



Provisional Agenda
Fifteenth meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group
4 -7 June 2024
Tokyo, Japan

Note from the Chair:

Members and Observers will be aware that resolving issues and making substantive progress on matters in front of the working group is greatly facilitated by the tabling of papers analysing existing information and options for the future. Without such papers, it is very hard for the working group to agree on a way forward. In this context, I would encourage Members to submit papers on the following topics at ERSWG15:

- *Under Agenda item 5.1.3 – Papers relating to Seabird Bycatch Targets (Seabird Strategy Workplan item 1A);*
- *Under Agenda item 7.2 – Proposal to revise Annex 1 of Scientific Observer Program Standards which covers prioritisation of observer tasks at sea (Seabird Strategy Workplan Item 2G); and*
- *Under Agenda item 3 – Info paper on review by WCPFC of data fields for logbook reporting (Seabird Strategy Workplan item 2I).*

Please note that discussion of blue highlighted agenda/sub-agenda items will commence by correspondence in advance of the meeting.

1. Opening

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda

1.2 Adoption of Document List

1.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs

Members will be asked to nominate rapporteurs for agenda items 4, 5, 7.2, and 10. In addition, presenters of papers will be asked to provide a brief paragraph for papers they have submitted (excluding annual reports) for inclusion in the report of the meeting.

2. Annual reports

2.1 Members

Members will prepare and provide annual reports to the ERSWG in accordance with the [agreed template](#). Reports are expected to contain all information specified in the template. It will be assumed that reports have been read by participants prior to the meeting, so this agenda item will be reserved for questions of clarification regarding the reports.

2.2 Secretariat report on the ERSWG Data Exchange

The Secretariat will provide summaries of the data from the annual ERSWG Data Exchange¹. This agenda item also provides an opportunity to consider changes in relation to the data exchange process and associated information.

¹ *Members that wish to conduct their own analysis of these data can obtain an amalgamated spreadsheet of these data from the “ERSWG Data Exchange” section of the “General Private Area” of the CCSBT website. A highly aggregated public version of the data is available at https://www.ccsbt.org/userfiles/file/data/ERSWG_Data.xlsx.*

3. Reports of meetings and/or outcomes of other organisations relevant to the ERS Working Group

All organisations with long terms observer status for CCSBT ERSWG meetings (see <https://www.ccsbt.org/en/content/attendance-meetings-observers>) will be invited to attend and to present a report to the meeting. Members and observers may also present relevant meeting reports from organisations not present at the ERSWG meeting. The ERSWG will consider relevant recommendations of these reports.

4. Review of progress with the work program from ERSWG 14

*The work program from ERSWG 14 is provided at **Attachment A**. The ERSWG will review progress with the work program.*

5. Information and advice on ERS

*This is the key agenda item to progress the assessment of the risks to ERS posed by fishing for SBT and the effects of ERS on the condition of the SBT stock, and to provide advice on any measures that might be needed for the mitigation of risks. **Members and observers are requested to develop and submit papers in advance of the meeting on the following agenda items.***

5.1 Seabirds

5.1.1 Information on stock status

In accordance with standing instructions, the Secretariat will request ACAP and Birdlife International to provide updated information on the seabirds likely to be caught by SBT fisheries, including population status summaries and reviews of mitigations measures.

5.1.2 Estimates of ERS mortality and associated uncertainty

This agenda item provides an opportunity to consider methods for estimating total seabird mortality and for reviewing any mortality estimates provided by Members.

5.1.3 Ecological risk assessment

The ERSWG 14 work program specifies that New Zealand will lead work, in collaboration with Members, to “conduct the SEFRA as an ERSWG collaborative assessment in the areas of data provision, model development and examination of model robustness”. The ERSWG will review the outcome of this work including conclusions from the Technical ERSWG hybrid meeting of 27-29 February 2024.

5.1.4 Assessment and advice on mitigation measures

This is a standing item on the ERSWG agenda for the ERSWG to review current measures and provide advice on any changes that might be needed. At ERSWG 14, Taiwan advised that it would present the results of a study on the effectiveness of mitigation measures at ERSWG 15.

5.1.5 Seabird species identification

Updates on any improvements in seabird identification practices or methodology.

5.2 Sharks

5.2.1 Information on stock status

Members should provide information on the stock status of shark species relevant to the CCSBT.

5.2.3 Estimates of ERS mortality and associated uncertainty

This agenda item provides an opportunity to consider methods for estimating total shark mortality and for reviewing any mortality estimates provided by Members.

5.3 Other ERS

Members and observers are encouraged to present information concerning the impacts of fishing for SBT on other ERS such as sea turtles and marine mammals etc.

5.3.1 Australia's update on interactions between recreational SBT fishery and fur seals around Tasmania

ERSWG 14 Work Program specified Australia to provide an update on interactions between the recreational SBT fishery and fur seals around Tasmania, and the work that Australia plans to conduct to better quantify the nature of these interactions, if required.

6. CCSBT Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028

The EC 30 adopted the revised CCSBT Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028, that takes account of recommendations from the 2021 CCSBT Performance Review. The Secretariat will introduce the ERSWG related elements from the new CCSBT Strategic Plan. Discussions under this agenda item will inform the Secretariat's report back to the EC on progress against the actions of the Strategic Plan.

6.1 Review of Draft ERS and Bycatch Plan

7. Electronic Monitoring

7.1 High Level Guiding Principles on EM/S for the CCSBT

The Secretariat will briefly introduce the High Level Guiding Principles on EM/S for the CCSBT, which were adopted by EC30 in 2023.

7.2 Review of ERS related data elements in the CCSBT's Scientific Observer Program Standard

Based on the discussion of the EM workshop in 2023, Members were requested to provide their view about availability through EM and actual usage/necessity of data elements required through the CCSBT's Scientific Observer Program Standard. The Secretariat will collate Members' view and provide recommendations on SOPS in the context of EM.

8. Progress on the CCSBT Multi-year Seabird Strategy

EC 29 adopted the CCSBT Multi-year Seabird Strategy, which was drafted and recommended by ERSWG 14 in 2021. In the ERSWG 14 Work Program, Members were asked intersessionally to provide the outcome and plans for each activity specified in the Seabird Strategy. The ERSWG is expected to review Members' feedback for each activity and make recommendations for appropriate actions for the Seabird Strategy.

9. Education and public relations activities

The FAO funded Seabird Project to Enhance the Implementation of Seabird Measures has been initiated since February 2023. The CCSBT Seabird Project Coordinator will provide the progress of this project. Members are expected to consider the work plan for each project element that is related to respective Members and for aligning the schedule between Members' project (including SEFRA related work through the technical ERSWG) and the Seabird Project.

10. Review of methodology used to calculate representativeness of scientific observer coverage

Currently, representativeness is calculated as the proportion of Statistical Areas fished that reached the target of 10% observer coverage as per the SMMTG recommendation. CC 18 in 2023 requested the ERSWG to review the current methodology to calculate the representativeness of scientific observer coverage as an agenda item at the next ERSWG meeting. At CC18, it was questioned whether there needs to be a minimum amount of effort in an area before it is included in the representativeness calculation.

11. Terms of Reference of the Technical ERSWG

The ERSWG is asked to consider Terms of Reference for the intersessional technical ERSWG, including attendance of observers.

12. Future work program

The ERSWG will develop an updated work program from matters raised during the previous agenda items together with any additional work items that need to be considered.

13. Other business

14. Referral of ERS matters for consideration by CCSBT subsidiary bodies

This agenda item is for matters that the ERSWG considers should be specifically referred to other subsidiary bodies of the CCSBT.

15. Recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission

The ERSWG will develop a list of recommendation and advice to the Extended Commission from matters raised during the previous agenda items.

16. Conclusion

16.1. Recommendation on timing and topic of next technical/in-person ERSWG meetings

16.2. Adoption of meeting report

16.3. Close of meeting

Attachment A

ERSWG 14 Workplan

(An additional column has been added to the workplan to indicate where each item will be discussed within the ERSWG 15 Agenda. The default agenda item for discussion of workplan activities is agenda item 4 unless there is a more appropriate agenda item for the specific content)

Activity	Approximate Period	Resource	ERSWG 15 Agenda item
Present the results of studies of Southern Bluefin Tuna targeting vessels on the effectiveness of combined mitigation measures, such as use of tori line, weighted branch-lines, and nighttime setting.	ERSWG 15	Taiwan	5.1.4
Members' annual reports to future ERSWG meetings should include both the FAO 3 alpha species code and the species/species group name in the table for reporting estimates of total ERS mortality.	ERSWG 15	All Members	2.1
The Secretariat's Data Exchange summary paper to ERSWG 15 should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the rate of capture in addition to the number of observed captures in order to control for the varying effect of observer coverage; and • Table 5 of the paper should be expanded to include Statistical Areas 4 and 14. 	ERSWG 15	Secretariat	2.2
Provide the summary of key points of ERSWG reports to other tuna RFMOs, in accordance with agreed format.	After CCSBT 29	Secretariat	Completed
Translate the ACAP Seabird Identification Guide into Indonesian. ACAP and the CCSBT to share funding of the translation.	ERSWG 15	ACAP Secretariat	Completed
Investigate the use of BMIS as a potential host for a seabird photo database for the CCSBT.	ERSWG 15	Secretariat	5.1.6
Provide revised historical data for the EDE that includes all mortalities (i.e. both discard mortalities and retained commercial catch).	Before the July 2022 EDE	Australia	Completed
Conduct the SEFRA as an ERSWG collaborative assessment in the areas of data provision, model development and examination of model robustness.	Intersessionally prior to ERSWG 15	New Zealand (lead) and all Members to participate	5.1.3
Combine Agenda item 5.1.3 and 5.1.5 for future meetings.	ERSWG 15	Secretariat	Completed
Each Member to report on its progress with implementing actions in accordance with the agreed Multi-year Seabird Strategy.	ERSWG 15	Members	2.1, 8

Activity	Approximate Period	Resource	ERSWG 15 Agenda item
Review the overall progress with implementing the agreed Multi-year Seabird Strategy.	ERSWG 15	ERSWG	8
Provide an update on interactions between the recreational SBT fishery and fur seals around Tasmania, and the work that Australia plans to conduct to better quantify the nature of these interactions, if required.	ERSWG 15	Australia	5.3.1
Consider the focus and agenda for the intersessional technical ERSWG meeting in 2023.	As soon as possible	Members	Completed