in that capacity and in addition, we do appreciate the Secretariat's continuous support, as well as the relevant CCSBT members and observers understanding and their willingness to assist moving forward.

We are mindful of eminent and intense negotiations relating to distribution and allocation of catch over the coming few days and we believe that criterion that hinges on human and financial resources such as inability to participate in meetings and Working Groups will be prejudicial to developing member states that have limited resources, further plummeting them into recession and consequently affecting development and livelihoods. Although our capacity may be limited at the current moment, we are doing whatever we can to contribute to all efforts that are aimed at the furtherance of sustainable development and the protection of the marine environment.

Lastly Chairperson, I trust that South Africa, together with the committed support from the Secretariat and relevant members and Observers of the CCSBT will address all of the critical and outstanding matters, including any other new matters that might arise during this 30th Meeting of the Extended Commission.

On behalf of the Republic of South Africa, I would like to wish everyone a very fruitful and productive meeting and an enjoyable stay in Busan. Thank you, *Enkosi, Ndza khensa.*

**Opening Statement by
the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)**

ACAP is pleased to be able to participate in the in-person meetings of the Compliance Committee and Extended Commission. We thank the CCSBT Secretariat and the host country for the invitation and congratulate them on the smooth arrangements for these meetings.

We were pleased to renew in December 2021 Memorandum of Understanding with the CCSBT, originally signed in 2015. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with the CCSBT in efforts minimise seabird bycatch and to tackle the ongoing conservation crisis faced by albatrosses and petrels.

Through its 13 Parties, the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP <https://acap.aq>) strives to conserve albatrosses and petrels by coordinating international activities to mitigate threats to their populations. Bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries is one of the greatest threats to seabirds, particularly albatrosses and petrels. We see this as a joint endeavour for ACAP, RFMOs and others. Fortunately, the crisis is not insoluble. Within jurisdictions where implementation of effective mitigation measures and appropriate enforcement has occurred, reductions in seabird bycatch have been demonstrated, sometimes dramatically so and without perceived detrimental consequences arising.

Documents and reports submitted to the CCSBT Compliance Committee and Extended Commission illustrate that, while there have been some improvements, bycatch of seabirds remains a critical issue in CCSBT fisheries. We also note that some members have not been able to provide the full information required, resulting in some cases from a lack of the the required level of observer coverage. We also recall that the performance review of the CCSBT (discussed at EC29) included some concerns about seabird bycatch mitigation.

In efforts to reduce seabird bycatch, compliance is key, and capacity building on enhancing compliance is vital. In this context ACAP is pleased to be a partner in the project coordinated by the CCSBT under the FAO's Common Oceans Tuna project, aimed at enhancing awareness on and implementation of seabird measures in CCSBT fisheries. ACAP will be happy to contribute its expertise to the training and other activities planned under this project. Our updated best practice advice, guidelines, mitigation fact sheets and other resources are available, with some of them translated into Indonesian. ACAP's guidelines for observers and for electronic monitoring, adopted in 2021, should be particularly useful for the project, as will our updated seabird identification guide, which is almost completed.

ACAP continues to investigate best practice mitigation measures and to provide updated advice and guidance. The most recent meetings of ACAP's Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG11) and Advisory Committee (AC13), held in May this year, reviewed and endorsed ACAP's current best practice advice. Following this review,

ACAP continues to recommend that the most effective way to reduce seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries is to use the following three best practice measures simultaneously: (1) branch line weighting, (2) night setting and (3) bird scaring lines, or use of one of the assessed hook-shielding and underwater bait setting devices. The simultaneous use of the three ACAP recommended mitigation measures optimises seabird bycatch reduction in longline fisheries. All three recommended measures are demonstrated to be effective; however, each has limitations when used alone. There is a period of time when hooks are accessible to birds even when branch lines are weighted. Night setting used alone is less effective at reducing seabird bycatch for nocturnally active birds and during bright moon light conditions. Bird scaring lines used alone can rarely protect baited hooks beyond the aerial extent of the line. Consequently, the simultaneous use of the three ACAP recommended seabird bycatch mitigation measures compensates for these limitations.

SBWG11 reviewed new research relevant to lasers as mitigation measure, specifically research to determine if lasers cause eye injury in birds. Available evidence shows that high-energy lasers are ineffective at deterring seabirds from danger areas around fishing vessels and likely damage seabird visual systems with negative effects on foraging behaviour of laser exposed seabirds. The use of high-energy laser technologies for seabird bycatch mitigation is strongly discouraged by ACAP, since there is currently no evidence of effectiveness, and serious concerns remain regarding the potential impacts on the health of individual birds.

The full 2023 ACAP review of mitigation measures and best practice advice for pelagic longline fisheries, is available on the ACAP website (<https://www.acap.aq/resources/bycatch-mitigation/mitigation-advice/4548-acap-2023-pelagic-longlines-mitigation-review-and-bpa/file>).

We look forward to presenting our updated advice to the ERSWG meeting next year and discussing them in more detail on that occasion, as well as making input as appropriate to assisting implementation of the Multi Year Seabird Strategy.

Opening Statement by BirdLife International

BirdLife International thanks the CCSBT for continuing progress to improve fisheries management for Southern Bluefin Tuna and for the opportunity to participate in this work. We thank the Secretariat for the meeting arrangements, and our hosts, South Korea for their generous hospitality in hosting the Commission meetings this year. We are reminded of the importance of in person meetings for making meaningful progress on important Commission issues.

BirdLife International reminds CCSBT Members that the conservation crisis for albatrosses and petrels is ongoing, and we note that seabird mortality caused by SBT fleets is a long-standing issue for the Commission. Indeed, seabird bycatch was the main failing identified in the 2007 Performance Review, and again in the 2021 Performance Review. It's important to note that the CCSBT fishing area has the greatest overlap with seabird distribution of any of the tuna RFMOs.

BirdLife International thanks CCSBT Members for discussions on the issue of seabird bycatch in the Compliance Committee and the commitment to improve performance of their fleets in this area, including considering increasing observer coverage and the review rate of electronic monitoring. This is critical as we note that the Annual Report on the Performance of Members on ERS made it clear that the data being provided to the Commission is inadequate for measuring compliance to the implementation of seabird mitigation measures, the impacts of COVID-19 notwithstanding.

BirdLife International contributed Information Paper CC18-02 to the Compliance Committee, which provides evidence of the importance of independent verification to assess the impact of CCSBT fisheries to ecologically related species, particularly seabirds. Key findings of the research that assesses the implementation of night-setting compliance in tuna fisheries include:

- Limited reporting of onboard observer data to RFMOs was identified.
- Discrepancies between reported and actual night setting were observed.
- Longline setting occurs most often over dawn when albatrosses are actively feeding, putting them at greater risk of being bycaught on hooks.
- The study methods can be used by fisheries managers to better understand longline fleet activity and the implementation of conservation management measures.

This research demonstrates that increased and improved observer coverage (human/electronic) in longline fleets is required to understand the impact of CCSBT fisheries to seabirds and compliance with Conservation and Management Measures that Members are obliged to implement.

BirdLife is committed to collaborative efforts to improve the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures in all tuna fisheries. We look forward to working with Members and the Secretariat to improve the performance on seabird mitigation measures through the Seabird Project, coordinated by Dr Ross Wanless.

Opening Statement by Humane Society International

HSI appreciates the opportunity to again participate as an observer to the Extended Commission's annual meetings.

Regrettably most issues raised in our address to the 29th Annual Meeting are still of concern today, particularly with respect to ERS and how impacts of the SBT fishery can be better mitigated. With SBT continuing on a welcome pathway to abundance increase, it is even more important that seabird bycatch mitigation is not neglected, and this is supported by CCSBT Performance Review.

In the previous two Commission meetings, we expressed our concern at the unaccounted increase in bycatch of seabirds resulting from greater fishing effort due to TAC increases. Based on current bycatch rates, the CCSBT TAC increases will cause an estimated 1,900 more lethal seabird interactions annually and deepen the conservation crisis which ACAP faces. Should Members agree to the proposed TAC increases, by 2029 the SBT longline sector will be responsible for killing approximately 20,900 birds annually. This number will have doubled in 6 years and would continue to increase under maintained circumstances of SBT stock recovery and commensurate TAC increase. Despite mitigation efforts, Member CC18 ERS Reports indicate high rates of bird interactions and we are apprehensive about adequate improvements being delivered by the Seabird Strategy in time to appropriately mitigate impacts. Allowing SBT vessels to continue following the CMM requirements of other tRFMOs will likely undermine the Strategy. HSI urge CCSBT to consider what measures will be required to mitigate increased impacts on seabirds with a TAC increase. Without these measures, pausing the TAC increase is the only option to avoid significantly increased seabird impacts until the Seabird Strategy (and its mitigation benefits) has been implemented.

Recently, CCSBT Strategic Plan and SFMWG06 recognised the necessity of processes to account for the ecological implications of TAC increases, having stated 'the need for greater clarity in relation to the management of SBT vision and its application to ERS' along with 'moving toward more modern fisheries management concepts in the CCSBT Convention'. With unavoidable increased impacts on bycaught species due to TAC increases, we encourage and echo the need for this progress.

HSI wishes Members a highly productive return to the advantages of again being together in meeting rooms and thanks Korea for hosting pleasantries of Haeundae seaside.

Staff Regulations

REGULATION 1

PREAMBLE

1.1 These Staff Regulations establish the fundamental principles of employment, regulate the working relationships and establish the rights and responsibilities of formally appointed employees who render their services in and receive remuneration from the Secretariat of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (hereinafter called the "Commission").

1.2 These Regulations should be applied giving due regard to the geographical distribution of the Members of the Commission.

REGULATION 2

DUTIES, OBLIGATIONS AND PRIVILEGES

2.1 Members of the staff of the Secretariat, and the Executive Secretary (hereinafter called "staff members") are international civil servants. Upon accepting their appointments they pledge themselves to discharge their duties faithfully and to conduct themselves with the interests of the Commission in mind.

2.2 For the purposes of these regulations the term "dependant" shall include only:

- (a) any unsalaried child, who is born of, or adopted by, a staff member, his or her spouse, or their children, who is below the age of eighteen years and who is dependent on a staff member or his or her spouse for main and continuing support;
- (b) any child fulfilling the conditions laid down in paragraph (a) above, but who is between eighteen and twenty-five years of age and is receiving school or university education or vocational training;
- (c) any child with a disability who is dependent on a staff member or his or her spouse for main and continuing support;
- (d) any other child who is given a home by and is dependent on a staff member or his or her spouse for main and continuing support;
- (e) any person related by blood or marriage for whose main and continuing support a staff member or his or her spouse is legally responsible.

2.3 Staff members shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the international nature of the Commission. They shall always bear in mind the

loyalty, discretion and tact imposed on them by their international responsibilities in the performance of their duties. They shall avoid all actions, statements or public activities which might be detrimental to the Commission and its aims.

2.4 Staff members are not required to renounce either their national feelings or their political or religious convictions.

2.5 In the performance of their duties, staff members may neither seek nor accept instructions from any government or authority other than the Commission.

2.6 Staff members shall observe maximum discretion regarding official matters and shall abstain from making private use of information they possess by reason of their position. Authorisation for the release of information for official purposes shall lie with the Commission or the Executive Secretary, as the case may require.

2.7 Staff members shall, in general, have no employment other than with the Commission. In special cases, staff members may accept other employment, provided that it does not interfere with their duties in the Commission, and that prior authorisation by the Executive Secretary has been obtained. The Commission's prior authorisation shall be obtained in respect of the Executive Secretary.

2.8 No staff member may be associated in the management of a business, industry or other enterprise, or have a financial interest therein if, as a result of the official position held in the Secretariat, he or she may benefit from such association or interest.

2.9 Ownership of non-controlling stock in a company shall not be considered to constitute a financial interest within the meaning of regulation 2.8.

2.10 Staff members shall enjoy the privileges and immunities to which they are entitled under the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Commission, pursuant to Article 6.9 of the Convention.

2.11 Staff members will be encouraged to participate in professional development to maintain or improve their professional knowledge and skills, to remain competent in their role or to develop further skills. Professional development will be based on agreed development needs and may be undertaken in a variety of ways, including formal and informal training.

REGULATION 3

HOURS OF WORK

3.1 The normal working day shall be eight hours, Monday through Friday, for a total of forty hours per week.

3.2 The Executive Secretary shall establish the working hours and may, in consultation with staff members, alter them for the benefit of the Commission as circumstances may require.

3.3 The Executive Secretary may also approve the use of flexible work arrangements. Flexible work arrangements may vary the timing and location of work. Flexible work arrangements can be used to allow employees to undertake personal appointments or other family responsibilities that are not covered by a form of leave. Such arrangements are subject to the operational requirements of the CCSBT and are unlikely to be available during peak work periods.

REGULATION 4

CLASSIFICATION OF STAFF

4.1 Staff members shall be classified in either of the two following categories:

(a) Professional Category

Positions of high responsibility of a managerial, professional, or scientific nature. These posts will be filled by appropriately qualified professionals, preferably with university qualifications or the equivalent. Staff members in this category will be recruited internationally.

(b) General Services Category

Auxiliary administrative and technical positions. Clerical, secretarial and other office personnel. Such staff members shall be recruited in Australia from among citizens of Members of the Commission.

4.2 Persons employed under Regulation 11 shall not be classified as staff members.

REGULATION 5

SALARIES AND OTHER REMUNERATION

5.1 The scale of salaries for staff members in the professional category shall be established in US dollars according to the corresponding scales of salaries which would apply to officials of the United Nations Secretariat employed in Australia and shall be paid in Australian dollars.

5.2 Staff members in the general services category shall, in principle, be paid at rates equivalent to those paid in Canberra for staff of equivalent qualifications and experience.

5.3 Subject to these Regulations, the type of allowances available to staff members in the professional category shall, in principle, be those allowances in force in the United Nations. The scale of allowances shall be established in US dollars according to the corresponding scales of allowances which would apply to officials of the United Nations Secretariat in Australia and shall be paid in Australian dollars. However, education allowances for each dependent child shall not be paid:

- (a) in respect of children of Australian staff members;
- (b) in respect of attendance at an Australian public (State) school;
- (c) for attendance at a University in Australia;
- (d) for correspondence courses or private tuition;
- (e) when schooling does not require regular attendance at an education institution;
- (f) in respect of education expenses covered from scholarship grants or subsidies from other sources.

5.4 Except for the maximum figure for education allowance, changes in salaries and allowances applied in the United Nations Secretariat shall be applied to the salaries and allowances of staff members in the professional category. The Commission shall review the system of applying these changes to salaries and allowances after it has been in operation for three years.

5.5 The promotion of staff members in the professional category from one salary scale to another requires the prior approval of the Commission.

5.6 The salaries of professional category staff members shall begin at Step 1 of the United Nations classification at which they are appointed. Staff members shall remain at that level for at least the first year of employment.

5.7 The Commission shall levy from each professional category employee's salary an amount for Staff Assessment. Staff Assessment rates shall be those in force in the United Nations.

5.8 The Executive Secretary shall make arrangements to ensure that any staff member who is subject to national income tax is reimbursed tax paid on his or her salary. Such arrangements shall be made only on the basis that the direct costs of reimbursement are paid by the staff member's home country.

5.9 Staff members in the professional category shall receive increments in accordance with prevailing United Nations Salary Scales. Increments shall cease once the staff member has reached the highest step in the grade in which he or she is serving.

5.10 Staff members in the professional category are not entitled to overtime pay or compensatory leave.

5.11 Staff members in the general services category required to work more than 40 hours during one week will be compensated:

- (a) with compensatory leave equivalent to hours of overtime performed; or

- (b) by remuneration per overtime hour, to be estimated at the rate of time and a half, or if the additional time is worked on a Sunday, or on holidays listed in Regulation 7.8, at the rate of double time.

5.12 The Commission shall pay duly justified representation expenses incurred by the Executive Secretary in the performance of his or her duties within the limits prescribed annually in the Budget.

REGULATION 6

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT

6.1 In accordance with Article 10.1 of the Convention, the Commission shall appoint the Executive Secretary and shall establish his or her remuneration and such other entitlements as it deems appropriate.

6.2 In accordance with Article 10.1 of the Convention, the Executive Secretary shall appoint, direct, and supervise staff. The paramount consideration in the appointment, transfer or promotion of the staff shall be the necessity for securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity.

6.3 Staff shall be required to retire on reaching the age of 65 years with the exception of an Executive Secretary whose three year appointment commenced prior to reaching the age of 65 and who then reaches 65 year during that term, who will be required to retire at the end of that term.

6.4 Offers of appointment to the Secretariat are subject to the persons selected undergoing a medical examination and presenting a certificate stating that they have no medical condition which might prevent them from performing their duties, or which might endanger the health of others.

6.5 Upon selection, each staff member shall receive an offer of appointment stating:

- (a) that the appointment is subject to the staff regulations applicable to the category of appointment in question, and to changes which may be duly made in such regulations from time to time;
- (b) the nature of the appointment;
- (c) the date on which the staff member is required to commence duty;
- (d) the period of appointment, the notice required to terminate it and the period of probation;
- (e) the category, level, commencing rate of salary and the scale of increments and the maximum salary attainable;
- (f) the allowances attached to the appointment;

(g) any special terms and conditions which may be applicable.

6.6 Together with the offer of appointment, staff members shall be provided with a copy of these Regulations. Upon acceptance of the offer staff members shall state in writing that they are familiar with and accept the conditions set out in these Regulations.

6.7 Staff members in the professional category may be required to undergo further medical examination from time to time as determined by the Executive Secretary or the Commission as the case may require. The medical examinations shall be at the expense of the Commission.

REGULATION 7

LEAVE

7.1 Staff members shall be entitled to annual leave at the rate of two and half workdays for each full month of service. Annual leave is cumulative, but at the end of each calendar year, not more than 30 workdays may be carried over to the following year.

7.2 The taking of leave shall not cause undue disruption to normal Secretariat operations. In accordance with this principle, leave dates shall be subject to the needs of the Commission. Leave dates shall be approved by the Executive Secretary who shall, as far as possible, bear in mind the personal circumstances, needs and preferences of staff members.

7.3 Annual leave may be taken in one or more periods.

7.4 Any absence not approved within the terms of these Regulations shall be deducted from annual leave.

7.5 Staff members who, upon termination of their appointment, have accumulated annual leave which has not been taken shall receive the cash equivalent estimated on the basis of the last salary received.

7.6 After 18 months of service the Commission shall, in accordance with Regulations 9.3 and 9.4, pay travel expenses to the staff member's home country on annual leave for internationally recruited staff members and their dependants. Following this, home leave shall be granted at two-year intervals provided that:

- (a) dependants who benefit from this Commission grant have resided at Canberra for at least 6 months prior to travel;
- (b) it is expected that staff members will return to the Secretariat to continue rendering their services for a minimum additional period of 6 months.

7.7 The possibility of combining travel to home country on leave with official

travel in Commission service may also be considered, provided the interests of the Commission are duly borne in mind.

7.8 Staff shall be entitled to the holidays celebrated traditionally in Canberra, ie.:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 1 January | New Year's Day |
| 26 January | Australia Day |
| March | Canberra Day |
| | Good Friday |
| | Easter Monday |
| 25 April | Anzac Day |
| May | Reconciliation Day |
| June | Sovereign's Birthday |
| October | Labor Day |
| 25 December | Christmas Day |
| 26 December | Boxing Day. |

7.9 If under special circumstances members of the staff are required to work on one of the aforementioned days, or if any one of the above holidays falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the holiday shall be observed on another day to be set by the Executive Secretary, who shall take into account the needs of the Commission.

7.10 An employee required to attend jury duty shall be reimbursed by the Commission an amount equal to the difference between the amount the employee is able to claim from the court in respect of their attendance for such jury duty and the amount of wage they would have received in respect of the ordinary time they would have worked had they not been on jury duty, capped to a maximum period of 10 days.

7.11 An employee who engages in an eligible community service activity is entitled to be absent from their employment on unpaid leave of absence for a period if:

- (a) The period consists of one or more of the following:
 - (i) time when the employee engages in the activity
 - (ii) reasonable travelling time associated with the activity
 - (iii) reasonable rest time immediately following the activity.
- (b) The employee's absence is reasonable in all the circumstances.
- (c) An eligible community service activity is as defined in the Australian Fair

Work Act 2009 as amended and/or regulations.

7.12 An employee who requests an absence from their employment to undertake eligible community service must give the Executive Secretary notice of the absence and evidence to demonstrate their involvement in the eligible community service. The notice must be given to the Executive Secretary as soon as reasonably practicable and must include the period, or expected period, of absence.

REGULATION 8

SOCIAL SECURITY

8.1 It is a condition of employment that each staff member will contribute to a recognised retirement fund and have adequate medical, hospital, life and disability insurance cover to the satisfaction of the Executive Secretary. Such insurance cover shall include adequate provision for dependants. The Commission shall pay two-thirds of the total contribution to the retirement fund and of the insurance premiums, up to the maximum percentage applying in the United Nations Secretariat from time to time of the total of the staff member's salary and salary related allowances. Such payment shall be by way of reimbursement upon the production of receipts, or shall be paid direct together with the employee's contribution.

Personal leave applies to full-time and part-time employees (on a pro rata basis) but does not apply to casual employees, unless where expressly stated.

Personal leave may be used for the purposes of carer's leave subject to the person being a member of the staff member's immediate family.

Paid personal leave is available to a staff member, other than a casual employee, when they are absent:

- (i) due to personal illness or injury; or
- (ii) for the purposes of caring for an immediate family who is sick and requires the employee's care and support or who requires care due to an unexpected emergency.

The amount of personal leave to which a full-time staff member is entitled depends on how long they have worked for the Commission and accrues as follows:

- (i) a full-time staff member is entitled to 20 days' paid leave a year
- (ii) pro-rata entitlement applies to part-time staff members.

A staff member's entitlement to paid personal leave accrues progressively during a year of service according to the staff member's ordinary hours of work and accumulates from year to year.

8.2 Staff members shall not be granted personal leave for a period of more than 3 consecutive days and more than a total of 7 working days in any calendar year without producing a medical certificate.

8.3 Staff members shall be granted certified personal leave not exceeding 12

months in any 3 consecutive years. The first 6 months shall be on full salary and the second 6 months on half salary, except that no more than 4 months on full salary shall normally be granted in any period of 12 consecutive months.

8.4 After one year of employment in the Secretariat staff members shall be entitled to parental leave. On the basis of medical advice that the confinement will probably take place within six weeks, staff members shall be entitled to be absent from duty until eight weeks after confinement. During this period staff members shall receive full pay and corresponding allowances.

8.5 Staff members shall be entitled to bereavement leave upon the death of a family member or relative, up to a maximum of three days (not including travel days if required) in any calendar year.

8.6 In the event of death of a staff member following illness or surgery not resulting from an accident covered by the appropriate insurance, the right to salary, allowances and other corresponding benefits shall cease on the day on which death occurs, unless the deceased leaves dependants, in which case these shall be entitled to mortality allowances and return travel and removal expenses to country of origin or former residence at the expense of the Commission.

8.7 Eligibility of the dependants of a deceased staff member for the payment of return travel and removal expenses shall lapse if the travel is not undertaken within six months of the date of the staff member's death.

8.8 The above mortality allowance for death shall be calculated in accordance with the following scale:

| Years of Service Following Death | Months of Net Base Pay Salary |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Less than 3 years | 3 months |
| 3 years and more, but less than 7 years | 4 months |
| 7 years and more, but less than 9 years | 5 months |
| 9 years and more | 6 months |

8.9 The Commission shall pay for shipment of the staff member's body from the place of death to the place designated by the next of kin.

REGULATION 9

TRAVEL

9.1 All official travel shall be authorised by the Executive Secretary in advance within the limits of the budget, and the itinerary and travelling conditions shall be those best suited for maximum effectiveness in the fulfilment of duties assigned.

9.2 With regard to official travel, a travel allowance, generally consistent with United Nations practice, shall be paid in advance for fares, accommodation, and daily

living expenses.

9.3 Economy class shall be utilised, wherever feasible, for air travel.

9.4 First class may be utilised for land travel, but not for travel by sea or air.

9.5 Following completion of a duty journey, staff members shall repay any travel allowances to which, in the event, they were not entitled. Where staff members have incurred expenses above and beyond those for which travel allowances have been paid, they shall be reimbursed, against receipts and vouchers, as long as such expenses were necessarily incurred in pursuit of their official duties.

9.6 On taking up an appointment in the Professional Category staff members shall be eligible for:

- (a) payment of economy class air fares (or equivalent) and travel allowance for themselves, their spouses and dependants to Canberra;
- (b) an Installation Grant calculated on the basis of the prevailing United Nations rate;
- (c) payment of removal costs, including the shipment of personal effects and household goods from place of residence to Canberra, subject to a maximum volume of 30 cubic metres or one international standard shipping container,
- (d) payment or reimbursement of sundry other expenses related to relocation, including insurance of goods in transit and excess baggage charges subject to the prevailing relevant United Nations rules. Such payments shall be subject to prior approval by the Executive Secretary.

9.7 Staff members who, in the course of their duty, are required to use private motor vehicles for official travel purposes shall, with the prior authorisation of the Executive Secretary, be entitled to receive a reimbursement of the costs involved in line with that available to members of the Government Service in Australia. The costs associated with normal daily travel to and from place of work shall not be reimbursed.

REGULATION 10

SEPARATION FROM SERVICE

10.1 Staff members may resign at any time upon giving three months' notice or such lesser period as may be approved by the Executive Secretary or the Commission, as the case may require.

10.2 In the event of a staff member resigning without giving the required notice, the Commission reserves the right to decide whether repatriation expenses or any other allowance shall be paid.

10.3 Appointment of staff members may be terminated upon prior written notice at

least three months in advance, by the Executive Secretary when he or she deems this to be for the benefit of the Commission due to restructuring of the Secretariat or if he or she considers that the staff member does not give satisfactory service, fails to comply with the duties and obligations set out in these Regulations, or is incapacitated for service.

10.4 In the event of separation from service with the Secretariat, staff members shall be compensated at a rate of one month base pay for each year of service, beginning the second year, unless the cause of termination has been gross dereliction of duties imposed in Regulation 2. For a part year of continuous service, an employee will be paid a pro-rata part of one month's base pay proportionate to that partial year of service.

10.5 On separation from service, a staff member shall, subject to Regulation 10.6 below, be entitled to the following:

- (a) payment of economy class air fares (or equivalent) to the staff member's country of origin or former residence, for the staff member and dependent members of his or her family;
- (b) payment of removal costs, including the shipment of personal effects and household goods from place of residence in Canberra to the country of origin or former residence, subject to a maximum volume of 30 cubic metres or one international shipping container;
- (c) a repatriation allowance generally consistent with United Nations practice.

10.6 At the discretion of the Executive Secretary, the right to the repatriation expenses provided for in Regulation 10.5 may be cancelled or reduced appropriately if:

- (a) less than one year has elapsed between the date of taking up the appointment and the date of separation from service;
- (b) the reason for separation from service was termination of employment due to gross dereliction of duty;
- (c) more than six months has elapsed between the staff member's separation from service and his or her return to his or her country of origin or former residence;
- (d) less than six months has elapsed since the staff member last visited his or her country of origin or former residence on home leave at the expense of the Commission; or
- (e) the staff member has applied for or received status as a permanent resident of Australia.

REGULATION 11

TEMPORARY PERSONNEL UNDER CONTRACT

11.1 The Executive Secretary may contract temporary personnel necessary to discharge special duties in the service of the Commission. Such personnel shall be classified as additional help and may be paid on an hourly basis.

11.2 Persons in this category may include translators, interpreters, typists, and other persons contracted for meetings, as well as those whom the Executive Secretary contracts for a specific task. Whenever possible, persons resident in Australia shall be utilised in such cases.

REGULATION 12

APPLICATION AND AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

12.1 Any doubts arising from application of these Regulations shall be resolved by the Executive Secretary following consultation with the Chair of the Commission. In cases where the Chair of the Commission has yet to be appointed or is unavailable, the Executive Secretary shall consult with the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.

12.2 All matters not foreseen in these Staff Regulations shall be brought to the attention of the Commission by the Executive Secretary.

12.3 Subject to the provisions of the Convention, these Regulations may be amended by the Commission in accordance with its Rules of Procedure.

Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

CCSBT Members agreed that Mr Neil Hughes (Australia) chair the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC). The FAC was tasked with the following agenda:

- Revision of the 2023 budget.
- Drafting of the 2024 budget; and
- Drafting of the indicative budgets for 2025 and 2026

The FAC was also asked by the Extended Commission (EC) for advice on a proposal by the Secretariat to update the CCSBT Staff Regulations (paper CCSBT-EC/2310/05).

FAC also considered a proposal by the Executive Secretary to benchmark costs for annual CCSBT meetings with a view to seeking contributions for meeting costs above these costs from hosting Members.

The FAC also considered proposed changes to the reporting of underspend as part of the year-end financial statements.

The revised budget for 2023

The Executive Secretary provided a summary of the 2023 revised budget prior to the meeting and FAC Members were asked to provide initial comments at that time. Details of the revised budget are also outlined in CCSBT-EC/2310/06. The revision incorporates actual income and expenditure together with forecast income and expenditure for the remainder of the year.

Overall costs for 2023 are forecast to total \$3,371,558, which is a 6% (\$207,542) saving on the amount approved in 2023. This saving was the result of contributions by Japan and Korea towards meetings costs, improved returns on investment by the Secretariat, reduced travel costs, and reduced costs for the annual OMMP meeting.

Members of the FAC thanked the Secretariat for the revised budget and endorsed it, and thanked Japan and Korea for their contributions to costs, the Secretariat for providing cost free translation services and for increased investment returns.

The FAC **recommends** that the Extended Commission note and agree the revised budget for 2023 at Annex A.

CCSBT Staff Regulations

The Executive Secretary presented proposed changes to the CCSBT Staff Regulations, noting they had not been revised in over 20 years and the need to modernise these regulations, consistent with Australian standards. The Executive Secretary noted these changes had been informed in part by recent changes to the CCAMLR staff regulations, noting the CCAMLR Secretariat is also Australia based.

The FAC **recommends** the EC agree to the proposed changes with an additional change to regulation 8.5, which relates to bereavement leave. The FAC **recommends** that international travel time be provided in addition to the proposed bereavement leave.

The FAC also **noted** and **agreed** changes to Regulation 12 that would require the Executive Secretary to consult the CCSBT FAC Chair on any doubts arising from the application of the Regulations and this would occur in cases where no CCSBT Chair was in place.

Proposed cost sharing arrangements for meeting costs.

The Executive Secretary provided an overview of a Secretariat proposal to 'benchmark' annual meetings costs, based on likely minimum meeting costs if meetings were to be held in Canberra. It was proposed that Members hosting meetings with higher costs be asked to cover these costs.

FAC agreed that Members consider either providing funds for costs above the amount identified by the Secretariat or agree their turn to host a meeting be replaced by a meeting in Canberra or other lower cost location.

However, the FAC recommends that the current approach which allows final decisions regarding cost sharing and location of annual meetings to be made by the EC, subject to advice from the FAC.

Draft budget for 2024

The FAC considered the proposed budgets outlined in CCSBT-EC/2310/07, which includes funding for the CCSBT's usual business.

In the Executive Secretary paper on the draft 2024 budget, it was noted that current contribution levels are not sufficient to cover the annual running costs of the CCSBT.

The draft budget for 2024, presented in paper CCSBT-EC/2310/07, noted that it would result in a 32% increase in Total Expenditure from the previous year and that this level of increase cannot be sustained without a matching increase in contributions. The Executive Secretary therefore proposed a number of potential changes to reduce costs.

The FAC **recommends** the proposed Technical Compliance Working group (TCWG) for 2024 be merged with the meeting of the Compliance Committee as a cost saving with an online process, initiated by the Secretariat, to complete the Compliance Risk Plan and to further categorise non-compliance in terms of the Corrective Actions Policy.

The FAC **noted** to save costs the length of Compliance Committee meeting might not be changed, but daily meeting times extended to allow more time to include TCWG actions.

The FAC also considered the Secretariat's proposal to consolidate current part-time positions, at additional cost. The FAC **recommends this not proceed at this time**

and noted additional support to the Secretariat might be available if Korea's staff secondment proposal proceeds.

The FAC considered options to top up the meeting participation fund, noting that it had been agreed the fund be financed by voluntary contributions or such other sources the Commission may identify. The FAC noted that the approximately \$17,000 remaining in the fund may be sufficient for meeting attendance considering the number of science-related meetings in 2024. The FAC Chair invited Members to further consider their capacity to voluntarily contribute to the fund.

FAC noted the earlier EC decision to reduce the length of EC meetings, and factored savings associated with this decision into the 2024 budget.

The FAC noted the 2024 budget carries a 5% increase in Member contributions.

The FAC **recommends** the Extended Commission approve a 2024 budget totalling approximately \$4,283,400 as set out in Annex B, noting this will require approximately \$640,000 from the Contribution Stabilisation Fund (CSF) to balance income and expenses.

Indicative budgets for 2025 and 2026

The FAC was also asked to consider indicative budgets for the two years beyond the upcoming budget.

Most expenses within the indicative budgets represent ongoing commitments and did not require significant change from the FAC.

The FAC noted with concern that both the 2025 and 2026 budgets require a drawdown of Secretariat savings, with the CSF completely drawn down by 2025.

The FAC wishes to highlight that under all the funding scenarios considered, an annual increase of Member contributions of around 5% will be required from 2025 onwards unless further reductions in expenses are achieved.

The FAC **recommends** that the Extended Commission note the indicative 2025 and 2026 budgets as set out in Annex B.

Other matters

The FAC considered appropriate a proposal by the Secretariat to improve transparency of financial accounting and to better align with existing requirements under the Financial Regulations by making an additional statement to Members as part of Year End Financial Statements to advise on the CCSBT's net cash position and whether the potential exists to make a contribution to the CSF. The FAC **recommends** the Extended Commission agrees this change be adopted.

Annex A

| INCOME | Approved 2023 Budget | Revised 2023 Budget | Variation |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Contributions from Members | \$2,968,963 | \$2,968,963 | 0% |
| Japan | \$850,459 | \$850,459 | 0% |
| Australia | \$850,459 | \$850,459 | 0% |
| New Zealand | \$241,808 | \$241,808 | 0% |
| Korea | \$260,074 | \$260,074 | 0% |
| Fishing Entity of Taiwan | \$260,074 | \$260,074 | 0% |
| Indonesia | \$231,429 | \$231,429 | 0% |
| European Union | \$112,641 | \$112,641 | 0% |
| South Africa | \$162,018 | \$162,018 | 0% |
| Contributions in Arrears (Korea) | \$63,926 | \$63,926 | 0% |
| Staff Assessment Levy | \$129,000 | \$147,066 | 14% |
| Carryover from previous year | \$569,396 | \$569,396 | 0% |
| Voluntary contributions from Members | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | 0% |
| Contribution Stabilisation Fund | \$0 | \$0 | N/A |
| FAO Funded Project | | \$382,897 | N/A |
| Withdrawal from savings | \$0 | \$0 | N/A |
| Interest on investments | \$30,000 | \$141,766 | 373% |
| | | | |
| TOTAL GROSS INCOME (does not include funds received from FAO relating to Seabird Project) | \$3,771,285 | \$4,284,014 | 14% |

| EXPENDITURE | Approved 2023 Budget | Revised 2023 Budget | Variation |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| ANNUAL MEETING - (CC/EC/CCSBT) | \$236,000 | \$220,550 | -7% |
| Independent chairs | \$44,000 | \$46,000 | 5% |
| Interpretation costs | \$60,000 | \$52,200 | -13% |
| Hire of venue & catering | \$58,000 | \$59,600 | 3% |
| Hire of equipment | \$10,000 | \$8,750 | -13% |
| Translation of meeting documents | \$10,000 | \$0 | -100% |
| Secretariat expenses | \$54,000 | \$54,000 | 0% |
| | | | |
| ESC/SC Meeting | \$352,000 | \$315,800 | -10% |
| Interpretation costs | \$48,000 | \$49,000 | 2% |
| Hire of venue & catering | \$89,000 | \$65,100 | -27% |
| Hire of equipment | \$65,000 | \$62,400 | -4% |
| Hire of consultants - Chairs and Advisory Panel | \$113,000 | \$102,500 | -9% |
| Translation of meeting documents | \$1,000 | \$0 | -100% |
| Secretariat expenses | \$36,000 | \$36,800 | 2% |
| | | | |
| SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS | \$244,300 | \$175,400 | -28% |
| Strategy and Fisheries Management WG Meeting | \$128,100 | \$77,700 | -39% |
| OMMP Technical Meeting (5 day, intersessional) | \$97,000 | \$75,700 | -22% |
| Technical CWG Meeting (1 day prior to CC) | \$19,200 | \$22,000 | 15% |

| | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|------|
| SCIENCE PROGRAM | \$1,104,200 | \$1,027,863 | -7% |
| Operating Model Specification & Software upgrade | \$130,000 | \$124,200 | -4% |
| Development of the CPUE series | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | 0% |
| Updated analysis of unaccounted mortality (UAM) | \$20,000 | \$22,703 | 14% |
| SBT otolith-based aging workshop | \$38,000 | \$6,000 | -84% |
| Tagging program coordination | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | 0% |
| Long-Term Gene Tagging Project *1 | \$720,000 | \$720,000 | 0% |
| Close-kin sampling, DNA extraction & sequencing *1 | \$86,100 | \$64,635 | -25% |
| Close-kin identification & exchange (POP & HSP) *1 | \$52,900 | \$39,675 | -25% |
| Sampling and aging of Indonesian Otoliths | \$26,200 | \$19,650 | -25% |
| | | | |
| SPECIAL PROJECTS | \$116,000 | \$98,400 | -15% |
| Meeting Participation Fund | \$50,000 | \$32,600 | -35% |
| Market Analysis / CDS Tag and Market Survey in JP | \$21,000 | \$15,800 | -25% |
| Database upgrade and on-line data submission/access | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | 0% |
| Trial eCDS development | \$40,000 | \$45,000 | 13% |
| FAO Funded Seabird Project | \$0 | \$184,400 | N/A |
| | | | |
| SECRETARIAT COSTS | \$1,373,500 | \$1,378,432 | 0% |
| Secretariat staff costs | \$881,100 | \$893,697 | 1% |
| Staff assessment levy | \$129,000 | \$147,066 | 14% |
| Employer social security | \$225,200 | \$217,241 | -4% |
| Insurance -worker's compensation/ travel/contents | \$17,000 | \$19,900 | 17% |
| Travel/transport | \$30,000 | \$11,700 | -61% |
| Translation of meeting reports | \$16,000 | \$12,000 | -25% |
| Training | \$2,000 | \$1,228 | -39% |
| Home leave allowance | \$12,300 | \$16,000 | 30% |
| Other employment expense | \$3,200 | \$1,900 | -41% |
| Staff liability fund (accumulating) | \$57,700 | \$57,700 | 0% |
| | | | |
| OFFICE MANAGEMENT COSTS | \$153,100 | \$155,113 | 1% |
| Office lease and storage | \$69,400 | \$70,787 | 2% |
| Office costs | \$69,800 | \$70,626 | 1% |
| Provision for new/replacement assets | \$7,000 | \$7,000 | 0% |
| Telephone/communications/web hosting | \$6,900 | \$6,700 | -3% |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE (does not include expenses relating to FAO funded seabird project) | \$3,579,100 | \$3,371,558 | -6% |

Annex B

| INCOME | Approved 2024 Budget | Indicative 2025 Budget | Indicative 2026 Budget |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Contributions from Members | \$3,117,411 | \$3,273,281 | \$3,436,945 |
| Japan | \$892,982 | \$937,631 | \$984,513 |
| Australia | \$892,982 | \$937,631 | \$984,513 |
| New Zealand | \$253,898 | \$266,593 | \$279,923 |
| Korea | \$273,078 | \$286,732 | \$301,068 |
| Fishing Entity of Taiwan | \$273,078 | \$286,732 | \$301,068 |
| Indonesia | \$243,000 | \$255,150 | \$267,908 |
| European Union | \$118,273 | \$124,187 | \$130,396 |
| South Africa | \$170,119 | \$178,625 | \$187,556 |
| Contributions in Arrears (Korea) | \$0 | \$0 | |
| Staff Assessment Levy | \$151,700 | \$155,000 | \$158,000 |
| Carryover from previous year | \$90,640 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Voluntary contributions from Members | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Contribution Stabilisation Fund | \$638,508 | \$307,493 | \$0 |
| FAO Funded Project | \$185,142 | \$185,142 | \$314,771 |
| Interest on investments | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| Withdrawal from savings | \$0 | \$118,950 | \$95,098 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL GROSS INCOME | \$4,283,400 | \$4,139,866 | \$4,104,814 |

| EXPENDITURE | Forecasted 2024 Budget | Indicative 2025 Budget | Indicative 2026 Budget |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ANNUAL MEETING - (CC/EC/CCSBT) | \$412,000 | \$330,000 | \$282,000 |
| Independent chairs | \$33,000 | \$59,000 | \$36,000 |
| Interpretation costs | \$68,000 | \$78,000 | \$72,000 |
| Hire of venue & catering | \$254,000 | \$67,000 | \$83,000 |
| Hire of equipment | \$46,000 | \$77,000 | \$44,000 |
| Translation of meeting documents | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Secretariat expenses | \$1,000 | \$39,000 | \$37,000 |
| | | | |
| ESC/SC Meeting | \$435,000 | \$290,000 | \$402,000 |
| Interpretation costs | \$61,000 | \$67,000 | \$88,000 |
| Hire of venue & catering | \$206,000 | \$22,000 | \$48,000 |
| Hire of equipment | \$39,000 | \$35,000 | \$28,000 |
| Hire of consultants - Chairs and Panel | \$126,000 | \$136,000 | \$173,000 |
| Translation of meeting documents | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Secretariat expenses | \$2,000 | \$29,000 | \$64,000 |
| | | | |
| SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS | \$142,100 | \$155,000 | \$261,565 |
| ERSWG Meeting | \$128,600 | \$0 | \$130,000 |
| ERS Technical Meeting | \$10,000 | \$29,700 | \$0 |
| SFMWG Meeting | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| OMMP Technical Meeting | \$0 | \$102,300 | \$107,415 |
| TCWG Meeting | \$3,500 | \$23,000 | \$24,150 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| SCIENCE PROGRAM | \$1,169,600 | \$1,141,100 | \$1,135,300 |
| Operating Model Software upgrade | \$155,000 | \$30,000 | \$0 |
| Development of the CPUE series | \$40,000 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| Updated analysis of unaccounted mortality | \$0 | \$0 | \$25,000 |
| SBT otolith-based aging workshop | \$32,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Tagging program coordination | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Long-Term Gene Tagging Project *1 | \$720,000 | \$740,000 | \$740,000 |
| Close-kin sampling/DNA sequencing *1 | \$104,600 | \$206,000 | \$201,500 |
| Close-kin identification & exchange *1 | \$35,000 | \$68,000 | \$70,000 |
| Sampling and aging of Indonesian Otoliths | \$20,300 | \$66,100 | \$67,800 |
| Capacity Building for Spawning Ground | \$61,700 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | |
| SPECIAL PROJECTS | \$507,185 | \$466,460 | \$181,283 |
| Meeting Participation Fund | \$17,400 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| CDS Tag and Market Survey in JP | \$30,450 | \$26,460 | \$27,783 |
| On-line data system maintenance | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| Trial eCDS development | \$42,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| FAO Funded Seabird Project | \$412,335 | \$360,000 | \$73,500 |
| | | | |
| SECRETARIAT COSTS | \$1,455,625 | \$1,584,921 | \$1,663,017 |
| Secretariat staff costs | \$921,713 | \$1,030,799 | \$1,082,339 |
| Staff assessment levy | \$151,700 | \$155,000 | \$158,000 |
| Employer social security | \$238,512 | \$250,438 | \$262,959 |
| Insurance -worker's compensation | \$19,700 | \$20,685 | \$21,719 |
| Travel/transport | \$38,000 | \$40,000 | \$40,000 |
| Translation of meeting reports | \$16,000 | \$16,000 | \$16,000 |
| Training | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
| Home leave allowance | \$7,000 | \$7,000 | \$17,000 |
| Other employment expense | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| Staff liability fund (accumulating) | \$58,000 | \$60,000 | \$60,000 |
| | | | |
| OFFICE MANAGEMENT COSTS | \$161,890 | \$172,385 | \$179,649 |
| Office lease and storage | \$73,564 | \$77,242 | \$81,104 |
| Office costs | \$74,326 | \$78,043 | \$81,945 |
| Provision for new/replacement assets | \$7,000 | \$10,000 | \$9,400 |
| Telephone/communications/web hosting | \$7,000 | \$7,100 | \$7,200 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE | \$4,283,400 | \$4,139,866 | \$4,104,814 |
| *1: CSIRO is providing an in-kind contribution to these projects. | | | |

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなみまぐろ保存委員会

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

25 - 28 July 2023

Tokyo, Japan

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

2023 - 2028

October 2023

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Attachment A. Action Plan

Attachment B. Ongoing Work Plan

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 of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) would like to see the Commission operate in the future.

Components of that vision include the state of the southern bluefin tuna (SBT) stock; how the CCSBT operates to effectively manage the stock; and how Members are implementing their obligations and benefiting from the management of the stock.

This plan outlines not only a desired future state but also specific strategies and tasks associated with achieving the desired future state. This is the third Strategic Plan written for the CCSBT and builds on the 2009 and 2015 plans.

The 2021 CCSBT Performance Review

The 2015 Strategic Plan noted the CCSBT agreed to undertake periodic performance reviews of the CCSBT to assess opportunities for improvement.

A performance review was conducted in 2021 (the 2021 Review) and this provided suggestions for ongoing performance improvement. This strategic plan allows these actions to be incorporated into future work plans as well as confirming ongoing priority work for the Commission. In drafting this plan, suggested actions have been prioritised so that the overall work plan is achievable.

Key challenges

The 2021 CCSBT Performance Review concluded that the CCSBT's performance status had remained challenging in certain areas, specifically:

- Status of non-target species¹;
- Relationship to non-cooperating non-members; and
- Special requirements of developing States.

Taking into account the wide range of recommendations made by performance reviews of the CCSBT to date, key challenges for the CCSBT include:

- Providing for the rebuild of the stock to a level that can sustain maximum sustainable yields (stock re-building);
- Balancing the competing demands of those who harvest SBT against the biological demands of stock rebuilding (TAC setting and allocation);
- Ensuring all SBT mortalities are attributed against Total Available Catch limits, and Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) catches are prevented (compliance);

¹ Species that belong to the same ecosystems as, or are associated with or dependent upon, the major target stocks. (paragraph 18 of the report of the 2021 CCSBT Performance Review)

- Ensuring that all States with an interest in SBT fisheries are cooperating with the Commission;
- Ensuring CCSBT's systems and processes allow for the rights and responsibilities of all Members and encourage cooperation from non-members (governance);
- Considering the special requirements and capacity building needs of developing State Members and potential Cooperating Non-Members in terms of compliance with CCSBT obligations; and
- Addressing the impact of SBT fisheries on non-target species that belong to the same ecosystem, in particular seabirds.

2. Background

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 CCSBT

The objective of the Convention is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna. Decisions of the Commission and the Extended Commission are taken by a unanimous vote of the Members, consistent with the Rules of Procedure and relevant Resolutions of the CCSBT.

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 data and information,
- deciding on a total allowable catch (TAC) for SBT and its allocation to Members,
- deciding on additional measures including monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures considered necessary to achieve effective implementation of the Convention,
- agreeing an annual budget, and
- encouraging accession by other states.

Initially, the Commission adopted a relatively devolved mode of operation, with most core functions (such as provision of science and monitoring, control, and surveillance services) being done directly by Members, sometimes in line with standards established by the Commission. This approach has shifted in recent times with much of the scientific work now procured, funded, and managed by the Secretariat on behalf of Members.

Membership of the Commission

Membership of the CCSBT Commission is only open to Nation States. To facilitate the participation of fishing entities, the CCSBT established by resolution the Extended Commission (EC) and the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) in 2001 and revised the Resolution in 2013 to allow Regional Economic Integration Organisations (REIOs) to join the EC.

Membership of the EC and the ESC includes all parties to the Convention, fishing entities, and REIOs.

The EC and the ESC perform the same functions as the CCSBT and the SC respectively. Each Member has equal voting rights. Decisions of the EC that are reported to the CCSBT become decisions of the CCSBT unless the CCSBT agrees otherwise (but this has not happened since the EC resolution was agreed). Any decision of the Commission that affects the operation of the EC or the rights, obligations, or status of any individual Member within the EC should not be taken without prior due deliberation of that issue by the EC.

Currently the EC consists of eight Members. There are currently no CCSBT Cooperating Non-Members:

Members

- Australia joined in 1994
- Japan joined in 1994
- New Zealand joined in 1994
- Republic of Korea joined in 2001
- Fishing entity of Taiwan joined in 2002 (Member of the EC only)
- Indonesia joined in 2008
- European Union joined in 2015 (Member of the EC only)
- South Africa joined in 2016

The CCSBT meets annually and has five subsidiary bodies which provide advice on their areas of expertise, either annually or as required—

- the Scientific Committee (SC)/Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) (along with other technical working groups that may be required to complete its work, such as the Operating Model and Management Procedure (OMMP) Technical Meeting),
- Finance and Administration Committee (FAC).
- Compliance Committee (CC) and technical working groups,
- Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG), and
- the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG),

A panel of independent scientists attend ESC meetings and provides advice directly to the CCSBT as required on scientific issues relating to the stock.

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.

The main methods used for catching SBT are longline fishing and purse seining. Longlining involves using long lengths of fishing line with many hooks. SBT are usually 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 to floating cages anchored to the ocean floor. The tuna are fattened for several months and sold direct to export markets as frozen or chilled fish.

Status of the stock

As noted above, the SBT stock was historically subject to high levels of fishing pressure and remains in a depleted state. CCSBT has adopted a Management Procedure (MP) – a pre-agreed set of rules that specify changes to the TAC based on updated monitoring data – with the aim of rebuilding the stock based on scientific guidance on TAC setting.

The CCSBT adopted an MP, known as the ‘Bali Procedure’, in 2011 to guide the setting of the global SBT TAC for the fishing years from 2012 and onwards. It presided over the rebuilding of the stock from approximately 5% of the original spawning biomass in 2010 to approximately 20% in 2020, which was the CCSBT’s interim rebuilding target.

In 2019, the CCSBT developed a new MP, known as ‘Cape Town Procedure’ which incorporates new data series and a new rebuilding objective to guide the setting of TACs for 2021 and onwards. The Cape Town Procedure is tuned to a 50% probability of achieving a biomass level of 30% of the original spawning stock biomass (SSB) by 2035, which is the current CCSBT’s rebuilding target.

Since 2017, CCSBT has measured reproductive capacity as Total Reproductive Output (TRO) rather than Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). The 2020 stock assessment indicated that the SBT TRO is at 20% of its initial biomass as well as below the level that could produce maximum sustainable yield. In 2022, the stock status through reconditioning and future projections using the Cape Town Procedure suggested the stock is continuing to rebuild, and in 2021 the SBT TRO was at 22% of its initial biomass, still below the level that could produce maximum sustainable yield.

3. Objective, vision and goals

This strategic plan sets out the objective of the Commission (consistent with the Convention text). The plan also establishes a common vision for how Members would like to see the Commission operate 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 is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna.

Vision and goals

Management of SBT

The Commission agrees the SBT tuna stock is to be managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ecologically related species are mitigated.

- This includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation and ecologically related species.
- This also includes consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety.

Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat

It was agreed the Commission should operate effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT.

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

Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance.

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

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

4. 2021 CCSBT Performance Review

The CCSBT Performance Review Panel included 75 priority recommendations for CCSBT' consideration (Sinan et al., 2021). These recommendations were prioritised by the Panel through allocating a ranking of very high, high, medium, or low. The report of the 2021 Performance Review² of the CCSBT was provided to CCSBT Members on 1 March 2022.

The Performance Review evaluated the CCSBT based on 29 criteria and found that most of them were rated as satisfactory or better. However, the review also identified three specific criteria where the CCSBT's performance was rated as 'bad'. These criteria were the status of major non-target species, the relationship with Non-Cooperating Non-Members, and responding to the special requirements of developing States.

The report was also provided to the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG), Compliance Committee (CC) and Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) for these subsidiary bodies to consider and provide advice on any recommendations to the EC relevant to those bodies.

²https://www.ccsbt.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/file/docs_english/operational_resolutions/2021_CCSBT_Performance_Review.pdf

The Commission considered Performance Review recommendations and recommendations from subsidiary bodies in reaching its decision of priority actions to include in the Strategic Plan for the next 5 year period, noting however that some of the recommendations from the Performance Review did not fall within the mandate of any subsidiary body but were assessed as part of the SFMWG review process.

Members have agreed on an Action Plan, found at **Attachment A**, that is aimed at addressing those recommendations having been deemed of the highest priority. Members note that there are a range of activities that are critical to the performance of the Commission that were not identified as requiring new action or resources but are currently being undertaken as part of the strategic ongoing work of the Commission outlined in **Attachment B**.

5. Annual Monitoring and Implementation

To ensure that the objectives of the Strategic Plan are met, the CCSBT will undertake annual monitoring and reporting against the actions agreed under the plan. As was the case with the implementation of the previous Strategic Plan, the EC will hold ultimate accountability for monitoring of the Strategic Plan and this task will be considered as part of a standing agenda item for the annual meeting. The Secretariat will be responsible for compiling the information necessary for the EC to conduct its annual monitoring review.

Subsidiary bodies holding responsibility for particular action items are expected to report back on the progress of those activities as part of their respective meeting reports. Subsidiary bodies will also need to reflect any priorities identified in the Strategic Plan that were not previously included in the appropriate planning documents (e.g. Compliance Action Plan).

The Finance and Administration Committee will also take into consideration the priorities identified in the Strategic Plan as part of its budgetary deliberations during the EC.

Action Plan

| | | Responsibility | Priority | Short Term | | Medium Term | | Long Term |
|---|---|----------------|----------|------------|------|-------------|------|-----------|
| | | | | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028++ |
| (A) Goals Concerning Management Of SBT | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Status of Living Marine Resources | | | | | | | | |
| 1a Southern Bluefin Tuna | | | | | | | | |
| i | PR2021-02: Explore the need for additional measures (such as protected areas and area closures) to support spawning and recruitment. | ESC | Medium | | | ● | ● | |
| ii | PR2021-29: Due to the central importance of spawning and recruitment for stock rebuilding, additional efforts should be made to develop, in Indonesian waters, spatio-temporal restrictions, equitable and compatible with the rest of the management strategy. | ESC/EC | Medium | | | | | ● |
| 1b. Ecologically Related Species and Bycatch | | | | | | | | |
| i | Noting the Multi-year Seabird Strategy adopted at ERSWG 14, develop an Ecologically Related Species and Bycatch Action Plan based on the recommendations from the Performance Review. | ERSWG | High | ● | ● | | | |
| 2 Quality of Data and Scientific Advice | | | | | | | | |
| i | Further increase efforts, including analysis on the application of electronic monitoring, to improve and supplement observer coverage in accordance with Scientific Observer Program Standard (SOPS) | CC/ESC | High | ● | ● | | | |

| | | Responsibility | Priority | Short Term | | Medium Term | | Long Term |
|--|--|----------------|-----------|------------|------|-------------|------|-----------|
| | | | | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028++ |
| ii | PR2021-07: Improve transparency by providing and making public, historical data and information that are not currently accessible in the public domain. | CCSBT/EC | Medium | | | | | ● |
| (B) Goals Concerning Operation / Administration of the Commission and Secretariat | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | <i>Operation of the Commission / Secretariat</i> | | | | | | | |
| i | Prioritise the establishment and ongoing review of long-term research strategic planning in the ESC | ESC | Very High | ● | ● | | | |
| ii | PR2021-72: Formalise a reserve/savings fund to be utilised in extraordinary circumstances. | FAC | Very High | ● | ● | | | |
| iii | PR2021-73: Develop mechanisms to improve communication between the Finance and Administration Committee and various subsidiary bodies. | FAC | Very High | ● | ● | | | |
| iv | PR2021-31: Review the existing allocation mechanism to ensure that it reflects the current makeup of the Membership and principles of international law. | CCSBT/EC | High | | ● | ● | | |
| v | PR2021-32: Modify the CCSBT Convention to include modern fisheries management concepts agreed by Members at the international level. | CCSBT/EC | Medium | | | | | ● |
| vi | PR2021-34: The CCSBT should consider alternative decision-making models in the CCSBT Convention modernising processes. | CCSBT/EC | Medium | | | | ● | ● |

| | | Responsibility | Priority | Short Term | | Medium Term | | Long Term |
|---|---|----------------|-----------|------------|------|-------------|------|-----------|
| | | | | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028++ |
| vii | The CCSBT should review transparency of decision-making by reviewing the CCSBT's Rules of Procedure or other options. | CCSBT/EC | Low | ● | ● | | | |
| viii | PR2021-35: The CCSBT should consider developing an alternative approach to dispute settlement/ conflict resolution to avoid the potential for future stalemates that could significantly compromise the conservation and management of SBT resources. | CCSBT/EC | Low | | | | | ● |
| 4 Relationships | | | | | | | | |
| i | PR2021-58: Access to the CCSBT compendium of measures is made available on the public portion of the CCSBT website | Secretariat | High | | ● | ● | | |
| ii | Improve existing guidelines to determine what, if any, allocation should be made to new Members and CNMs. | CCSBT/EC | Very High | ● | ● | | | |
| iii | Consider the introduction of a science management dialogue to be held, as required, between scientists and fisheries managers. | CCSBT/EC | Very High | | ● | ● | | |
| (C) Goals concerning participation and implementation by Members | | | | | | | | |
| 5 Compliance Action Plan | | | | | | | | |
| i | PR2021-36: Update or revise the 2018-2020 Action Plan to the next five-year phase as a matter of urgency based on the recommendations from the Performance Review | CC | Very high | ● | ● | | | |

| | | Responsibility | Priority | Short Term | | Medium Term | | Long Term |
|----------|--|----------------|------------------|------------|------|-------------|------|-----------|
| | | | | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028++ |
| 6 | <i>Improvement in Monitoring and Control of SBT in the Global Market</i> | | | | | | | |
| i | Improve arrangements to collect and analyse the information of SBT distributed in the global market, and consider strengthening relevant measures to monitor and control trade of SBT products in the markets. | CC | Very High | ● | ● | | | |
| 7 | <i>Capacity Building Workplan</i> | | | | | | | |
| i | PR2021-22: Using the recommendations from the Performance Review, formulate and implement a capacity-building work plan to improve data collection, scientific analysis, and compliance-related activities. | CCSBT/EC | Very High | ● | ● | | | |

Ongoing Work Plan

| | Performance Review Recommendation | Goals and Objectives Area | Priority |
|---|--|--|-----------|
| 1 | PR2021-01: Members continue to support the MP, by remaining within their allocation limits, and eliminating areas of uncertainty such as Non-Member catches that could undermine its performance. | Goals Concerning Conservation and Management | Very High |
| 2 | PR2021-26: Continue monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the rebuilding strategy for SBT | Goals Concerning Conservation and Management | Very High |
| 3 | PR2021-12: Continue to develop and embed innovative methods such as gene-tagging and close kin mark-recapture to improve scientific processes. | Goals Concerning Conservation and Management | Very High |
| 4 | PR2021-24: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species ¹ . | Goals Concerning Conservation and Management | Very High |
| 5 | PR2021-71: Maintain a healthy flow of income (through Member's contribution and other sources) that exceeds CCSBT's expenses. | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | Very High |
| 6 | PR2021-25: CCSBT members should continue to strengthen the implementation of the IPOAs and FAO guidelines in fishing operations. | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | Very High |
| 7 | Apply the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Program to countries and/or entities who join the Commission in the future. Ongoing QAR program for existing Members is subject to the decision by the EC based on further advice from the Compliance Committee. | Goals concerning participation and implementation by Members | High |
| 8 | PR2021-13: Achieve a better balance between the scientific efforts dedicated to SBT and ERS | Goals Concerning Conservation and Management | High |

¹ Species that belong to the same ecosystems as, or are associated with or dependent upon, the major target stocks. (Paragraph 18 of the report of the 2021 CCSBT Performance Review)

| | Performance Review Recommendation | Goals and Objectives Area | Priority |
|-----------|--|---|-----------------|
| 9 | PR2021-74: Encourage earlier nominations for Chair of CCSBT from hosting Members ahead of Commission meetings | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | High |
| 10 | PR2021-75: Encourage the re-election of Chairs for up to 4 years as is allowed in 4(1) of the Rules of Procedure to provide better governance of the CCSBT. | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | High |
| 11 | PR2021-55: ESC to improve accessibility of reports to non-technical readers. | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | High |
| 12 | PR2021-57: Process for review of external documents, including possible non-compliance on the part of Members, should be monitored to ensure that it does not create a barrier for external engagement with the CCSBT. | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | Medium |
| 13 | Encourage non-Members to increase engagement in CCSBT processes, including joining the CCSBT and utilising the CDS | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | High |
| 14 | PR2021-44: Continue to formalise and strengthen information sharing with other RFMO secretariats and alternative information sources. | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | High |
| 15 | Ensure members are submitting high quality, clear, consistent and completed reporting | Goals Concerning Conservation and Management | Medium |
| 16 | PR2021-56: Use of head of delegation meetings at the EC should be minimised to the extent possible. | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | Medium |
| 17 | PR2021-64: Members look for additional opportunities to engage with one another outside of the traditional meeting dates of the CCSBT to ensure that the limited time available at CCSBT meetings is maximised. | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | Medium |
| 18 | PR2021-63: Members look for opportunities to continue and reinvigorate the cooperation instigated through the Kobe Process. | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | Medium |

| | Performance Review Recommendation | Goals and Objectives Area | Priority |
|-----------|---|---|-----------------|
| 19 | PR2021-68: Continue to engage with Kobe intersessional processes, particularly as they relate to areas of shared interests. | Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations | Medium |
| 20 | PR2021-16: Continue to study the spatial aspects of the SBT stock structure and movements, and the fleets that exploit SBT | Goals Concerning Conservation and Management | Medium |

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなみまぐろ保存委員会

Report of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Compliance Committee

5 - 7 October 2023

Busan, Korea

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなみまぐろ保存委員会

Report of the Twenty Eighth Meeting of the Scientific Committee

**1 September 2023
Jeju island, Republic of Korea**

Resolution on the Allocation of the Global Total Allowable Catch

(updated at the Thirtieth Annual Meeting – 9-12 October 2023)

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Seized by the need to ensure the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna based on the best available scientific advice,

Recalling agreement reached on nominal catch levels at the 16th annual meeting of the Extended Commission meeting and the Resolution on the Total Allowable Catch and Future Management of Southern Bluefin Tuna adopted at that meeting,

Further to the Resolution on the Adoption of a Management Procedure adopted at the annual meeting of the Extended Commission in 2011,

Noting that the Management Procedure is the basis for setting the total allowable catch since 2012,

Taking into account the desirability of a transparent and stable process for allocating total allowable catch to Members and Cooperating Non-Members, which provides greater certainty to Members and Cooperating non-Members, in particular for their fishing industries, and facilitates the administration of national allocations,

Recalling the Extended Commission agreed at its special meeting in 2011 to principles that would apply to the distribution of any increase in the global total allowable catch under the Management Procedure,

Further recalling the changes to nominal catch proportions agreed in 2016,

Further recalling that all Members had returned to their original nominal catch levels and exceeded those levels from 2018,

Taking it into account that the performance review in 2021 recommended development of clear guidelines for allocation to new Members and Cooperating Non-Members,

In accordance with paragraph 3(a) of Article 8 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, the Extended Commission decides as follows:

1. The total allowable catch (TAC) set on the basis of the Management Procedure (MP)¹ shall be allocated among Members and Cooperating Non-Members according to this Resolution.
2. Unless this Resolution provides otherwise, the TAC shall be allocated among Members based on Members' Allocation Percentage levels set out in the Annex of this Resolution.
3. If there is no change to the TAC, each Member's allocation will remain unchanged.

¹ The Management Procedure agreed to under the Resolution on the Adoption of a Management Procedure adopted at the annual meeting of the Extended Commission in 2011, and any subsequent revisions to that Resolution.

4. If there is an increase to the TAC, the additional tonnage will be allocated amongst the Members based on the Allocation Percentage level as set out in the Annex to this Resolution. If there is a decrease to the TAC, each Member's allocation will decrease consistent with its Allocation Percentage level. However, the European Union's allocation will not decrease below 10 tonnes. The allocation for a Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) and/or a new Member specified in paragraphs 6 and 7 will decrease in accordance with a separate decision to be made by the EC.
5. The Extended Commission may decide on an amount of the TAC to set aside for Research Mortality Allowance based on the advice provided by the Extended Scientific Committee.
6. The Extended Commission may decide the allocation for a Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) at the annual meeting where its status as a CNM is agreed in accordance with *the Resolution to Establish the Status of Cooperating Non-Member of the Extended Commission and the Extended Scientific Committee*, taking into account such elements as its potential SBT fishing capacity, its monitoring, control, and surveillance capacity, its administrative mechanisms to implement its CCSBT obligations, its past record of SBT fishing and management, and its need for SBT catch. The allocation is subject to the annual review of its status as a CNM, and a possible decrease in accordance with paragraph 4.
7. The Extended Commission may decide the allocation for a New Member (a Member that is not included in the current Annex) at the first annual meeting after it becomes a Member in accordance with the *Resolution to Establish an Extended Commission and an Extended Scientific Committee*, taking into account such elements as its potential SBT fishing capacity, its monitoring, control and surveillance capacity, its administrative mechanisms to implement its CCSBT obligations, its past records of SBT fishing and management, and its need for SBT catch. The allocation shall be no more than a maximum of 0.355% of the TAC of the year of the annual meeting during the first three fishing seasons unless the Extended Commission decides otherwise, including a possible decrease in accordance with paragraph 4.
8. The total amounts decided in accordance with paragraph 5 to 7 shall be deducted from the global TAC before allocation of the remaining TAC among Members as specified in the Annex².
9. A new Member may be added to the Annex subject to a review of its compliance status with CCSBT measures at least after the three-year period provided in paragraph 7 and when the next first determination is made in relation to the allocation. The Allocation Percentage levels in the Annex may be revised as a result of adding a New Member.

² For the purposes of calculating budget contributions under paragraph 2(b) of Article 11 of the Convention, 'nominal catches' shall be taken as the amount determined in accordance with paragraph 7 for New Members, and paragraph 8 for Members.

Annex

Members' Allocation Percentage

| <i>Member</i> | <i>Allocation Percentage</i> ³ |
|--------------------------|---|
| Japan | 35.5643% |
| Australia | 35.5643% |
| Republic of Korea | 7.1568% |
| Fishing Entity of Taiwan | 7.1568% |
| New Zealand | 6.2779% |
| Indonesia | 5.7785% |
| South Africa | 2.4387% |
| European Union | 0.0628% |

³ Agreed at CCSBT23(2016). Refer to paragraph 58. This will be duly adjusted once there is a new percentage in place.

**Resolution to Align CCSBT's Ecologically Related Species measures
with those of other tuna RFMOs**

(Updated at the Thirtieth Annual Meeting – 9-12 October 2023)

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

Recalling the decision made at the 5th Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group Meeting to develop a binding Ecological Related Species (ERS) measure for Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) Members without duplicating the effort of other tuna RFMOs by creating a CCSBT Resolution that requires CCSBT Members to follow the ERS measures of other relevant tuna RFMOs,

Noting the *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks* and the need to cooperate and ensure consistency between conservation and management measures in the different tuna regional fisheries management organisations,

Concerned that some seabird species, notably some albatrosses and petrels, are threatened with global extinction,

Mindful that fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna can also cause incidental harm to other species such as sea turtles, sharks and cetaceans,

Further recalling the requirement in Article 5(2) of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna that the Parties shall expeditiously provide to the CCSBT data on, *inter alia*, ecologically related species,

Determined to mitigate incidental harm to ecologically related species caused by fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna,

Noting the importance of harmonising conservation and management measures with other organisations responsible for managing international fisheries, as agreed at the Kobe Meeting of Joint Tuna RFMOs on 26 January 2007,

Reaffirming the recommendation at the seventh meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) held in Tokyo from 3 to 6 July 2007, that Members and Cooperating Non-Members will provide national reports on their interactions with ecologically related species in Southern Bluefin Tuna fisheries to the ERSWG, Agrees in accordance with paragraph 3(b) of Article 8, that:

1. For the purposes of this CCSBT Resolution:
 - a) the 'Area of Competence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission' is that described in Article 2 of the *Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission*;

- b) the ‘Convention Area of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission’ is that described in Article 3 of the *Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean*;
 - c) the ‘Convention Area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas’ is that described in Article 1 of the *International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas*;
 - d) An Area defined in paragraphs a) – c) above is an “Area of Competence” and are collectively the “Areas of Competence”;
 - e) ‘ERS Measures’ mean all measures relating to ecologically related species in force in the *Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)*, the *Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)*, the *International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)*, as adopted and amended from time to time, as contained in Annex I;
 - f) Member or Cooperating Non-Member means a Member or Cooperating Non-Member of the Extended Commission of the CCSBT.
2. This Resolution shall apply to all vessels on the ‘CCSBT Record of fishing vessels authorised to fish for Southern Bluefin Tuna’ in the Areas of Competence. Each Member and Cooperating Non-Member shall ensure that such vessels flying its flag and fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna in an Area of Competence comply with all ERS Measures in force in that Area of Competence (whether or not the Member or Cooperating Non-Member is a member of the tuna RFMO in which the ERS Measures were adopted).
 3. When fishing outside Areas of Competence, Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall use Tori lines in all long-line SBT fisheries below 30 degrees south.
 4. Where Areas of Competence overlap, Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall elect which applicable RFMO’s ERS Measures to apply.
 5. Each Member and Cooperating Non-Member shall ensure that effective action is taken in response to a vessel flying its flag that fails to comply with the obligations contained in the ERS Measures when fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna in an Area of Competence. If a Member or Cooperating Non-Member of the Extended Commission undertakes fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna in an Area of Competence of a Convention of which it is not a Member, that Member or Cooperating Non-Member shall report, if any, such actions relating to the relevant ERS Measures to the Compliance Committee of the CCSBT, unless the compliance of that Member or Cooperating Non-Member with such ERS measures is assessed in the appropriate body of that Convention.
 6. The CCSBT secretariat will annually update the list of ERS Measures contained in Annex I before the CCSBT Extended Commission Meeting according to any decisions taken on ecologically related species at the Annual Meetings of the IOTC, WCPFC, and ICCAT.

7. Except in the case of WCPFC, Members and Cooperating Non-Members that have formally objected to an ERS Measure in the relevant tuna RFMO, and who, by reason of that formal objection and the operation of the tuna RFMO's decision-making rules, are not bound by that ERS Measure, are exempted from applying that ERS Measure when fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna in the applicable Area of Competence. In the case of WCPFC, Members and Cooperating Members that have sought a review of a decision on an ERS measure in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 6 of the *Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean* are exempted from applying that ERS Measure when fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna in the applicable Area of Competence until the Measure becomes binding.
8. The Secretariat shall annually present a report to the CCSBT Compliance Committee on the implementation of the ERS Measures, for the sole purpose of the provision of information for Members and Cooperating Non-Members.

Annex I: The ERS Measures

Area of Competence of the IOTC

- a) Resolution 12/04 On the conservation of marine turtles;
- b) Resolution 12/06 On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries (will be superseded by Resolution 23/07 on 1 July 2024);
- c) Resolution 12/09 On the conservation of thresher sharks (family Alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC area of competence;
- d) Resolution 13/05 On the conservation of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*);
- e) Resolution 13/06 On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries;
- f) Resolution 17/05 On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC;
- g) Resolution 18/02 On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries;
- h) Resolution 19/03 On the conservation of mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence);
- i) Resolution 23/06 On the conservation of cetaceans;
- j) Resolution 23/07 On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries (will enter into force on 1 July 2024 and supersede Resolution 12/06)

Convention Area of the WCPFC

- k) Resolution 2018/03 - Conservation and Management Measure to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds;
- l) Resolution 2018/04 - Conservation and Management Measure of Sea Turtles;
- m) Resolution 2019/05 - Conservation and Management Measure on Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area;
- n) Resolution 2022/04 – Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks (supersedes CMM 2019/04);

Convention Area of the ICCAT

- o) Resolution 95-02 on cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with regard to study on the status of stocks and by-catches of shark species;
- p) Resolution 03-10 on the shark fishery;
- q) Recommendation 04-10 concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;
- r) Resolution 05-08 on circle hooks;
- s) Supplemental Recommendation 07-06 Concerning Sharks;
- t) Recommendation 07-07 on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries;

- u) Recommendation 09-07 on the Conservation of Thresher Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area;
- v) Recommendation 10-06 on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries;
- w) Recommendation 10-07 by ICCAT on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks caught in Association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area;
- x) Recommendation 10-08 on Hammerhead Sharks (family Sphyrnidae) caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT;
- y) Recommendation 11-08 on the Conservation of Silky Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries;
- z) Supplemental Recommendation 11-09 on Reducing Incidental By-Catch of Seabirds in ICCAT Longline Fisheries;
- aa) Recommendation 11-10 on Information Collection and Harmonization of Data on By-catch and Discards in ICCAT Fisheries;
- bb) Recommendation 13-10 on Biological Sampling of Prohibited Shark Species by Scientific Observers;
- cc) Recommendation 14-06 on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries;
- dd) Recommendation 15-06 on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries;
- ee) Recommendation 22-12 on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (combine, streamline, and amend recommendations 10-09 and 13-11)