

Provisional Agenda
Extended Scientific Committee for the Thirtieth Meeting of the Scientific
Committee
25 – 30 August 2025
Virtual Meeting

Discussion of blue highlighted agenda/sub-agenda items will commence by correspondence in advance of the meeting.

1. Opening

1.1. Introduction of Participants

1.2. Administrative Arrangements

2. Appointment of Rapporteurs

3. Adoption of Agenda and Document List

4. Review of SBT Fisheries

4.1. Presentation of National Reports

Members will submit national reports in advance of the meeting in accordance with CCSBT's [Template for national reports to the ESC](#). As agreed at ESC27, Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) activities should be reported to the ESC in Member's National Reports, in the relevant areas of Section 7 and Annex 1 of the ESC annual report template.

4.2. Secretariat Review of Catches

5. Report from the Fifteenth Operating Model and Management Procedure (OMMP) Technical Meeting

6. Report back against objectives of the Strategic Plan

At CCSBT 30, Members adopted a revised Strategic Plan¹ that outlines a common vision for how the Commission will operate in order to meet the overall objective of the Convention. The Strategic Plan states that "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". Members will be asked to update the previously

¹www.ccsbt.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/file/docs_english/operational_resolutions/CCSBT_Strategic_Plan.pdf

agreed reporting template and provide an assessment of progress against those activities assigned to the ESC.

6.1. Capacity Building Workplan

CCSBT 31 in 2024 adopted the CCSBT's Capacity Building Workplan which aims at prioritising needs and delivering effective capacity building initiatives to improve performance in key areas, particularly for developing Members. ESC is expected to conduct a need assessment, and the Secretariat will provide a paper to ESC 30 meeting with its preliminary assessment.

7. Review of results of the Scientific Research Program and other inter-sessional scientific activities

7.1. Results of scientific activities

It is anticipated that routine updates to ongoing work will be dealt with in the pre-meeting exchange, however, Members presenting more substantive updates or new work are asked to make a presentation during the meeting.

7.2. Improving Robustness of CPUE indices

It is anticipated that the outcome of intersessional CPUE index development project will be presented to the ESC. In addition, the ESC may wish to consider the next steps of this activity toward the full stock assessment in 2026 and/or the scheduled MP review in 2027.

7.3. Maintenance and development of OMMP Code

Consultant to report back against 2024 workplan items relating to OM development not previously discussed as part of OMMP agenda item.

7.4. Capacity building for SBT Spawning Ground Monitoring Program

As a part of the SRP, ESC 28 agreed to implement a new project on capacity building for the SBT Spawning Ground Monitoring Program in Indonesia. It is expected that Australia and Indonesia will report on progress of this project.

8. Fisheries and Scientific Indicators of Stock Status

9. Operation of the Management Procedure and SBT Management Advice

9.1. Evaluation of meta-rules and exceptional circumstances

9.2. Management Procedure recommended TAC for 2027-2029

9.3. Summary of SBT management advice

10. Potential impacts of climate change

ESC 29 noted its concern that climate change could affect recruitment or the overall distribution of SBT, and that future ESC meetings should discuss and possibly undertake analyses of existing

data that could indicate any potential climate change related effect on SBT. CCSBT 31 agreed to add climate change as a standing agenda item to future ESC meetings.

11. Update of the Scientific Research Program (SRP)

This is now a standing agenda item to allow Members to consider new proposals and/or changes to existing SRP projects (including timing of deliverables).

11.1. Long-term planning for gene tagging program

Concerned with the ongoing financial health of the Commission, CCSBT 31 approved AUD 1.2 million for the gene tagging program for 2025 and 2026. The Extended Commission has requested, in line with ESC 29 advice to the EC, to use the OM to explore potential implications of reducing the scope of the GT and/or CKMR programs to realise ongoing cost savings in time for consideration by CCSBT 32. It is recognised that further consideration will be required as part of the review of the MP in 2027, following the stock assessment in 2026.

11.2. Terms of Reference on the estimation of Unaccounted Mortality (UAM) in 2026

ESC's three-year workplan specified that the update of NCNM estimate of UAM will be implemented in 2026, as a simple update of GLM analysis. ESC should confirm the timing, consultant and a term of reference for this activity,

12. Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS)

Members agreed to include an agenda item to address issues relating to EM/S in future meetings of the ESC. At ESC29, Members with operational EM programs agreed to work together intersessionally and present to ESC 30 on how information is collected by EM and how this meets the requirements of the SOPS.

13. Requirements for Data Exchange in 2026

14. Research Mortality Allowance

15. Workplan, Timetable and Research Budget for 2026 (and beyond)

15.1. Overview, time schedule and budgetary implications of proposed 2025 research activities and implications of Scientific Research Program for the work plan and budget.

15.2. Timing, length and structure of next meetings (including ESC, OMMP and relevant subsidiary bodies).

16. Other Matters

16.1. Advice regarding the future of the Independent Scientific Advisory Panel

The three-year terms for the members of the Independent Scientific Advisory Panel are ending this year and will be reviewed at CCSBT 32. This is an opportunity for the ESC to provide any views towards that review.

16.2. Possible process to align the activities of ERSWG and ESC

EC 31 agreed that the Secretariat would lead a process to develop a protocol to inform the effective flow of information and alignment of activities between the ERS and ESC sub-committees.

17. Adoption of Meeting Report

18. Close of Meeting