



CCSBT-SFM/2307/04

## **Background Information to the Proposed Updated Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan for 2023 to 2028**

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of the CCSBT's Strategic Plan is to outline a common vision for how Members would like to see the CCSBT in the future. CCSBT's existing Strategic Plan is out of date as it was agreed in October 2015 for the 2015 to 2020 period.

The Strategic Plan provides the overarching direction for CCSBT and in doing so also impacts on the strategic policies of subsidiary bodies (i.e. Scientific Research Program 2023-2027, Multi-Year Seabird Strategy, and Compliance Plan).

In addition, most subsidiary groups develop an annual workplan as part of their meeting deliberations and these plans will now also need to give due consideration to a revised Strategic Plan.

For reference, an organisational chart outlining CCSBT's strategic and planning documents is provided at **Attachment A**.

### **2. Background**

#### CCSBT Performance Review

The CCSBT Performance Review process commenced in November 2020 and the report of the 2021 Performance Review of the CCSBT was provided to Members on 1 March 2022.

In accordance with the [Terms of Reference](#) (ToR) of the Performance Review, during 2022 the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG), Extended Scientific Committee (ESC), and Compliance Committee (CC) considered and provided advice to CCSBT 29 on recommendations relevant to their respective area of expertise. The Secretariat notes that there is also a suite of recommendations that have not yet been considered by Members as they do not fall within the competence of any subsidiary body *e.g.* recommendations regarding allocations, the Convention, *etc.* During CCSBT 29, Taiwan also noted that not all issues of high importance had been identified through the subsidiary bodies and that work remains for the SFMWG.<sup>1</sup>

In his summary to CCSBT 29, the ERSWG Chair suggested that one area that could be considered for early implementation is a potential review of the Convention to clarify the role and mandate of CCSBT with regard to Ecologically Related Species (ERS).

The Performance Review ToR dictates that the SFMWG will now consider the advice from all the subsidiary bodies together with any direction from the EC, including those items not already addressed by subsidiary bodies, and develop an implementation plan for the

---

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Extended Commission of the Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Commission, paragraph 133.

Performance Review recommendations. The ToR also require that a standing agenda item be placed on future EC meeting agendas to follow up on progress made against the implementation plan.

### CCSBT Compliance Plan

The Compliance Plan supports the CCSBT Strategic Plan, in particular the vision for Category C: *“Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementation of its decisions”*.

The purpose of the Compliance Plan is to provide a framework for the Commission and Members to improve compliance, and over time, achieve full compliance with their CCSBT conservation and management measures.

The Compliance Plan includes a Five-Year Action Plan<sup>2</sup> to address priority compliance risks. This action plan should be reviewed and confirmed or updated at least every five years according to the Compliance Plan. At CC15, Members agreed that the revision of the Compliance Action Plan should be delayed until the next appropriate face-to-face meeting. With physical meetings resuming this year, the review of the Compliance Action Plan will now be addressed at TCWG4 and CC18.<sup>3</sup>

An update to the CCSBT Strategic Plan will also trigger a review of the Compliance Plan in line with its agreed review provisions.<sup>4</sup>

### CCSBT Scientific Research Program 2023-2027

The CCSBT Scientific Research Program (SRP) was initiated in 2000 to address priority scientific monitoring and research requirements for the assessment of southern bluefin tuna (SBT) and management of the fishery (CCSBT 2000).

The SRP supports the CCSBT Strategic Plan in particular the vision for Category A: *“Southern bluefin tuna stocks are managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks of fishing for SBT are mitigated”*.

The current SRP, adopted in 2022, has identified five priority areas: Characterisation of Catch, Abundance Indices, Biological Parameters, Management Procedure Implementation, and Stock Assessment and Operating Model Development.

### Multi-Year Seabird Strategy

The Multi-Year Seabird Strategy (Seabird Strategy), adopted in 2022, supports the CCSBT Strategic Plan in particular the vision for Category A: *“Southern bluefin tuna stocks are managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks of fishing for SBT are mitigated”*.

The overall objective of the Seabird Strategy is to reduce or eliminate seabird bycatch, such that SBT fisheries do not impose a significant adverse impact on seabirds. The Seabird

---

<sup>2</sup> The existing Compliance Plan still includes a 3-year Compliance Action Plan (CAP) but in 2019 (CC14) it was agreed that the next CAP (not yet developed) should be for a 5-year period

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Compliance Committee*, paragraph 116.

<sup>4</sup> *CCSBT Compliance Plan*, Part 4

Strategy applies five specific objectives aimed at achieving the overall objective. Several actions have been identified under each of the five specific objectives.

Progress against the objectives of the Seabird Strategy is to be evaluated at intervals of no more than four years with the plan revised as appropriate.

#### **4. Next Steps**

Pre-meeting discussions of EC 29 indicated that a draft Implementation Plan should be developed ahead of SFMWG and that this important exercise be shared amongst Members.

Australia offered to update the “Strategic Issues” and “Key Challenges” part of the existing Strategic Plan for the 2023 to 2028 period as well as offering to lead the work on the development of a draft Implementation Plan. Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Taiwan all confirmed their willingness to support Australia in its work on the draft Implementation Plan.

A proposed draft updated Strategic plan for 2023 to 2028 including a draft Implementation Plan is provided in paper **CCSBT–SFM/2307/05**.

Once a revised CCSBT Strategic Plan has been agreed by Members and endorsed by the EC, the Secretariat will advise relevant subsidiary bodies of the outcomes of the review and provide advice on any required actions.

**Prepared by the Secretariat**

