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Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

## **Report of the Resumed Third Annual Meeting (Revised)**

**18 – 22 February 1997  
Canberra, Australia**

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The representatives of the Governments of Japan, Australia and New Zealand reconvened the Third Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) from 18 to 22 February 1997. This meeting was a resumption of the Third Annual Meeting, the first part of which was held from 24 to 28 September 1996.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Alison Turner (Australia).

***Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting***

***1.1 & 1.2 Welcoming Address and Meeting Arrangements***

The Chair welcomed delegates and the observers from the Republic of Korea and Taiwan.

Mr Morishita from Japan represented the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and Mr Edwards from New Zealand represented the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

***1.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs***

Rapporteurs were appointed as follows: for Japan, Messrs Komatsu and Morishita, for New Zealand, Ms Robinson and Ms Futschek, and for Australia, Messrs Cassells and Pigounis.

***1.4 Adoption of Agenda***

The agreed agenda and list of participants for the meeting are at **Attachments A and B**, respectively.

***1.5 Member's Reports***

*Japan*

Mr. Morimoto, head of the Japanese Delegation, explained Japan's basic positions on the following five important issues to be discussed at this resumed meeting:

Total Allowable Catch and National Allocations

Japan confirmed that its proposal, from the first part of the Third Annual meeting, of increasing the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) by 3,000 tonnes or more was still valid because a revised Japanese Virtual Population Analysis (VPA), which was circulated

among the Members of the CCSBT prior to this meeting, had produced results to support the proposal. Japan believed that the resolution of the TAC at this meeting is very important, considering the abnormal situation where Australia and New Zealand had commenced their fishing operations without the settlement of a 1996/97 TAC.

#### Joint Pilot Plan for Experimental Fishing Program

Prior to this meeting, Japan had circulated a substantially revised Joint Pilot Plan. Major points of revision, which in Japan's view had accommodated the comments from Australia and New Zealand, are:

- a) to clarify the objective of a full scale Experimental Fishing Program (EFP) as examination of catch per unit effort (CPUE) hypothesis;
- b) to clarify the objective of the Joint Pilot Plan as examination of methods of vessel deployment to research areas;
- c) to revise the research period;
- d) to include specific catch figures and vessel numbers necessary for the Joint Pilot Plan; and
- e) to reaffirm a payback scheme of catch quota in case the Plan produces clear and substantial negative effects on the recovery rates of southern bluefin tuna (SBT).

Japan emphasised that it was extremely difficult to come to an agreement on stock assessments without resolving uncertainties by experimental fishing and expressed its hopes for progress on the issues of the Joint Pilot Plan.

#### Relationship with Non Parties

Japan expressed serious concerns on the recent and rapid increase of SBT catch by non-parties. Japan urged the CCSBT to establish clear and specific action plans to strengthen measures toward non-parties.

#### Seabirds

Japan did not support arguments which blamed longline fisheries as the only cause of the reduction of some seabird populations. However, it recognised the necessity of addressing the conservation of seabirds and the need for longline fisheries to take some responsibility. Japan expressed its willingness to discuss specific seabird conservation steps at this meeting.

#### Compliance Issue

With regard to an incident that Japanese fishing vessels were found to be fishing illegally for SBT after the closure of fishing season by Japanese domestic regulations, Japan expressed its regrets and explained the results of investigation and measures taken. Japan maintained that strict enforcement actions had been taken and similar incidents would not occur again in the future.

## *New Zealand*

New Zealand indicated it had a number of comments in response to Japan's statement but preferred to defer to the appropriate agenda items.

## *Australia*

Australia underlined that the issue of TAC resolution was crucially important, and stressed that it considered it inappropriate for a unilaterally revised VPA to be raised at this resumed Meeting. Non-resolution of the TAC for 1996/97 had placed Australia in a very difficult position with respect to its domestic season, but nevertheless Australia had given a clear commitment to abide by existing quota levels.

Australia commented that there were compelling issues arising from the incident involving illegal fishing by at least 40 Japanese vessels in December 1996.

Although Japan had done new work on a possible pilot program, Australia nevertheless wished to restate its strong concerns regarding the matter of experimental fishing, which related to risks to the stock, adequacy of design, the management framework and monitoring systems.

### ***1.6 Secretariat's Report***

The Executive Secretary presented a report on progress in implementing the decisions of the first session of the Third Annual meeting of the CCSBT and other major tasks being undertaken by the Secretariat (**Attachment C**).

The Chair proposed a process to complete the selection of the Commission's logo. This consultative process was completed and the Commission agreed to adopt the logo recommended by the Chair (**Attachment D**).

The Commission agreed to amend the record of the first session of the Third Annual meeting relating to Agenda Item 5.4.2, by replacing the words "reaching 650 tonnes in 1995", with "reaching 650 tonnes by September 1996".

### ***Agenda Item 2: Compliance Issues***

Japan reported that 40 Japanese fishing vessels were found to be operating after the closure of the SBT fishing season, which had been closed on 1 December 1996 under its domestic regulations, and expressed great regrets about the incident. After the identification of vessels involved and investigations to confirm the violation, the Fisheries Agency immediately took the following enforcement and preventive measures:

- a) ordered all the vessels involved to return to ports for further investigation by 1 March 1997;
- b) imposed port detention of at least 65 days on some of those vessels confirmed to have been involved in the incident;
- c) ordered the vessels on their way back to ports to report their locations daily by GPS

- or INMARSAT, and for those without GPS or INMARSAT, to report by fax;
- d) dispatched its patrol vessel to the Indian Ocean fishing ground for the purpose of prevention and monitoring;
- e) imposed mandatory location reporting requirements on vessels intending to fish in the SBT fishing area; and
- f) strengthened patrol activities by enforcement vessels.

Japan reported that this incident had led to the overcatch of its national allocation by 308 tonnes and would therefore voluntarily reduce its 1997/98 national allocation by this amount.

Australia reported that the aerial surveillance operation had been conducted to investigate Japan's claims that non-Members were moving into high seas SBT fishing grounds as soon as fishing by Japanese vessels had ceased. Instead the operation revealed at least 40 Japanese vessels operating in contravention of Japan's domestic regulations and in close proximity with vessels from the Republic of Korea.

New Zealand and Australia noted that the recent events suggested Japan's compliance regime was inadequate despite Japan's recent efforts to improve its compliance regime. The resulting loss in confidence in Japan's monitoring system severely compromised the integrity of the Commission's management arrangements overall. This was a significant issue as the Commission is almost totally reliant on information from commercial fishers to assess the stock. Both countries drew attention to the responsibilities of Japan as flag state for compliance as described in 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* (UNIA) to which all Members are now signatories and which further requires cooperation in enforcement and compliance. New Zealand outlined the components of an effective compliance regime and the need for confidence in the standards of the systems applied, ie vessel registration, permitting, catch/effort returns, observer coverage, landing and boarding inspections, air and sea surveillance, control of fish receivers, transshipments and legislation covering offences and penalties.

New Zealand and Australia welcomed the Japanese proposal to subtract the overcatch from its 1997/98 quota as a responsible action.

Both Australia and New Zealand stated their legitimate interest in the incident, because it contravened the terms of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

Other concerns raised by both Australia and New Zealand included the absence of an effective vessel monitoring system (VMS) system, false position reports by Japanese vessels applying for Australian port entry permits and non-Member vessels (Korean) fishing in company (and apparent close cooperation) with the offending Japanese vessels. In Australia's opinion, this development completely undermined any suggestion (which had often been made in the past) that the presence of Japanese vessels on the fishing grounds beyond their season might act as a deterrent to fishing by non-Member vessels.

It was also noted that there remained the unresolved question of more than 10 other vessels which had appeared on Australian surveillance radar but for which photographs had not been possible. It was noted that the catch of these vessels had not been incorporated in the total over-catch estimate for the Japanese fleet. An additional concern was the implications of the illegal activity for the fishery stock assessment, i.e. how to incorporate the catch and effort information resulting from the incident (and from other possible undetected illegal fishing in previous seasons).

On a forward-looking note, Australia and New Zealand made the point that this incident highlighted the great benefit which undoubtedly lay in having close cooperation between all Members on compliance issues. The incident particularly underlined the need for the Members to act quickly to establish the CCSBT Compliance Committee, and to work on implementing measures such as properly functioning VMS and vessel registers.

***Agenda Item 3: Proposal to Implement a Pilot Program on Experimental Fishing***

Japan presented a revised Joint Pilot Plan (JPP) for the Experimental Fishing Program (EFP) for SBT, which Japan felt accommodated the comments received from Australia and New Zealand. Japan explained major features and points of revisions of the JPP, including its purpose, methods of vessel deployment, research area, period, data handling, calculation bases for catch amount and the number of vessels required for implementation.

Japan maintained that uncertainty regarding CPUE hypotheses was one of the major uncertainties in the SBT stock assessment and they felt EFP was acknowledged as an effective tool in reducing the CPUE uncertainty, thereby contributing to substantial progress in VPA analysis. It therefore urged the Commission to discuss the proposal in a constructive manner.

Both Australia and New Zealand noted that there were a number of technical concerns with the proposal which had been devised and designed in a unilateral way by Japan. Their concerns were entirely consistent over the past two years, namely that while Japan had done a lot of work relating to Step 3, Steps 1 and 2 remained incomplete. By completing Steps 1 and 2, the parties could gain a much clearer picture of numerous important matters, including:

- a) uncertainty (including developing a common view of the various sources of uncertainty, the range of uncertainty and the appropriate weighting scheme);
- b) the risks inherent in any additional removals from the stock;
- c) key areas of uncertainty for which resolutions might be helpful to the parties in their management of the stock; and
- d) which key areas of uncertainty were likely to be resolved effectively by a program of experimental fishing.

Japan responded that it had made its best efforts to obtain the cooperation of other members by exchanging comments and responses and proposing a workshop to discuss the JPP.

Japan was of the opinion that Step 1 had been already completed and Step 2 was intended for the full scale EFP, not for the implementation of the JPP. Japan believed that as the risk to the SBT stock is minimal with the payback system incorporated in the JPP, the Commission should make a positive decision to implement the JPP.

New Zealand reminded Parties of its view that it had previously expressed, that experimental fishing was only one of a number of measures that could be taken to address uncertainty. The Commission needs to address at least eight areas of uncertainty and these must not be forgotten in focussing on experimental fishing. New Zealand undertook to provide comments to Japan about their revised JPP.

Australia noted its concerns about risks to the stock, the design of an EFP, the management framework in which an EFP would take place and the integrity and verification mechanisms of any possible EFP, particularly in the light of the illegal fishing incident in December 1996.

Australia concluded by stating that, like New Zealand, it was happy to provide Japan with substantive comments on the details of Japan's Revised JPP, but this in no way detracted from the imperative of completing the work embodied in Steps 1 and 2.

The schedule for further work on experimental fishing is included under Agenda Item 12: Forward Work Program for the Commission.

#### ***Agenda Item 4: Total Allowable Catch and National Quota Allocation***

Japan reiterated its proposal made at the first part of CCSBT 3 to increase the TAC by 3,000 tonnes, or more, and said that it was still valid, and the case was even strengthened because the revised Japanese VPA analysis indicated that the SBT parental biomass will recover to the 1980 level by 2020 with a probability of 100 percent under the Japanese scientists' weighting scheme and 60 percent plus even under the Australian and New Zealand weightings.

Japan also pointed out that Australia and New Zealand had been fishing for SBT without a 1996/1997 TAC. Therefore, it emphasised the importance of solving this abnormal situation as soon as possible. Japan also drew the attention of the Commission to its proposal on a future national quota allocation system, which is supposed to be discussed at CCSBT 4.

New Zealand said that the issue of the TAC and national allocation was central to the operation of the Commission and it was of concern to New Zealand that the Commission was not able to reach a decision at the conclusion of the previous meeting. New Zealand said the Convention was clear about the Commission's responsibilities in this regard. Uncertainties remain about future projections, but there is agreement about the current status of the stock. Japan had produced a new VPA assessment but the Commission would not be able to use it until it has been reviewed through the stock assessment process. Given New Zealand's view of the current assessment, it would not be responsible to increase the level of catch. Indeed, serious consideration would need



to be given to TAC reduction in the near future if the outlook in the assessment did not improve. Action to increase catch would be likely to attract considerable international criticism of the Commission.

Australia noted that there is substantial agreement on present levels of stock amongst the members. The current parental stock is estimated as being less than eight percent of the 1960 parental biomass and even lower when compared with virgin parental biomass, as substantial fishing had occurred by 1960. Under any modern system of management this level would warrant severe catch restraint to allow some recovery. Australia's view was that there were no grounds for increasing TAC above the present level. Australia noted that with respect to Japan's revised VPA, it is neither reasonable nor sensible to consider one party's additional work to which other parties have not been involved and which had not been reviewed by the Scientific Committee. Australia considered that the TAC should be set no higher than the current level and if set at that level, national allocations should remain the same.

The Commission agreed to maintain the TAC and national allocations at the same levels as agreed for the 1995/96 season (TAC of 11750 tonnes and national allocations of Australia 5265 tonnes, New Zealand 420 tonnes and Japan 6065 tonnes).

#### ***Agenda Item 5: Future Action on Ecologically Related Species***

Japan noted that it was not an acceptable situation to inadvertently catch seabirds, especially those endangered. It was therefore necessary for the Commission to take appropriate measures and actions so that the Commission is recognised as responding appropriately to the situation.

Both New Zealand and Australia noted their appreciation of Japan's draft recommendations which they considered a step forward in addressing this issue. They further acknowledged the Commission's wider responsibility to address the incidental mortality of seabirds. The Commission, as a regional fishery management body, had a role to collect information, increase understanding, and reduce incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries.

The New Zealand paper outlined four broad categories of conclusions drawn from the Ecologically Related Species Working Group's (ERSWG) first meeting and noted that it strongly supported setting a time and venue for the second ERSWG meeting.

A discussion followed on whether the Working Group should be formally convened as a permanent Standing Committee of the Commission.

Japan was of the opinion that it was not appropriate to set up a Standing Committee on ERS or to change the name of the Working Group as its work is not essential to the functioning of the organisation in the same way as are finance, administration and compliance.

New Zealand and Australia believed however that given the importance of this issue, a change of the ERSWG to a Standing Committee was warranted.

There was no agreement to change the name of the Working Group.

New Zealand presented a proposal for an international technical workshop on seabird bycatch mitigation research and sought the support of Members to hold such a workshop and to agree to sponsor or co-sponsor it.

The purpose of the workshop would be to further reduce incidental mortality of seabirds in longline fishing by:

- a) encouraging the international adoption of effective bycatch mitigation measures;
- b) providing an opportunity to develop international collaboration into research into bycatch mitigation measures; and
- c) demonstrating the Commission's work and leadership in this area internationally.

Although the Commission supported the workshop in principle, there was no consensus on sponsorship of the workshop. New Zealand undertook to refine the proposal and to forward it to parties intersessionally.

The parties agreed on the recommendation relating to Ecologically Related Species, especially the Incidental Mortality of Seabirds by Longline Fishing (**Attachment E**) and agreed to table a range of questions to be addressed on ERS issues, to be developed intersessionally (**Attachment F**).

#### ***Agenda Item 6: Report on CCAMLR Issues***

Mr Edwards, as the CCAMLR representative, reported to the Members on issues relating to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). Mr Edwards advised that he had received a request from the Executive Secretary of CCAMLR to provide for the attendance of a CCAMLR observer at meetings of the ERSWG and provide a channel for the exchange of other information. This was agreed and the Commission asked the Executive Secretary to invite a representative of CCAMLR to attend the second meeting of ERSWG.

Mr Edwards also mentioned that CCAMLR wished to encourage the Commission to implement provisions to reduce incidental capture of seabirds in areas adjacent to the CCAMLR Convention area. In this regard the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to send a copy of the report of the first meeting of the ERSWG to CCAMLR together with a copy of the recommendations of the Commission addressing the issue of incidental capture of seabirds.

The Commission also agreed that the Executive Secretary should thank CCAMLR for the copy of its publication *Fish the Sea not the Skies* and request CCAMLR to provide for the attendance of a CCSBT observer at the next meeting of its Working Group on Incidental Mortality Arising from Longline Fishing or at meetings of other relevant subsidiary bodies.

Finally, the Commission discussed a proposal to financially support the translation of a seabird identification guide to be published by CCAMLR. The meeting decided to seek

more information on this publication and others available and deferred this matter to the second meeting of the ERSWG for further consideration.

### ***Agenda Item 7: Relationship with Third Parties***

#### ***7.1 Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan***

All members supported the Secretariat's paper on this issue and noted the need for the Commission to take stronger action than in the past to secure the participation of third parties, and also highlighted the relationship of the CCSBT to the UNIA. They noted the obligations embodied in the UNIA for countries and entities fishing for highly migratory fish stocks to either accede to, or to agree to apply, the conservation and management measures of the relevant fisheries regime.

The parties expressed strong concern at the continued expansion of catch by non-Member parties such as Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan, at a time when the Commission parties were exercising restraint. It was noted the three non-member parties had all signed or expressed support for the UN Agreement and they should be urged to seriously consider the communications from the Commission to accede to the Convention or apply the Commission's management measures. Japan noted the need for the Commission to also address other countries that were just starting to fish for SBT.

It was agreed that:

- a) each party would nominate a representative to work as part of a small team to develop and consider options for encouraging Korea and Indonesia to join the CCSBT and Taiwan to cooperate with its management measures;
- b) the Commission's representatives would seek direct discussions with representatives from Indonesia, Korea and Taiwan to encourage the accession of Korea and Indonesia to the Convention and to seek Taiwan's agreement to apply the Commission's management measures.

#### ***Republic of Korea***

Korea noted again that it was actively considering joining the Commission, but the proposed quota was too small to sustain Korea's SBT fishing fleet. The Korean representative indicated that Korea, even as a non member of the CCSBT, would co-operate with the Commission in conserving and managing the SBT stock and was prepared to have one of its scientists attend the next CCSBT Scientific Committee meeting as an observer.

The Commission sought information from Korea on the discrepancy between its stated catch of 1,150 tonnes (corrected to 1,179 by Korea) and Japanese import statistics which indicated a significantly lower catch than could be expected if 80 percent of Korea's catch was exported, as claimed, to Japan. Korea indicated that its domestic consumption was increasing. The Commission also commented on the large Korean catch claimed and noted the extensive fishing areas indicated for the eight Korean vessels operating in the fishery were largely outside known fishing areas. There appeared to be only a slight overlap with traditionally fished SBT areas.

Korea indicated that a specific policy answer on the issue of Korean industry expansion and other issues raised by the Commission could be provided in writing if the Commission so requested.

### *Taiwan*

Taiwan reaffirmed its intent to become a full Member and said that, to co-operate with the Commission, it had imposed a maximum catch of 1450 tonnes in 1996. Taiwan stated that its catch for 1996 was within this limit and it would maintain that limit while the current TAC prevailed. If the Commission agreed to raise the TAC in future, it would increase its catch limit by the same percentage.

The Commission discussed the matter of the nomenclature to be used for Taiwan/Chinese Taipei and decided that the matter would be considered at the next Annual Meeting.

## **7.2 Other Non-Members**

All parties expressed support for aspects of the Secretariat's recommendations for work to identify countries which were eligible to join the CCSBT, and for inviting these countries to attend as observers and join the regime. Japan indicated that because of the lack of certainty in data, efforts should be concentrated on countries that were known to be fishing for SBT.

The Commission endorsed a process of gathering information and then considering possible invitations to identify other countries or entities which satisfy Articles 8.9 and 14 of the Convention. It recommended that the issue be researched intersessionally and dealt with at the next Meeting, with decisions to be made there on whom to invite.

The Commission endorsed the Secretariat seeking advice:

- a) from relevant international fisheries organisations which collect fishery data, on the origins of fishing fleets reported to be taking SBT; and,
- b) from the Scientific Committee on the countries through whose exclusive economic or fisheries zones SBT migrate.

### ***Agenda Item 8: CCSBT Current Management Strategy***

Two papers were tabled at the meeting. The first was a current management strategy document which had been prepared and circulated by the Secretariat and the second was a discussion paper on future management strategy developed by Australia.

New Zealand and Australia stressed that the development of a management strategy was crucial for the future of the Commission, not only from an internal perspective, but also in terms of how outsiders view the Commission and its work.

Both countries commented that the Secretariat's document was useful as a summary of the current situation, but stressed that it was not a forward-looking document and

particularly lacked decision rules for catch limit decisions. Australia also noted that the Commission didn't actually have a future management strategy at present (the earlier one having expired).

Japan noted that there were several areas requiring modification. The document included monitoring and compliance which was not appropriate, and the subject of an EFP was not included. With respect to the EFP, Australia said it would be appropriate to include objectives and principles agreed by the Commission.

In reference to the Australian document, Japan noted that the Attachment containing decision rules appeared to capture its whole essence. Japan also pointed out that it had itself drafted a management strategy document at the time of the Second Annual Meeting which should be incorporated.

Australia also asked the other parties to provide comments on the current version of the Australian document as soon as possible (and no later than within two months), so that these additional comments could also be incorporated into the revised Australian document.

It was agreed that the members would also revise the Secretariat's paper as soon as possible to provide an agreed statement of the Commission's current management arrangements. This would be pursued intersessionally, and if agreement could not be reached by this mechanism, consider it again at CCSBT4.

***Agenda Item 9: Management Strategy Workshop Proposal***

The parties referred to their agreement in September 1996 that a management strategy workshop should be held in Australia. They agreed the workshop would be held during 27-30 October 1997.

***Agenda Item 10: Scientific Committee - Procedures and Processes Workshop***

All parties agreed on the importance of holding this workshop as soon as possible, before the commencement of 1997 scientific process, so that problems associated with the scientific process could be resolved. They agreed on the importance of finalising the Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee as soon as possible. New Zealand stated that it was happy to use the draft prepared by Australia as a basis from which to agree on a final Rules of Procedure. Japan noted that its views on the Australian draft should already be clear to the other parties, as Japanese comments on that draft had already been submitted to the Secretariat.

The Commission agreed to hold the Scientific Process Workshop during 13-16 May 1997.

## ***Agenda Item 11: Other Business***

### ***11.1 Confidentiality of Commission Documents***

The Commission discussed the inadequacy of Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure and a new draft text was prepared. Japan agreed in principle to the proposed framework but suggested that an additional clause was required to ensure that documents remain confidential unless decided otherwise by the Commission.

New Zealand responded to Japan's concern by pointing out that the draft drew on the principle of transparency in decision-making described in Article 12 of the UNIA. The draft represented a careful compromise between the need for transparency, which was required to meet legitimate interests of others in the operation of the Commission, and the Commission's need to have control over information it does not wish to make public either temporarily to allow consideration of advice, or because of reasons including diplomatic or commercial sensitivity. New Zealand then referred to the three paragraphs in the draft which allowed the Commission to accommodate confidentiality concerns.

Japan then explained its position that all documents becoming public was unacceptable. Each Party should have the right to say what document should be confidential. The other members were concerned that this relitigated a key principle of transparency and treatment of documents which had been the basis for discussions in the small group.

It was agreed that as there was no consensus to change Rule 10, therefore the Commission noted that the existing rule should continue. Rule 10 should be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Commission and the current draft be used as the basis for future discussions.

### ***11.2 Additional Financial Controls***

Draft arrangements for additional financial controls, prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of intersessional and informal discussions with Members, were discussed. The Commission approved the proposal at **Attachment G**.

### ***11.3 Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries – IUCN Resolution***

The Commission finalised the text of a letter to the IUCN concerning their resolution on seabirds (**Attachment H**).

### ***11.4 Terms of Reference for Compliance Committee***

New Zealand indicated its strong disappointment with the response of Japan to the illegal fishing incident and was concerned that the lack of real progress in improving the compliance regime would reflect poorly on the Commission when the information became public. New Zealand viewed the terms of reference (ToR's) as central to the Commission's approach to seriously addressing these issues over time. New Zealand suggested that Japan's reluctance to agree to key provisions indicated a lack of interest in improving the compliance regime through action taken as the responsible Flag State

or in collaboration with the Commission.

Japan indicated that as it had not yet ratified the UNIA it was premature to consider the Agreement in the context of collaborative compliance action. Japan indicated that it saw the issue of the ToR's as reflecting on the current Convention and on whether or not the Commission had the right to undertake high seas inspections.

Australia considered that with respect to the ToR's adequacy to guide the Compliance Committee, they should be forward looking and address the issues that would clearly be on the agenda in the future, such as relevant systems to monitor fishing activities related to SBT. Australia indicated that, if the wording of the ToR did not reflect the capacity of the Compliance Committee to discuss substantive matters relating to co-operative compliance mechanisms, it would not be sensible to attempt to settle the ToR's at this meeting.

It was agreed that the Commission would attempt to settle the ToR out of session, or, if that could not be achieved, to reconsider the matter at the next Annual Meeting.

#### ***11.5 CCSBT Response to Correspondence Requesting a Suspension of SBT Fishing***

A draft response to correspondence requesting a suspension of SBT fishing was considered and agreed by the Commission (**Attachment I**).

#### ***11.6 Draft CCSBT Position Statement on Non-Member Fishing Activities***

A draft communique on non-member fishing activities was considered and agreed by the Commission (**Attachment J**).

#### ***11.7 Draft Terms of Reference for the Finance and Administration Committee***

In accordance with the instructions from the first session of CCSBT 3, draft terms of reference for the Finance and Administration Committee were prepared for consideration by the Commission. The finalised and approved Terms of Reference are at **Attachment K**.

#### ***Agenda Item 12: Forward Work Program for the Commission***

The Commission agreed to the program of work set out in **Attachment L**, including the following meetings and workshops during the next year:

- a) Scientific Process Workshop on 13-15 May 1997
- b) ERSWG meeting on 3-5 June 1997
- c) Management Strategy Workshop on 27-30 October 1997

The Commission agreed that the Scientific Committee meeting would be held from 28 July to 8 August 1997 and that its purpose would be to only undertake collaborative work on Steps 1 & 2, including VPA modelling.

The Commission agreed to conduct the 4th CCSBT Meeting during 8 to 13 September

and that the meeting would:

- a) consider the outcomes from the Scientific Committee's consideration of Steps 1 & 2;
- b) make a decision on whether to proceed with further work on experimental fishing (full scale or pilot program);
- c) set an annual TAC on the basis of the 1996 stock assessment and outcomes from the 1997 Scientific Committee work on Steps 1 & 2.

The Commission also agreed to make provision in late 1997 and the first half of 1998 for Step 3 work if agreed at CCSBT4. It included in the schedule the option of a Special Commission meeting dependent on the successful completion of Step 3.

The parties agreed to try to resolve outstanding matters including the text of the Secretariat's Current Management Arrangements document and the Compliance Committee's Terms of Reference by correspondence or if they cannot be settled, to consider them at the 4th CCSBT Commission meeting.

***Agenda Item 13: Close of the Meeting***

***13.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 1997***

Phillip Major of the Ministry of Fisheries, New Zealand, was elected as the new Chair of the Commission and Yasuo Takase of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fishery Division, was elected as Vice Chair.

***13.2 Preparation and Adoption of the Report of the Reconvened Meeting***

It was agreed to adopt the report of this meeting.

***13.3 Closure of the Meeting***

The Commission acknowledged the excellent work of the Chair over the last three years. All delegations acknowledged the interpreters and the Secretariat for their hard work.

Alison Turner  
Chair  
CCSBT  
22.2.97

**Amendment made:**

In the second paragraph of Agenda Item 2: Compliance Issues, "1997/98" was amended from "1996/97" by correspondence in October 1997.



## **List of Attachments**

- Attachment A Agenda
- B List of Participants
- C Summary Report of Secretariat Activities
- D Commission's Logo
- E Recommendations Relating to Ecologically Related Species,  
Especially the Incidental Mortality of Seabirds by Longline Fishing
- F Questions For the Ecologically Related Species Working Group
- G Financial Rules Established by the Executive Secretary Under  
Regulation 9.1 of the Financial Regulations
- H Letter to IUCN on resolution on seabird catch by longline
- I Response to Correspondence Requesting a Suspension of SBT  
Fishing
- J CCSBT Communique on Non-member Fishing Activities
- K Draft Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee for Finance  
and Administration
- L Revised Work Program for CCSBT

**Agenda**

1. Opening of Meeting
  - 1.1 Welcoming Address
  - 1.2 Meeting Arrangements
  - 1.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs
  - 1.4 Adoption of Agenda
  - 1.5 Member's Reports
  - 1.6 Secretariat Report
2. Compliance Issues
3. Proposal to Implement a Pilot Program on Experimental Fishing
4. Global Total Allowable Catch and Quota Allocation
  - 4.1 Global Quota
  - 4.2 National Allocations
5. Future Action on Ecologically Related Species
6. Report on CCAMLR Issues
7. Relationship with Third Parties
  - 7.1 Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan
  - 7.2 Other Non-Members
8. CCSBT Current Management Strategy
9. Management Strategy Workshop Proposal
10. Scientific Committee - Procedures and Processes Workshop
11. Other Business
  - 11.1 Confidentiality of Commission Documents
  - 11.2 Additional Financial Controls
  - 11.3 Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries - IUCN Resolution
  - 11.4 Terms of Reference for Compliance Committee
  - 11.5 CCSBT Response to Correspondence Requesting a Suspension of SBT Fishing
  - 11.6 Draft CCSBT Position Statement on Non-Member Fishing Activities
  - 11.7 Draft Terms of Reference for the Finance and Administration Committee
12. Forward Work Program for the Commission
13. Close of the Meeting
  - 13.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 1997
  - 13.2 Preparation and Adoption of the Report of the Reconvened Meeting
  - 13.3 Closure of the Meeting

**List of Participants**

Dr Alison TURNER	<b>Chair</b> First Assistant Secretary Petroleum and Fisheries Division Department of Primary Industries and Energy
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<i>Government Experts and Advisers</i> Mr Peter NEAVE	SBT, Western Tuna and Billfish Fisheries Australian Fisheries Management Authority
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Mr Brian JEFFRIESS                President  
Tuna Boat Owners Association of Australia

Mr Terry ROMERO                    Tuna Boat Owners Association of Australia

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*Delegation*

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Mr Kazuhiko UTSUMI                Deputy Director  
Marine Resources Division  
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Mr Joji MORISHITA                  Deputy Director  
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Mr Hiroshi TAKENOI                 Section Chief  
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Dr Sachiko TSUJI                    Chief Scientist  
Temperate Tuna Research Group  
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries

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Mr Michio IIDA                        Councillor  
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Associations

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Mr Keigo HARADA	Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
Mr Yoshikatsu HATAKEYAMA	Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
Mr Kanetsugu NISHIKAWA	Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations
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Mr Hiroaki YAMAMOTO	National Ocean Tuna Fisheries Association
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	<b>Korean Observer</b>
Mr Joon-Seog KANG	Deputy Director International Organisation Division Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

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Mr Eugene CHEN  
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Mr Campbell McGREGOR  
**CCSBT Secretariat**  
Executive Secretary

Ms Maree TOOHEY  
Business Manager

Ms Kozue LOGHEM  
Administrative Officer

**Interpreters**

Ms Saemi BABA

Ms Kumi KOIKE

Attachment C

### Summary Report of Secretariat Activities

1. A schedule of the program of major activities for the Secretariat has been prepared and distributed to members; an update of that schedule follows.
2. The schedule sets out the decisions from the previous meeting and the action taken to implement those decisions. The schedule also sets out other projects being undertaken by the Secretariat as agreed with the Chairperson and representatives of Commission members, to ensure the effective operation of the Commission.
3. The following is a summary of the major activities:
  - (a) In response to correspondence from the Secretariat, CITES and IUCN have acknowledged the CCSBT role in the conservation and management of SBT.
  - (b) Papers relating the approach taken by some ICCAT members to the proposed listing of Northern Bluefin Tuna on CITES have been obtained. A copy of those papers is to be distributed at the meeting.
  - (c) The Executive Secretary attended the recent meetings of ICCAT and IOTC:
    - (i) While ICCAT did not make formal recommendations in regard to SBT, the fishery management recommendations were based on the understanding that the CCSBT was the primary organisation for the management of SBT,
    - (ii) The ICCAT Secretariat agreed to maintain close working relations with CCSBT on matters of mutual interest,
    - (iii) IOTC did not formally consider its relationship with CCSBT, however the statement prepared by the CCSBT Secretariat for consideration by IOTC was distributed to members and the draft Rules of Procedure for the IOTC were amended to facilitate a close working relationship between the two organisations.

A copy of the Executive Secretary's report on the meetings was distributed to members on 6 January 1997.

- (d) Letters were sent to Indonesia and Korea concerning cooperation with CCSBT by provision of data on their SBT fisheries and proposals concerning their membership of CCSBT. These matters are to be considered in more detail under agenda item 2.
- (e) Information on the collection and management of data for 11 international organisations was obtained as part of the task of developing an arrangement



for management of data for the SBT fishery. A schedule of the information has been sent to the Chairman of the Scientific Committee for consideration and development of proposals by that Committee.

- (f) In response to requests from outside organisations for the release of Commission papers and subsequent discussions with the Chairperson and representatives from member countries, the Secretariat prepared and distributed a draft paper on confidentiality of documents. The paper is scheduled for consideration under agenda item 9.
- (g) The Secretariat prepared and circulated a draft paper proposing additional financial controls to provide for Commission involvement in changes to budget forecasts and approval of major items of expenditure. The paper is scheduled for consideration under agenda item 9.
- (h) The Secretariat has prepared the first draft of a paper setting out the Commission's current strategy for the conservation and management of SBT. This paper is intended to complement and support a paper being prepared by Australia on future strategies for the Commission. To be considered in more detail under agenda item 6.
- (i) The Secretariat has commenced work on the paper describing the history of the SBT fishery and the establishment of the Commission. The paper draws on existing publications in this area and, to a small extent, on information from persons directly involved in drafting the Convention. The draft will be circulated to members for comment when it is available.

In addition, arrangements are in hand to set up a site for the CCSBT on the World Wide Web. Documents and reports which are available to the public will be available on this site for on-line computer access.

- (j) The first draft of the translation of the report of the first session of the Third Annual Commission Meeting has been prepared and forwarded to Japan for consideration. The Secretariat is continuing to inquire to identify reliable translators to facilitate timely translation of Commission documents and reports.
- (k) Options for a logo for the CCSBT have been circulated to members for consideration. Preferred designs are currently being refined by a graphic designer.
- (l) Selection of a Japanese national to the position of Deputy Executive Secretary has been finalised.

**SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA  
PROGRAM OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES, INCORPORATING THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION'S THIRD MEETING  
(23 - 27 SEPTEMBER 1996)**

Decision	Priority	Action Party	Specific Action	Status
<p><b>Agenda Item 3: Relation to other Bodies</b></p> <p><i>3.1 CITES – including action by IUCN relating to the listing of SBT</i></p> <p>The Commission recognised the need to ensure that the relevant organisations and entities were fully aware of the work being done by the Commission and agreed on the following course of action:</p> <p>a) the Secretariat will make formal representation to the IUCN, including the Species Survival Commission, seeking agreement for the CCSBT to be represented in technical meetings where SBT and related issues are to be considered. This includes any review of the Red List Criteria for marine species;</p>	Short term	SEC	SEC to draft	Contact made with IUCN officials CCSBT acknowledged as being a relevant orgn. in marine issues
<p>b) advise the Species Survival Commission of the Commission's views about the listing of southern bluefin tuna on the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Animals and the criteria used;</p>	Short term	NZ / SEC	Seek initial advice from NZ, clear with members	necessary action taken as (a) above
<p>c) the Secretariat will coordinate the preparation of an information paper setting out the CCSBT position on SBT and action taken to facilitate stock recovery. The paper should include reference to the qualifications attached to the IUCN listing. This paper would be used for distribution to the IUCN, interest groups and the media as required;</p>	Medium term	SEC / ALL	Necessary action to be taken in conjunction with (a). Relates to (f) below.	
<p>d) The Commission will begin work to develop and document an effective management strategy to rebuild the southern bluefin tuna. This would be a component of a process to demonstrate the competence of the CCSBT;</p>	Medium term	ALL	Sec to prepare first draft	first draft circulated 16/1/96
<p>e) the Secretariat will make formal representation to the CITES Secretariat informing them of the CCSBT role in SBT management and requesting that the CCSBT be advised, as soon as practical, of any recommendations to list SBT or Atlantic bluefin tuna under CITES;</p>	Short term	SEC	Letter to be prepared by Secretariat	reply received - completed
<p>f) the Secretariat to coordinate the preparation, by CCSBT members, of a <u>draft communication</u> which could</p>	<u>Medium</u>	SEC / ALL	ICCAT	to be

Decision	Priority	Action Party	Specific Action	Status
<p>be submitted to countries or entities which may seek consultations on a CITES listing of SBT, and to CITES should an application be made for a listing. The CCSBT is to study the approach adopted by ICCAT members in relation to proposals to list Northern Bluefin Tuna on CITES.</p>	<p><u>term</u> Short term</p>		<p>documentation received</p>	<p>distributed at CCSBT R3</p>
<p>3.2 <i>IOTC</i></p> <p>The Commission endorsed the following course of action:</p> <p>a) the Acting Executive Secretary would attend the next meeting of the IOTC as an observer and seek leave to present a statement on behalf of the CCSBT;</p>	<p>Short term</p>	<p>SEC</p>	<p>prepare statement, attend meeting</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>b) the statement to be presented would be coordinated by the Secretariat and developed cooperatively by the parties. The statement would advocate the CCSBT's primacy and competence for the management of SBT. It would suggest that the IOTC and the CCSBT develop a more formal arrangement for cooperation on issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) data exchange;</li> <li>ii) management measures adopted by the respective organisations;</li> <li>iii) reciprocal attendance at meetings; and</li> <li>iv) recognition of the competence of the CCSBT to manage SBT.</li> </ul>		<p>SEC / ALL</p>	<p>Sec to prepare statement and circulate for comment to members</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>3.3 <i>ICCAT</i></p> <p>The Commission agreed that the Secretariat would determine the process within which the Commission could provide information to the management and technical meetings of ICCAT and that the Acting Executive Secretary would participate as an observer at the next ICCAT meeting.</p>	<p>Short term</p>	<p>SEC</p>	<p>Ex. Sec to attend meeting and prepare a short statement</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>3.4 <i>CCAMLR</i></p> <p>Mr Edwards has undertaken to prepare a report about the Ecologically Related Species (ERS) issues in the CCSBT. New Zealand will coordinate the preparation of this report through the Secretariat and in collaboration with the other parties.</p>	<p>Short term</p>	<p>NZ / AUS / SEC</p>	<p>ERS Report given to CCAMLR. Summary CCSBT Report to be prepared for CCAMLR</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>The Commission agreed that Mr Neil Hermes from Australia would represent the CCSBT as an observer at the next CCAMLR meeting to be held 21 October–1 November 1996.</p>		<p>N Hermes / SEC</p>	<p>Sec to advise CCAMLR, N Hermes to attend meeting</p>	<p>Await report</p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 4: Administrative Arrangements</b></p>				

Decision	Priority	Action Party	Specific Action	Status
<p>4.2 <i>Review of 1996 Budget, Draft 1997 Budget</i></p> <p>The Commission endorsed the draft budget at <b>Attachment F</b>, subject to the variations, and on the basis that the additional estimated expenditure of \$25,000 be met from the reserve funds carried over from 1996.</p>	Short term	SEC	circulate revised budget to members	completed
<p><i>Terms of Reference for the Finance and Administration Committee</i></p> <p>The group considered it appropriate for the Secretariat to consult with international fishery management organisations on the existing functions and programme of work of their finance committee. The Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, with the Secretariat, should develop draft Terms of Reference for the Committee for consideration intersessionally. Terms of Reference shall be agreed intersessionally to facilitate the operation of the Committee from 1997.</p>	Medium term	Japan / ALL	Sec to obtain international treaties and/or write to relevant bodies. Sec and Chair of Finance and Admin Committee to draft TOR, and circulate for comment to members	relevant info received from IATTC, ICCAT & IWC. TOR being developed
<p><i>Chair of Finance and Administration Committee</i></p> <p>The Commission agreed that Japan would be the initial Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee for two years.</p>		Japan	Japan appointed as Chair	completed
<p>4.3 <i>Amendment to Staff Regulations Relating to Social Security Contributions</i></p> <p>The Commission endorsed amendments to Staff Regulation 8.1 by replacing the words <i>up to a maximum of 14%</i> with <i>up to the maximum percentage applying in the United Nations Secretariat from time to time</i>.</p>	Short term	SEC	Sec to update Staff Regulation 8.1	Completed
<p>4.4 <i>Adoption of Headquarters Agreement</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the Headquarters Agreement be signed intersessionally as soon as possible after the relevant domestic legal issues have been dealt with and Australian Government approval obtained.</p>		Aust / ALL	Once approved, seek members signatures intersessionally	awaiting advice from Aust.
<p><i>Agenda Item 5: Review of SBT Fisheries</i></p>	Medium	SEC / ALL	Sec to	report

Decision	Priority	Action Party	Specific Action	Status
<p>It was agreed that for future meetings of the Commission all members (and relevant invited observers) be asked to submit a brief written report under standard headings for this item. Reports would need to be submitted in sufficient time to allow both English and Japanese language versions to be distributed by the start of the meeting.</p>	term		<p>coordinate preparation of report format, and circulate for comment to members. All members to submit written report to Sec before meetings. Sec to organise translation.</p>	<p>template sent to members 29/10/96 – completed</p>
<p><i>5.4.2 The Republic of Korea</i></p> <p>The Commission agreed that the Chair would write to the Government of Korea, seeking information on their SBT fishery, which the Republic of Korea was unable to provide at this meeting.</p>	Short term	SEC	<p>Write letter to Korean Govt. including questions agreed by members.</p>	<p>sent 3/10/96 – completed</p>
<p><i>5.4.3 The Republic of Indonesia</i></p> <p>The Commission agreed that the Chair would also write to the Government of Indonesia, seeking information on the Indonesian SBT fishery, which was unable to be provided at this meeting.</p>	Short term	SEC	<p>Write letter to Indonesian Govt. including questions agreed by members.</p>	<p>sent 3/10/96 – completed</p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 6: FAO — Coordinating Working Party on Statistics</b></p> <p>The Commission recognised the utility of sending a CCSBT observer to the 17th meeting of the FAO – Coordinating Working Party (CWP) on Statistics to be held at CCAMLR’s Office in Hobart, Australia, 3 - 7 March 1997. The observer would be either the Executive Secretary or a member of the parties, who would report back the Commission on the costs and benefits for the CCSBT to join the CWP as a member. The Commission would consider its future approach to the CWP at the next annual meeting.</p>	Medium term	SEC / ALL	<p>CCSBT 4 Sec to establish the status of CCSBT representation at this meeting</p>	<p>placed on preliminary agenda</p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 7: Matter Arising from Previous Meeting — CCSBT Position on Kyoto Declaration</b></p>				

Decision	Priority	Action Party	Specific Action	Status
<b><i>and Other International Fishing Initiatives</i></b>				
With regard to a general approach to various other international fisheries initiatives, the parties recognised the usefulness of the paper prepared by the Secretariat ( <b>Attachment M</b> ) and agreed to its recommendations:				
a) that members of the Commission advise the Secretariat of relevant inter-governmental and other international organisations with which they are associated;	Medium term	ALL	Members to provide lists, Sec also collecting information	awaiting advice from members
b) that the Secretariat identify other inter-governmental or international organisations and international instruments which could affect the conservation and management of southern bluefin tuna;	Medium term	SEC	Sec to obtain international treaties and summary docs from FAO	preliminary assessment drafted
c) that the Secretariat report to the Commission on the relevant organisations and international instruments which could affect the conservation and management of southern bluefin tuna and include recommendations on whether the Commission should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) take no action;</li> <li>(ii) monitor activities of the organisation;</li> <li>(iii) seek to collaborate with the organisation, which could include data;</li> <li>(iv) exchange and inviting observers to Commission meetings;</li> <li>(v) seek to enter into formal arrangements with the organisation; OR</li> <li>(vi) adopt all or part of the provisions of relevant international instruments.</li> </ul>	Long term	SEC	CCSBT 4 agenda	placed on preliminary agenda
<b>Agenda Item 8: <i>Ecologically Related Species Report from the Ecologically Related Species Working Group</i></b>				
In the absence of agreement on how best to proceed with the conclusions and recommendations of the ERS Working Group Report it was agreed that the matter would be considered further at the resumed third Annual Meeting of the Commission.	Short term		CCSBT 3 reconvened meeting	Sec action completed

Decision	Priority	Action Party	Specific Action	Status
<b>Agenda Item 10: Research and Monitoring Programs</b>				
<p><i>10.1 Implementation of Article 8 (1) of the Convention, Data Collection</i></p> <p>The Commission agreed on the data collection and exchange program at <b>Attachment O</b> and agreed that this program would apply in future years unless otherwise agreed.</p>	Long term	ALL	Members to comply with timetable in CCSBT 3 Report	Sec action completed
<p>The Commission agreed that proposals for the collection and management of data relating to Southern Bluefin Tuna be developed for consideration by the Commission by:</p> <p>a) the Secretariat assisting the Scientific Committee by undertaking an analysis of data collection arrangements in relevant international organisations and the costs to those organisations. The Secretariat should confine its work to looking at existing arrangements in relevant international organisations. [The Secretariat should also propose policies necessary to ensure confidentiality of information.]</p>	Medium term	SEC / Scientific Com.	Sec to advise of outcomes of investigations	Sec action on data collection & costs completed
<p>b) requesting the next Scientific Committee meeting to examine the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) nature and character of data, statistics and information to be collected (eg. catch/effort data, size, estimated age, tagging, Real Time Monitoring Programme (RTMP), recruitment, monitoring and research data);</li> <li>(ii) appropriate methods of compilation and management etc;</li> <li>(iii) required facilities and equipment such as Personal Computer, hard disc, software;</li> <li>(iv) required manpower;</li> <li>(v) estimated cost of the proposals;</li> </ul> <p>c) recognising that more work may be needed through other channels intersessionally.</p>	Medium term	Scientific Com.	Place on agenda for 1997 Scientific Committee meeting	
<p><i>10.2 Implementation of Article 8 (9) of the Convention, Monitoring</i></p> <p>The Commission agreed that the Compliance Committee develop a report and recommendations for action on implementing Article 8 (9) for the next Commission meeting.</p>	Long term	AUST / Compliance Com	Aust to initiate preliminary discussions with Committee members CCSBT 4	awaiting advice from Aust. Placed on preliminary agenda

Decision	Priority	Action Party	Specific Action	Status
<p><b>10.3 Collaborative Research Program</b></p> <p>Australia requested the Commission to adopt the otolith sampling and archiving proposal from the Scientific Committee. Australia proposed that the otolith archiving should be conducted by the CCSBT Secretariat. Japan expressed its support for both proposals on the condition that details of the proposal should be discussed in an appropriate manner, that sampling and archiving should not be controlled by a particular member, and that the projects should not interfere with commercial fishing operations. The Commission agreed that all parties should proceed with otolith sampling taking the above matter into consideration.</p>	Medium term	SEC/ALL	Sec to contact Chair of Scientific Committee regarding archiving.  CCSBT4	
<p><b>Agenda Item 12: Establishment of Future Quota Allocation Mechanism</b></p> <p>The Commission decided to discuss this matter at the next Annual Meeting.</p>	Long term		CCSBT 4	placed on preliminary agenda
<p><b>Agenda Item 15: Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee (including Agenda Item 16: Policy on Employment of External Scientists and Other Experts)</b></p> <p>It was agreed that a small workshop would be held involving senior managers and scientists of the parties to resolve the issues as listed in <b>Attachment U</b>. Resolution of the details of the meeting was deferred until the resumed third Annual Meeting of the Commission.</p>	Medium term		CCSBT 3 reconvened meeting	placed on preliminary agenda
<p><b>Agenda Item 16: Terms of Reference for the Compliance Committee</b></p> <p>It was agreed that Australia would Chair this Committee for the next two years and, together with the Secretariat, would seek agreement to the Terms of Reference through diplomatic channels prior to the meeting of the committee which will be held in conjunction with the Fourth Annual Meeting.</p>	Short term	ALL	Seek Japan's clearance on draft Terms of Reference	Japan's proposed changes forwarded to Aus & NZ



Decision	Priority	Action Party	Specific Action	Status
<p><b>Agenda Item 17: Program of Work for 1996-97</b></p> <p><i>17.5 Meeting/s of the Commission</i></p> <p>Agreement was reached on Standing Committees as follows:</p> <p>a) The Chair outlined the agreements to establish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) a Standing Committee for Compliance, and</li> <li>(ii) a Standing Committee for Finance and Administration,</li> </ul> <p>as well as revisions to the draft terms of reference of the Compliance Committee. It was agreed that the Committees would be formed and would usually meet immediately prior to the main plenary of the CCSBT, in parallel. A shorter plenary would deal with the substance of reports prepared by the Committees and other important matters. The committees were to be chaired by Australia and Japan respectively for the first two years.</p>		Aust / Japan	Draft annotated agenda for CCSBT 4	preliminary draft completed - to be reviewed after the close of CCSBT 3
<p><b>Agenda Item 18: Other Business</b></p> <p><i>Non Retention of Small Fish</i></p> <p>It was agreed that whatever policies are adopted by national fleets in regard to the non retention of fish, parties should encourage all of their fleets to operate consistently with their policies.</p>	Long term	ALL	Members to report back at CCSBT 4	placed on preliminary agenda
<p><b>Agenda Item 19: Close of the Meeting</b></p> <p><i>19.2 Adoption of the Report of the Meeting</i></p> <p>The meeting approved and adopted the report of this first session of the Third Annual Meeting.</p>		SEC	Distribute report to members and observers	Sec action completed

Decision	Priority	Action Party	Specific Action	Status
<p><i>19.3 Closure of the Meeting</i></p> <p>The Commission agreed to adjourn this meeting.</p> <p>The Commission agreed to a programme for data collection and exchange for the annual stock assessment which would be followed in 1997 and future years unless varied by agreement. On this basis it was agreed that the Scientific Committee would be held from 28 July to 8 August 1997. The Commission also agreed that, subject to confirmation, the Fourth Annual Commission Meeting would be held from 8 to 13 September 1997. The Commission agreed to the set of questions to be addressed by the 1997 Scientific Committee Meeting at <b>Attachment W</b>.</p>				
<p>It was also agreed that:</p> <p>a) the Third Annual Meeting would be resumed as soon as possible at a later date;</p> <p>b) each country would undertake the work required to complete steps 1 and 2, and when all parties agreed that the necessary preparatory work had been done, they will hold a workshop on steps 1 and 2;</p>	Short term	SEC / ALL	Sec to follow up progress	Awaiting advice from members
<p>c) a workshop would be held on step 3—experimental design;</p> <p>d) a meeting of the Working Group on Ecologically Related Species would be held;</p> <p>e) a workshop on Management Strategy would be held;</p>	Medium term		Date to be set after resumption of CCSBT 3	
<p>f) a workshop to improve the Scientific Committee process, based on the issues at Attachment U, would also be held.</p> <p>However, the timing and priorities for a) to f) had yet to be agreed and it was not clear if all could be held before the next Annual Meeting.</p>	Medium term		To follow up at resumption of CCSBT 3	placed on preliminary agenda

**\* Priority**

Short term            two months  
Medium term        2 - 6 months  
Long term            6 -12 months

No.	Other Secretariat Action	Status
1	Prepare a periodical report to members of action taken on major issues	First report sent 29/10/96. Intended to send bimonthly at this stage
2	Draft annotated agenda for CCSBT 3 resumed meeting	Drafts sent to HOD's 29/10/96, 7/1/97 & 30/1/97
3	Draft annotated agenda for CCSBT 4	Completed - to be reviewed after the close of CCSBT 3
4	Seek written response to invitation to Indonesia to join the CCSBT	Correspondence received from Indonesia stating their desire to remain as a non-Convention member. Further letter from Chair sent 25/10/96. Reminder fax sent 7/1/97.
5	Seek written response to invitation to Korea to join CCSBT	Letter proposing a meeting with Korean representatives re: membership sent 19/11/96. Reminder fax sent 7/1/97. Response from Korea received 21/1/97.
6	Consider options on status of Taiwan in regard to the CCSBT	Preliminary options developed - Sec seeking information on the status of Taiwan in other international arrangements
7	Compile a set of CCSBT formal documents, eg. Convention, Staff and Finance Regulations	Copies distributed to members
8	Make arrangements with the Australian National Audit Office to undertake an independent audit of the Commission's accounts.	Formal approval from Minister received 20/1/97. Formal Commission approval being sought.
9	Develop an agreed set of procedures for approving expenditure from the CCSBT budget	Sent to HOD for consideration 31/12/96. Responses received from Japan and New Zealand.
10	Develop a document detailing the history of the Commission	In Progress
11	Develop a summary document on the CCSBT, in handout form	First draft prepared
12	Hold periodic meetings between the Chair, Head of Australian Delegation, Japanese Embassy officials and New Zealand High Commission officials.	First meeting held 19 November 1996
13	Translation of the Report from first session of CCSBT 3	First draft completed
14	Develop a CCSBT Internet Home Page	In Progress

No.	Other Secretariat Action	Status
15	Selection of a CCSBT Logo	Fax sent to HOD 2/1/97 seeking design finalisation. Preferred designs being refined by graphic designer.
16	Develop a policy of confidentiality of Commission documents	Sent to HOD for consideration 31/12/96. Responses received from Japan and New Zealand.
17	IUCN Resolution on Seabird Bycatch	Draft response distributed to HOD for consideration on 14/1/97
18	Draft a public declaration, in consultation with member representatives, regarding Korea.	
19	Selection of Deputy Executive Secretary	Selection finalised 6 February 1997



**Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna Recommendations  
Relating to Ecologically Related Species,  
Especially the Incidental Mortality of Seabirds by Longline Fishing**

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), at its resumed session of the 3rd annual meeting:

Recalling the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in Article 61, paragraph 4, relating to the obligations of coastal States and States fishing on the high seas to consider the effects of fishing on "species associated with or dependant upon harvested species with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such associated or dependant species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened", and Article 119, paragraph 1 (b).

Also recalling that the United Nations 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, in Article 5, which requires coastal States and States fishing on the high seas to "minimise pollution, waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, (herein after referred to as non-target species) and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species, through measures including, to the extent practicable, the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost effective fishing gear and techniques",

recommended that the Parties to the Convention:

**Data and Information Collection**

- I. continue existing information collection on the nature and extent of ERS captures in southern bluefin tuna fishing operations;
- II. develop a set of questions for the ERSWG to address;
- III. should collect data concerning the incidental catch of seabirds and information concerning the state and trend of the seabird population subjected to incidental catch in cooperation with appropriate international organisations, other States and entities concerned;

**Mitigation Measures**

- IV. promote the use of appropriately designed and deployed tori lines in SBT longline fishing operations;
- V. test the economic viability/effectiveness of the use of night setting in SBT longline

fishing operations;

- VI. consider the promotion of mitigation measures, either singly or as a suite, as they are developed, refined or shown to be effective, in fishing operations where the incidental capture of seabirds occurs;
- VII. take the following measures, as appropriate, in longline fisheries while taking southern bluefin tuna:
  - A. avoid the dumping of offal as far as possible while longlines are being set or hauled;
  - B. use thawed baits.
- VIII. note the following measures accelerate the sinking rate of hooks:
  - A. the weighting of the mainline, branchline or hooks;
  - B. a machine which casts line outside of the screw track [bait thrower];
  - C. thawed baits should be used;
- IX. should make every effort to ensure that birds captured alive during longlining are released alive and that wherever possible hooks are removed without jeopardising the life of the bird concerned;
- X. shall exchange information concerning new or refined techniques to reduce incidental catch of seabirds and cooperate in developing and assessing the effectiveness of such techniques, including those with the objective of preventing the approach of seabirds to fishing vessels or restraining the feeding activities of seabirds:

in introducing a technique, consider its effectiveness in reducing the incidental catch of ERS, and the costs and benefits, including possible impacts on harvesting of tuna;
- XI. shall continue to assess the effectiveness of the measures described in the points above;

#### **Educational Material and Information Dissemination**

- XII. shall promote, among the fishers concerned, understanding about the incidental capture of seabirds and measures which can be implemented to reduce seabird capture in longline operations. To this end, an education and information dissemination program for the fishers of Parties should be developed by the Commission. The programme should contain best practice guidelines on reducing incidental catch of ERS species;

- XIII. encourage non-parties engaging in longline fishing taking SBT to implement the measures, as agreed by the Commission, to reduce the incidental capture of seabirds;
- XIV. develop a set of educational material to be made available to the general public about the incidental capture of seabirds in southern bluefin tuna operations and steps the Commission is taking to reduce the incidental capture of seabirds in SBT longline fisheries;
- XV. request the Secretariat to circulate copies of ERS Working Group reports, once they become public documents, to appropriate international organisations to heighten international awareness of the efforts of both the Commission and its Parties to reduce incidental captures of seabirds in SBT longline fisheries;
- XVI. request the Secretariat to distribute copies of the booklet "Catching Fish Not Birds-A Guide to Improving Your Longline Fishing Efficiency" produced by Nigel Brothers of the Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania for the information of the fishing industries of the three Parties pending advice from the Secretariat on associated costs;
- XVII. request the Executive Secretary to bring these recommendations to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairman of the CSD of the UN, the Director-General of the FAO of the UN, the Secretary of the IOTC, the Executive Secretary of the ICCAT, the Executive Secretary of CCAMLR, and the Director-General of the IUCN and other similar bodies;

### **Conservation Work**

- XVIII. invite/request the range states of seabirds, especially albatrosses, to investigate the causes of historic decline in seabird populations, if any, and take appropriate measures to protect and help recovery of the populations. Furthermore, in the case where habitat of those seabirds exist within their national boundary, the Parties invite relevant organisations in their country to implement appropriate management measures.



**Draft**

**Questions For the Ecologically Related Species Working Group**

February 1997

The Commission requests the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) to address the following questions and issues:

**SEABIRDS**

**Research Priorities**

- I. What are the priorities for research on ecologically related species among the research requirements identified in Appendix 6 of the report from first meeting of the ERSWG?

**Improved understanding of the interaction between fishing operations and seabirds**

- II. What is the nature and extent of the incidental seabird mortality in SBT and other relevant fisheries including the development of best estimates of incidental capture of seabirds in longline fisheries in southern waters?
  - A. Review the collection of information on historical seabird mortality by area, season, time and species.
  - B. Examine measures to collect data on seabird mortality including the incidental catch by SBT and other relevant fisheries.
  - C. Determine the level and type of data required to obtain reliable estimates of incidental catch of seabird species.
  - D. Determine the level and type of information currently collected on the incidental capture of seabirds in SBT.
  - E. Identify additional data which should be collected to enable reliable estimates of incidental catch of seabird species to be obtained.
  - F. Define appropriate standards and methods for the collection of data and samples.
- III. Which seabird species caught in SBT fishing operations are of particular concern?
- IV. To what extent do non-SBT fisheries and non-fishing related factors impact seabird

species as identified in the above question?

- V. To what extent does seabird mortality caused by the SBT fisheries and other relevant fisheries contribute to the decline of seabird populations?
  - A. Estimate the level of mortality of seabird species taken incidentally by SBT fisheries, identify the causes of that mortality and estimate the relative contribution of each cause.
  - B. Determine the level of reliability of the estimates mentioned in V a) above.
  - C. Investigate means to improve the reliability of these estimates.

### **Seabird Population Trends**

- VI. Review the information available on current overall abundance and recent trends in abundance for populations of seabirds that are incidentally caught in the SBT fishery.

### **Mitigation Measures**

- VII. *Develop sets of specifications for tori poles and streamer lines which most effectively reduce the incidental capture of seabirds for the different types of longline vessels fishing for SBT. New question - NZ*
- VIII. What are the most effective and practical ways of minimising impacts of the SBT fishery on seabird populations?
  - A. Determine methods to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures and their effects on fishing operations when used.
  - B. Develop guidelines for the most effective use of mitigation measures.
- IX. What information and analyses are available on mitigation measures, including the effectiveness of those measures in reducing seabird bycatch and their effect on catch of target species?
- X. How effective is night setting in reducing incidental capture of seabirds, and what are the costs, benefits and impact on catch of target species?

Evaluate the costs and benefits of implementing nightsetting, including an assessment of the impact which the catch of target species?

### **Educational and Information Dissemination**

- XI. Which groups, including fishers, international organisations and countries, would benefit most from efforts to provide information on the mitigation of incidental seabird captures in SBT fisheries?

XII. What information would be best provided to the groups identified in the question above to assist in mitigating incidental seabird capture in SBT fisheries? In what format should this information be presented?

XIII. What practical information would be best provided to fishers to assist in: the mitigation of incidental seabird capture; reduction in interactions; and engineering and operational solutions?

#### **OTHER INCIDENTALLY TAKEN SPECIES**

13. What is the nature and extent of information on the incidental take of non-teleost species, in particular sharks, in SBT fisheries?

14. What is the relationship between SBT abundance and their prey species abundance?

15. What is the relationship between SBT abundance and predator species abundance?

#### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

16. What additional data or other information are required to address the preceding questions and issues?

**FINANCIAL RULES ESTABLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
UNDER REGULATION 9.1 OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

**GENERAL BUDGET CONTROL**

1. During a financial year, the Executive Secretary shall refer to the Chair of the CCSBT or, if the Chair is not available, the Vice Chair, any variations between budget items up to 10% of the item being increased, or \$500.00, whichever is the greater, for approval provided there is no overall increase in the estimates of total expenditure for that year. Any variation between items above that level or any increase in total expenditure require approval of the Commission.

**STAFF AND CONSULTANT/CONTRACTOR ARRANGEMENTS**

2. The Commission shall approve staff numbers (temporary and permanent) and the relative levels of remuneration in the budget approved at the Annual Meeting or out-of-session as the occasion arises.

3. The Executive Secretary shall determine the actual remuneration for local staff within levels approved by the Commission.

4. The Commission shall approve the employment of contract personnel and consultants where the cost is in excess of \$10,000 for each contract, noting that quotes or similar inquiries need to be obtained for expenditure over \$1,000.

**TRAVEL**

5. The Commission shall approve overseas travel for Commission staff, noting that travel conditions are set by the Staff Regulations (ie. economy air travel) and allowances determined in accordance with UN rates.

6. The Chair of the CCSBT or if the Chair is not available the Vice Chair shall approve domestic travel for Commission staff.

**OTHER EXPENDITURE**

7. The Chair of the CCSBT or if the Chair is not available the Vice Chair shall; approve expenditure on an individual item in excess of \$5,000 but which is within budget estimates.

## Attachment H

February 1997

Mr David McDowell  
Director General  
IUCN  
Rue Mauverney 28  
CH-1196 Gland  
SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr McDowell

I have been advised that at the first World Conservation Congress (IUCN) in Canada in October 1996, a resolution was adopted about the incidental mortality of seabirds in longline fisheries.

This resolution is of particular interest to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and its member parties because a large proportion of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) is caught in longline operations. In this letter we will outline the responsibilities and work of the Commission with respect to the incidental capture of seabirds in SBT fishing operations, provide comments on the IUCN resolution on seabird bycatch and seek information on how the Commission may liaise with the IUCN on relevant issues in the future.

Although the objective of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of SBT, the Convention recognises Ecologically Related Species (ERS). ERS are defined in the Convention as "living marine species which are associated with Southern Bluefin Tuna, including but not restricted to both predators and prey of Southern Bluefin Tuna". This includes seabirds incidentally caught in SBT fishing operations.

The Convention provides for CCSBT parties to collect, provide and exchange relevant information on ERS. In addition, the Commission recognises its responsibilities with respect to reducing the incidental capture of seabirds in SBT fishing operations.

In order to address its responsibilities, the Commission has established an Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG). The Terms of Reference for the ERSWG (attached) provide for the group to advise the Commission on issues including trends in the population biology of ERS, factors affecting those populations, the effects which SBT and other fisheries have on ERS and measures which could be used to minimise the effects of SBT fishing operations on ERS. We are pleased to attach a copy of the first report of the ERSWG which supports some of the statements made in the IUCN resolution on seabird bycatch including:

- at least 13 species of seabirds are being caught in longline operations;
- incidental mortality from longline fishing has contributed to declines in some populations of seabirds;
- the need for international cooperation, and
- the identification of a number of measures which can be used to reduce seabird mortality.

With respect to international cooperation, the CCSBT and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources have exchanged information on work each undertakes in the area of incidental seabird captures in fishing operations.

At its third Annual Meeting the Commission made a decision to address the incidental capture of ERS in SBT fisheries, especially the incidental catch of seabirds by longline fishing. We attach a copy of this decision for your information from which you will see that the Commission recommends that the use of appropriately designed and deployed tori lines in SBT longline fishing operations be promoted, and encourages its parties, as appropriate, to avoid the dumping of offal as far as possible while longlines are being set or hauled. Further, the Commission will develop educational material for distribution among fishers of SBT to promote the use of appropriate measures to reduce the incidental capture of seabirds in SBT fisheries.

We note that the IUCN resolution focuses on incidental captures of seabirds in longline operations as a source of mortality for seabirds. The CCSBT acknowledges that longlining is a cause of mortality for many seabird species but notes in some circumstances other factors may also contribute to seabird mortality.

The CCSBT believes that for vulnerable seabird populations, work should be done to reduce both longline and non-longline sources of mortality. The Commission hopes to see the early implementation of management measures to reduce mortality from non-longlining sources.

With increasing public interest in marine conservation, other issues of relevance to the CCSBT are likely to arise within the IUCN programme in the future. We would welcome the opportunity to liaise with the IUCN and would appreciate your advice on arrangements that could be made with your organisation to facilitate CCSBT participation in and consultation on matters of mutual interest.

Yours sincerely

Campbell McGregor  
Executive Secretary

## Attachment I

February 1997

I refer again to your recent letter concerning the taking of southern bluefin tuna.

Southern bluefin tuna (SBT) is a highly migratory species which travels through the Indian, Pacific, Southern and southern Atlantic Oceans. It can pass through the fishery zones of a number of States but most of its life is spent in waters outside the control of any one country. Fleets from Australia, Japan and New Zealand have been fishing for SBT for many years and these countries are collaborating, through the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, on SBT research, and the development and implementation of management strategies for the recovery and sustainable use of this valuable resource.

While these three countries are actively working to promote a responsible approach to sustainable fishing, fleets from other States and entities have been increasing their catches of SBT thereby reducing the effectiveness of the Commission's management efforts. The Commission is liaising with those States and entities to encourage their participation in its management programs.

Scientists are continuing to refine their assessments and identify options to effectively conserve and manage the SBT stock, for consideration by the Commission. Recent assessments suggest existing management actions have averted stock decline.

The Commission notes that your concerns are based, to a large extent, on the fact that SBT has been listed by the IUCN as critically endangered. It should be understood that the IUCN classification for SBT is qualified by the caveat that the criteria used for the assessment do not always lead to equally robust assessments of extinction risk, which depend upon the life history of the species. IUCN also recognised that the quantitative criterion (used for SBT) may not be appropriate for assessing the risk of extinction for some species, particularly those with high reproductive potential, fast growth and broad geographic ranges. Many of these species have high potential for population maintenance under high levels of mortality, and such species might form the basis for sustainable fisheries.

While the Commission acknowledges that the stock of SBT is currently at a level requiring rebuilding, it does not believe that the available scientific evidence justifies suspension of fishing. The Commission has established catch limits and other management measures to conserve the stock and is now actively working to develop a robust and comprehensive management strategy for stock recovery. The Commission will continue to refine the scientific assessments of the stock. These management strategies will be developed in the light of those assessments to ensure that the Commission's objective is achieved.

Yours sincerely

Campbell McGregor  
Executive Secretary

**CCSBT COMMUNIQUE ON NON-MEMBER FISHING ACTIVITIES**

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), which was formally established in May 1994 to provide an international forum for the conservation, management and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna (SBT), is urging other countries who fish SBT to a significant level to join the Commission, and fishing entities to cooperate by applying SBT conservation and management measures.

The United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks establishes that the long term viability of stocks can only be effectively secured if countries become members of, or in the case of fishing entities cooperate in applying, the conservation and management measures established by regional fisheries management organisations, in this instance the CCSBT.

The current Commission members, Australia, Japan and New Zealand, have developed and implemented strict controls on the taking of SBT in order to rebuild the stock. Members of the Commission are required to set a Total Allowable Catch, which for the year 1996/97 is 11,750 tonnes. However, the benefits of these conservation measures are being eroded by non-member fishing fleets not only continuing to fish but in some instances increasing their catches of SBT in recent years. Reported catches of non members were in excess of 3,000 tonnes in 1996.

The Commission regrets that the restrictions imposed on the fleets of member countries are being undermined by the actions of fleets from non-members and again calls upon those countries and fishing entities to acknowledge and participate in the stock rebuilding programme. In the case of non-members currently taking significant SBT catch, the Commission strongly believes they should accede to the Convention or cooperate by applying the Commission's conservation and management measures and thereby contribute to a more rapid recovery of the stock. The Commission will pursue, (as a matter of high priority), further discussions with non-member SBT fishing nations and entities with a view to securing this participation, as required by Article 15<sup>\*1</sup> of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

The Commission requests:

1. That as a matter of priority non-members actively limit their catch of SBT;
2. That non-members as soon as possible accede to the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, or cooperate by applying the Commission's conservation and management measures;
3. That non-members provide accurate SBT fishing data to the Commission.

ENDS



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Contact: Dr Alison Turner, Chair, CCSBT

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\*1 Article 15 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna:

1. The Parties agree to invite the attention of any State or entity not party to this Convention to any matter relating to the fishing activities of its nationals, residents or vessels which could affect the attainment of the objective of this Convention.
2. Each Party shall encourage its nationals not to associate with the southern bluefin tuna fishery of any State or entity not party to this Convention, where such association could affect adversely the attainment of the objective of this Convention.
3. Each Party shall take appropriate measures aimed at preventing vessels registered under its laws and regulations from transferring their registration for the purpose of avoiding compliance with the provisions of this Convention or measures adopted pursuant to it.
4. The Parties shall cooperate in taking appropriate action, consistent with international law and their respective domestic laws, to deter fishing activities for southern bluefin tuna by nationals, residents or vessels of any State or entity not party to this Convention where such activity could affect adversely the attainment of the objective of this Convention.

**Attachment K**

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR  
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

1. There shall be a Standing Committee for Finance and Administration on which each Member of the Commission may be represented by no more than three representatives, together with such advisers as are necessary; the Committee shall elect its own Chair;
2. The Committee shall examine the operation of the budget for the current year and advise the Commission, as appropriate, on expenditure trends;
3. The Committee shall examine and make recommendations to the Commission on the draft budget for the ensuing year and the scale of contributions required from Members;
4. The Committee shall advise the Commission on staff questions, on publications of the Commission and such other matters as the Commission may refer to it from time to time; and
5. The Committee may draw to the attention of the Commission any matter of a financial or administrative nature.

20 February 1997

## Revised Work Program for the CCSBT

<b>Dates</b>		<b>Number of Days</b>	<b>Venue</b>
18–21 Feb 1997	<b>Resumed Third Annual Commission Meeting</b> — sets TAC and national allocations for 1996–97 at 1995–96 levels		Canberra
12 May 1997	Work on non-parties		
13–16 May 1997	<b>Scientific Process Workshop</b> — including finalising Scientific Committee Rules of Procedure	4 days	tba <sup>1</sup> (Blue Mountains?)
5 May 1997	Exchange of fishery data		
	12 weeks preparatory work and exchange of inputs for Scientific Committee work on steps 1 & 2		
3–5 Jun 1997	<b>ERS Working Group Meeting</b> — reports to CCSBT4	3 days	Australia
28 Jul – 8 Aug 1997	<b>Scientific Committee Meeting</b> — collaborative work on steps 1 & 2, including VPA modelling	10 days	Australia
8–13 Sep 1997	<b>Fourth CCSBT Meeting</b>	5 days	Canberra
	Consideration of outcomes from Scientific Committee meeting on steps 1 & 2		
	Decision on whether to proceed with further work on experimental fishing (full scale or pilot program)		
	TAC for 1997–98 set on basis of 1996 stock assessment and outcomes from 1997 Scientific Committee work on steps 1 & 2		
Late 1997 and first half of 1998	<b>Step 3 work</b> (full scale or pilot — if agreed at CCSBT4)	Tba	tba
27–30 Oct 1997	<b>Management Strategy Workshop</b>	4 days	tba
	Option of Special Commission Meeting, dependent on successful completion of step 3		
1998	<b>Scientific Committee Meeting</b> — Full stock assessment		Japan
1998	<b>Fifth Annual Commission Meeting</b>		Japan

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<sup>1</sup> tba = to be advised