



CCSBT-EC/2310/08

Review of SBT Fisheries and ERS Interactions

Purpose

To provide an opportunity for discussion by Members on recent activities in the fishery.

Background

All Members are requested to provide annual reports to the Compliance Committee (CC) and the Extended Commission (EC) in accordance with the template agreed at CC 16 and adopted at CCSBT 28, which is available at:

https://www.ccsbt.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/file/templates/Annual_CC-EC_Reporting_Template.docx

At the EC meeting, the annual reports will be assumed to have been read. This agenda item is for questions, comments and follow-up discussion from the CC in relation to the reports.

The reports for this agenda item are provided as “CCSBT-CC/2310/SBT Fisheries” in the meeting document list.

In addition to the general review of SBT fisheries, a sub-agenda item has been included for Members to report on any projects they have conducted and for subsequent discussion in relation to these projects. This may include:

- A report back from Australia on trials it has conducted on automated stereo video following the stereo video timeline indicated in Attachment 11 of the EC 29 report, which is shown in **Appendix A** of this paper; and
- An update by Japan on its proposal for ongoing monitoring of the Japanese market (CCSBT-CC/2310/19 and 20).



Stereo video implementation

Trial and implementation steps in
Australia's farm sector

Australian working paper for CCSBT29



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This publication (and any material sourced from it) should be attributed as: DAFF 2022, *stereo video implementation*, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra, October. CC BY 4.0.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone 1800 900 090
Web agriculture.gov.au

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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Summary

CCSBT29 requested Australia to provide a working paper detailing its trial of stereo video technology and, if successful, the steps to implement stereo video as a monitoring tool in its farm sector.

1 Trial of stereo video

Australia's stereo video trial has been delayed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. However, the trial will commence in 2023 and CCSBT29 noted Australia's update of the two-stage approach to the trial.

1.1 Work to date

During 2021, Australia undertook an open tender process to procure a service provider of stereo video technology for the trial. The tender was open to international and domestic service providers. Prior to the tender, Australia undertook market research on stereo video technology, which included contacting all known potential suppliers of fully automated stereo video technology. The potential suppliers identified were informed by discussions with CCSBT Members, including Japan, New Zealand and the European Union, which sought advice on potential fit-for-purpose stereo video technologies, or stereo video technology providers in their respective countries.

The successful tenderer has experience in using stereo video in the Mediterranean including in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Due to difficulties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, including Australia's border restrictions in late 2021 and early 2022, the trial did not start in the 2022 catching season (December – March) as planned.

Despite this, Australia has continued to work with the tenderer on the approach and methodology and operational aspects of the trial.

With Australia's borders opening on 21 February this year, the trial is now able to commence during the 2023 catching season in January to March.

Year one of the trial will test the accuracy of stereo video monitoring on SBT in Port Lincoln. This will allow the technology to be adapted to Australian-caught SBT and for the tenderer to understand the operational environment in Australia's farms.

Upon completion of year one of the trial, Australia will provide a report with the progress and results of year one of the trial and provide this to EC30.

Informed by the results of year one, the field work for the trial will be completed in January – March 2024, to test stereo video technology in a commercially operational environment, including transfers from tow cages to farm pens and ability of the technology to operate within the oceanic and weather conditions of Australia's SBT farms.

Upon completion of year two of the trial, Australia will report the final results of the trial and, assuming the trial is successful, progress on implementation to EC31.

2 Implementation

If the stereo video trial proves successful, Australia will be required to work through a number of additional steps to operationalise stereo video as a monitoring tool for its farm sector. While timing of implementation will need to be confirmed following the trial, based on Australia's experience the three processes outlined below could take approximately 12 to 18 months in total to complete.

2.1 Monitoring program design:

Subject to the success of the stereo video trial, Australia's fisheries regulator, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), would be required to design a monitoring program largely informed by the outcomes of the stereo video trial. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to: program objectives, outcomes and requirements, data governance, cost implications, appropriate technology and systems, data collection and consideration, including length weight conversions and sampling regimes.

2.2 Legislative change:

Australia has an existing legislative framework that governs how quota is decremented in the SBT farm sector and consideration will need to be given to the legislative implications of departing from its existing regime.

Australia's current monitoring regime is based on the 100 fish sample process and is considered within the existing legislative framework.

Australia will need to consult broadly across government and seek legal advice on the implementation of legislating a new monitoring regime in the SBT farm sector. If implemented, Australia may need to undertake drafting and execution of new legislation and may also need to undertake a regulation impact statement, to determine how the increased regulation impacts stakeholders. It is likely the process for legislative change will involve statutory consultation timeframes.

2.3 Contractor engagement:

AFMA would be required to undertake a formal tender process to approach the market to identify a supplier of SV services in the farm sector. This would be followed by a tender evaluation and then a subsequent engagement of the successful tenderer.

Stereo video timeline

Stage	Activities	2023				2024				2025		
		J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S
1.2	Year 1 trial											
1.3	Year 2 trial											
2.1	Monitoring											
2.2	Legislative change											
2.3	Contractor engagement											