

Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

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

**25 - 28 July 2023**

**Tokyo, Japan**

## **The Sixth Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group**

**25 - 28 July 2023**

**Tokyo, Japan**

### **Agenda Item 1. Opening of the meeting**

#### *1.1. Welcome*

1. Mr Ichiro Nomura (Japan) welcomed participants to Japan and opened the Sixth Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG).

#### *1.2. Confirmation of Chair*

2. The Chair advised that, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the SFMWG, when the Chair of the Extended Commission (EC) is not available, the SFMWG shall be chaired by the host Member unless otherwise agreed by the EC.
3. Mr Ichiro Nomura was confirmed as the Chair of the SFMWG 6 meeting.

#### *1.3. Introduction of Participants*

4. Members introduced their delegations to the meeting. The list of participants is shown at **Attachment 1**.

#### *1.4. Adoption of agenda*

5. The agenda was adopted as shown at **Attachment 2**.
6. The list of documents for the meeting is shown at **Attachment 3**.
7. The Executive Secretary announced the main arrangements for the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 2. Review and update of the CCSBT Strategic Plan**

8. The Secretariat presented paper CCSBT-SFM/2307/04, which provides background information concerning a proposed updated CCSBT Strategic Plan and Five-Year Action Plan for the period of October 2023 to 2028. The Secretariat's paper notes that most subsidiary groups develop an annual workplan as part of their meeting deliberations, and subsidiary body work plans will also need to give due consideration to a revised Strategic Plan. The Secretariat advised that once a Strategic Plan is agreed at the EC, the Secretariat will ensure it is disseminated to subsidiary bodies.
9. The Terms of Reference for the 2021 CCSBT Performance Review define a process for follow-up of the Review Panel's recommendations. This process involves the SFMWG considering the Review Panel's recommendations along with advice from CCSBT's subsidiary bodies to develop an updated draft Five-Year Action Plan within CCSBT's Strategic Plan for EC's consideration.

10. The Chair reminded Members that completion of this task is the primary objective of this SFMWG meeting, and that the updated Strategic Plan (including its 5-year Action Plan) will guide CCSBT's work priorities for the next five years. The Strategic Plan also sets the overarching direction for CCSBT's subsidiary bodies.

***Strategic Plan - Main Text***

11. The meeting agreed to retain the existing general format of the Strategic Plan but noted that it should be simplified while still maintaining sufficient information for the uninitiated reader.
12. Australia presented its paper CCSBT-SFM/2307/05, which includes a draft updated Strategic Plan taking into consideration feedback received from other Members during the drafting phase. Australia clarified that Attachment A (including Table 1) of its paper was provided for SFMWG's information and that it was not intended that Attachment A be included as part of the updated Strategic Plan. Members agreed that Attachment A should be provided to the EC as an information paper to support its considerations of the draft Strategic Plan.
13. Australia also provided an alternative proposal for sections 1 to 4 of the Strategic Plan. Members thanked Australia for its efforts in developing the draft updated Strategic Plan and agreed to use Australia's alternative proposal as a basis from which to update sections 1 to 4.
14. There was discussion regarding the timeframe of the Strategic Plan and the meeting agreed to recommend that it be for the period October 2023 to October 2028, noting that some 'business as usual' actions were already underway.
15. Members agreed to capture key challenges as part of the text in the Introduction section but chose to remove previous references to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA).
16. The meeting clarified that decisions of the Commission and the EC are taken by a unanimous vote of the Members, consistent with the Rules of Procedure and relevant Resolutions of the CCSBT.
17. It was noted that there had been a change from use of Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) to Total Reproductive Output (TRO) to describe SBT stock status that could be misinterpreted, and Members agreed to simplify the text to avoid confusion.
18. Members considered the need for greater clarity in relation to the Management of SBT vision and its applicability to ecologically related species (ERS). Some Members supported the development of a standalone ERS vision while others questioned whether this was within the scope of the Convention. After extensive discussions, Members agreed to specify this vision as the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ERS are mitigated.
19. The meeting also agreed to broaden the 'Management of SBT' section to include consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety.

### ***Strategic Plan - Action Plan & Ongoing Workplan***

20. The meeting considered each of the items included within the draft Action Plan at Attachment A and draft ongoing Workplan at Attachment B of paper CCSBT-SFM/2307/05, respectively. Many of the action items are sourced directly from the Performance Review (PR) recommendations. It was noted that SFMWG has the flexibility to adapt any of the PR recommendations as it deems appropriate.
21. The meeting discussed and agreed on updates to some of the action items including their priorities, suggested timeframe for action and associated discussion notes.
22. During its deliberations, the meeting noted the following points:
  - Item 1b.i: Regarding the development of an ERS and Bycatch Action Plan to address the PR recommendations, it was recognised that this Action Plan should focus on ERS other than seabirds as seabird work is already included within the adopted CCSBT Multi-year Seabird Strategy.
  - Item 3.i: One Member commented on the need to take a more holistic view of scientific planning than the Scientific Research Plan (SRP), which is primarily a WorkPlan.
  - Item 3.v/viii: Members recognised the importance of moving towards including more modern fisheries management concepts in the CCSBT Convention but also recognised that amending the Convention would be both complex and time-consuming. Therefore, these elements of the plan were considered to be longer term goals.
  - General: The meeting recognised that implementing the action items within the Strategic Plan would have ongoing resource impacts.
23. The meeting agreed to recommend that the EC adopt the draft Strategic Plan including its Action Plan and Ongoing Workplan provided at **Attachment 4**.

### **Agenda Item 3. Other Business**

#### ***3.1. Japan's Market Proposal***

24. The Chair advised that, at CCSBT 29, it was noted that Japan would submit a detailed market proposal intersessionally, probably, in May or June in 2023, and subject to Members' views, Japan would initiate a study on the Japanese market to report the progress at EC30 in cooperation with the Secretariat, if necessary.
25. Japan presented paper CCSBT-SFM/2307/06 on a proposal to monitor and verify SBT caught by all Members in the Japanese market and global distribution. These proposals were made while taking into consideration the advice provided in the external expert's report in 2022 (CCSBT-CC/2210/19). For the proposed work to be initiated intersessionally so that some of the outcomes can be reported at the upcoming annual meeting in October 2023, Japan asked for Members' intersessional agreement on the proposed work in this paper.
26. The proposal was welcomed and appreciated by all Members and Members thanked Japan for its efforts, including for providing the proposed timeline which provides increased clarity.

27. In response to questions;
- Regarding the divergence between CDS and market data, Japan explained that there has been an increase in the level of SBT directly traded from importers to buyers which bypasses the main markets.
  - The group also raised potential issues regarding double-counting and it was suggested that this could be mitigated by using the correspondence approach.
  - One Member asked whether maintaining tags beyond the first point of sale could enhance the ability of Japan to monitor its markets. Japan stated that it encourages tags to be retained on SBT for as long as possible but operational issues, including broken tags, limit the practicality of extending the current CDS requirements.
  - Members considered the potential for enhancement to the types of tags used including considering the use of e-tags. However, several Members raised issues about potential cost implications.
  - One Member queried what types of discussions Japan envisaged would occur at CC18 and Japan responded that one example could be to discuss any potential discrepancies between different data sources.
28. In relation to Japan's proposal that the Executive Secretary invite Non-Cooperating Non-Members (NCNMs) that have caught or traded 100t or more of SBT in two consecutive years to apply for the status of OSEC<sup>1</sup>, it was clarified that:
- Letters would be sent from the Executive Secretary directly to States which met the criteria;
  - Trade data would be sourced from publicly available trade databases;
  - A lower threshold than the 100t trade of SBT in two consecutive years could be considered if practical and appropriate; and
  - Efforts should also be made to ensure that both market and catching States are considered.
29. The Executive Secretary reminded Members of the existing instructions<sup>2</sup> to invite NCNMs that harvest SBT to cooperate with the Commission. However, to date this has not been interpreted as extending to cases of estimated catch such as those derived from the Extended Scientific Commission's (ESC's) Unaccounted Mortality (UAM) work.
30. The Chair noted that this was a preliminary discussion and that the proposal will be re-visited and considered fully at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC 18) and the Thirtieth meeting of the Extended Commission (EC 30).

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<sup>1</sup> The term 'Other State/Fishing Entity Cooperating in the CDS' means a State/Fishing Entity that has expressed its commitment, in writing, to cooperate with the CDS Resolution.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution to Establish the Status of Cooperating Non-Member of the Extended Commission and the Extended Scientific Committee.

**Agenda Item 4. Close of Meeting**

***4.1. Adoption of report***

31. The report was adopted.

***4.2. Close of meeting***

32. The meeting closed at 3:27 pm on 27 July 2023.

## **List of Attachments**

### *Attachment*

1. List of Participants
2. Agenda
3. List of Documents
4. Draft CCSBT Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028

**List of Participants**  
**The Sixth Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group**

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**Agenda**  
**The Sixth Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group**  
**(SFMWG 6)**  
**25 - 28 July 2023**  
**Tokyo, Japan**

1. Opening of the Meeting
  - 1.1. Welcome
  - 1.2. Confirmation of Chair
  - 1.3. Introduction of Participants
  - 1.4. Adoption of Agenda
2. Review and update of the CCSBT Strategic Plan
  - 2.1. Introduction and description of the southern bluefin tuna fishery
  - 2.2. Strategic Issues and Key Challenges
  - 2.3. Objective, Vision, Goals and Priorities
  - 2.4. Strategies to meet Goals in the Strategic Plan
  - 2.5. Five-Year Action Plan for implementing the CCSBT Strategic Plan
3. Other Business
  - 3.1. Japan's Market Proposal
4. Close of Meeting
  - 4.1. Adoption of report
  - 4.2. Close of meeting

**List of Documents**

**The Sixth Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group  
(SFMWG 6)**

**(CCSBT-SFM/2307)**

1. Provisional Agenda
2. List of Participants
3. List of Documents
4. (Secretariat) Background Information to the Proposed Updated Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan for 2023 to 2028 (SFMWG Agenda Item 2)
5. (Australia) Initial Draft of Strategic Plan for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna 2023 - 2028 (SFMWG Agenda Item 2)
6. (Japan) Proposal to monitor and verify Southern Bluefin Tuna caught by All Members in Japanese Market and the global distribution (SFMWG Agenda Item 3.1)

**(CCSBT-SFM/2307/BGD)**

1. (CCSBT) 2021 CCSBT Performance Review (SFMWG Agenda Item 2)

**(CCSBT-SFM/2307/Info)**

1. (CCSBT) Strategic Plan for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna 2015 – 2020 (SFMWG Agenda Item 2)

**(CCSBT-SFM/2307/Rep)**

1. Report of the Twenty Ninth Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2022)
2. Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Compliance Committee (October 2022)
3. Report of the Twenty Seventh Meeting of the Scientific Committee (August/September 2022)
4. Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (March 2022)
5. Report of the Twenty Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2021)
6. Report of the Twenty Seventh Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2020)
7. Report of the Twenty Sixth Annual Meeting of the Commission (October 2019)

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

**2023 - 2028**

**October 2023**

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# 1. Introduction

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

This strategic plan outlines a common vision for how Members 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 species<sup>1</sup>;
- 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);

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<sup>1</sup> *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 Review<sup>2</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup>[https://www.ccsbt.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/file/docs\\_english/operational\\_resolutions/2021\\_CCSBT\\_Performance\\_Review.pdf](https://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	NOTES for discussion
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028++	
<b>(A) Goals Concerning Management Of SBT</b>									
<b>1 Status of Living Marine Resources</b>									
<b>1a Southern Bluefin Tuna</b>									
i	PR2021-02: Explore the need for additional measures (such as protected areas and area closures) to support spawning and recruitment.	ESC	Medium			●	●		ESC have given this a lower priority
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					●	ESC have given this a lower priority SFMWG: this recommendation would be progressed depending on the ESC's advice related to i above (PR2021-02) and practicality of implementing spatial closure in Indonesian waters.
<b>1b. Ecologically Related Species and Bycatch</b>									
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	●	●				SFMWG: This is an action for the CCSBT Secretariat. It is recommended an Action Plan be developed for the ERSWG based on the results of the Performance Review and the feedback from the ERSWG. The Action Plan should therefore include the following Recommendations from the Performance Review: PR-2021-3,4,5,6,20,27, 69.
<b>2 Quality of Data and Scientific Advice</b>									
i	Further increase efforts, including analysis on the application of electronic monitoring, to improve and supplement observer	CC/ESC	High	●	●				SFMWG: This Action is a combination of PR-2021-9 and PR-2021-10, which both relate to further

		Responsibility	Priority	Short Term		Medium Term		Long Term	NOTES for discussion
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028++	
	coverage in accordance with Scientific Observer Program Standard (SOPS)								increasing efforts with a view to improving observer coverage.
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					●	ESC and CC both consider this a lower priority
<b>(B) Goals Concerning Operation / Administration of the Commission and Secretariat</b>									
<b>3 Operation of the Commission / Secretariat</b>									
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					●	SFMWG: Considers amending the Convention will be both complex and time-consuming, and introducing modern fisheries management concepts using Resolutions, etc to achieve this could also be possible.

		Responsibility	Priority	Short Term		Medium Term		Long Term	NOTES for discussion
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028++	
vi	PR2021-34: The CCSBT should consider alternative decision-making models in the CCSBT Convention modernising processes.	CCSBT/EC	Medium				●	●	SFMWG: This is linked to v. (PR2021-32) above and should be part of that action as it requires amending the Convention.
vii	The CCSBT should review transparency of decision-making by reviewing the CCSBT's Rules of Procedure or other options.	CCSBT/EC	Low	●	●				SFMWG: With regard to criticisms noted by some observers regarding overuse of Heads of Delegation (HoD) meetings, SFMWG notes these are necessary to ensure that decisions are actually achieved.
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					●	
<b>4 Relationships</b>									
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	●	●				SFMWG: This Recommendation is a combination of PR-2021-59 and PR-2021-62.
iii	Consider the introduction of a science management dialogue to be held, as required, between scientists and fisheries managers.	CCSBT/EC	Very High		●	●			SFMWG: Some Members indicated a preference to hold this meeting immediately before the EC; the final timing of the meeting is a matter for the EC to decide. This stems from PR-2021-19 and draws upon experience from WCPFC (not strictly capacity building BUT

		Responsibility	Priority	Short Term		Medium Term		Long Term	NOTES for discussion
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028++	
									could be included in the capacity building workplan)
<b>(C) Goals concerning participation and implementation by Members</b>									
<b>5</b>	<b><i>Compliance Action Plan</i></b>								
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	●	●				SFMWG: A Compliance Action Plan should be developed by the CCSBT Secretariat with consideration of the findings of the Compliance Committee and the Performance Review Report for the consideration of the EC. The Action Plan should incorporate PR-2021-30, 36-54 and 70.
<b>6</b>	<b><i>Improvement in Monitoring and Control of SBT in the Global Market</i></b>								
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	●	●				
<b>7</b>	<b><i>Capacity Building Workplan</i></b>								

		Responsibility	Priority	Short Term		Medium Term		Long Term	NOTES for discussion
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028++	
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	●	●				SFMWG: A Capacity Building Workplan should incorporate the following recommendations from the Performance Review: PR-2021-8, 14, 18, 21, 22, 48, 65, 66, 67.

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## Ongoing Work Plan

	Performance Review Recommendation	Goals and Objectives Area	Priority	Notes for discussion
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 <sup>1</sup> .	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	
9	PR2021-74: Encourage earlier nominations for Chair of CCSBT from hosting Members ahead of Commission meetings	Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations	High	

<sup>1</sup> 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)

	<b>Performance Review Recommendation</b>	<b>Goals and Objectives Area</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes for discussion</b>
<b>10</b>	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	<b>High</b>	
<b>11</b>	PR2021-55: ESC to improve accessibility of reports to non-technical readers.	Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations	<b>High</b>	
<b>12</b>	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	<b>Medium</b>	
<b>13</b>	Encourage non-Members to increase engagement in CCSBT processes, including joining the CCSBT and utilising the CDS	Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations	<b>High</b>	SFMWG: This Recommendation is a combination of PR-2021-33, 60 and 61.
<b>14</b>	PR2021-44: Continue to formalise and strengthen information sharing with other RFMO secretariats and alternative information sources.	Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations	<b>High</b>	
<b>15</b>	Ensure members are submitting high quality, clear, consistent and completed reporting	Goals Concerning Conservation and Management	<b>Medium</b>	SFMWG: This Action is a combination of PR2021-11 and PR2021-17, which both related to a high level of reporting quality by members.
<b>16</b>	PR2021-56: Use of head of delegation meetings at the EC should be minimised to the extent possible.	Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations	<b>Medium</b>	
<b>17</b>	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	<b>Medium</b>	
<b>18</b>	PR2021-63: Members look for opportunities to continue and reinvigorate the cooperation instigated through the Kobe Process.	Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations	<b>Medium</b>	SFMWG: The relevance of the Kobe process in tRFMOs and this recommendation should be considered by EC.

	<b>Performance Review Recommendation</b>	<b>Goals and Objectives Area</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes for discussion</b>
<b>19</b>	PR2021-68: Continue to engage with Kobe intersessional processes, particularly as they relate to areas of shared interests.	Goals Concerning the CCSBT / Secretariat Operations	<b>Medium</b>	SFMWG: The relevance of the Kobe process in tRFMOs and this recommendation should be considered by EC.
<b>20</b>	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	<b>Medium</b>	

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