



CCSBT-EC/2310/15

Activities with Other Organisations

Purpose

To receive reports from meetings of other RFMOs, agree on the CCSBT observers to attend meetings of other RFMOs during 2024, and to consider any other relevant activities with other organisations.

(1) CCSBT Observers at non-CCSBT meetings

CCSBT Members act as the CCSBT observer at RFMO meetings of interest (e.g. tuna RFMOs and CCAMLR¹), and the observing Member provides a report back to the CCSBT on matters of relevance in order to improve coordination with other RFMOs. The following Members were nominated at CCSBT 29 to observe the next series of RFMO annual meetings:

- Korea to observe meetings of WCPFC²;
- New Zealand to observe meetings of CCAMLR;
- Indonesia to observe meetings of IOTC³;
- Japan to observe meetings of ICCAT⁴; and
- Taiwan to observe meetings of IATTC⁵.

These CCSBT observers may have matters of relevance to report back to the CCSBT.

The EC should confirm which Members will act as CCSBT observers to the next series of RFMO annual meetings.

(2) Arrangement between CCSBT and CCAMLR

CCSBT and CCAMLR entered into a formal three-year cooperative arrangement during November 2012. A modified Arrangement between CCAMLR and CCSBT was executed on 30 October 2015, and this was then renewed on 14 January 2019. The Arrangement was reviewed once more at CCSBT 29 and a decision was made to renew the Arrangement with CCAMLR in its current form, providing that the annual CCAMLR meeting also agrees to renew the Arrangement.

Members of CCAMLR also supported the renewal of the Arrangement at their annual meeting and the arrangement was formally renewed on 1 May 2023. A copy of the current Arrangement is provided for Members at **Attachment A**.

¹ Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

² Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

³ Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

⁴ International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

⁵ Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

(3) United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

There has been a significant increase in the level of engagement between the Secretariat and the FAO in the last year with the start of the current phase of the Common Oceans Program and in particular the Tuna Project element within that program.

The Secretariat anticipates that this increased engagement will continue in coming years given that the CCSBT is one of the Project Partners for the Tuna Project and the lead for the Seabird Project component.

The Tuna Project aims to improve tuna fisheries management, tackle IUU fishing, and reduce the impacts of tuna fisheries on the environment. The CCSBT has an interest in all of the areas defined by the project and in certain areas is seen as a leader amongst tuna RFMOs.

(4) Collaboration with IATTC and WCPFC Northern Committee on eCDS

The CCSBT has been approached by Mr Shingo Ota in his role as the Chair of the Catch Documentation Scheme Technical Meeting, which is a subsidiary body of the joint IATTC and WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG). A copy of this letter is provided at **Attachment B**.

The JWG is seeking technical support from the CCSBT in the development of its electronic Pacific Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation. The support requested includes the sharing of resources developed by the CCSBT for its eCDS system. The Secretariat has responded to the JWG confirming that we would gladly share our experiences to date but that we were unable to provide technical resources (i.e. coding) from the eCDS without the prior consent of the SPC who hold the intellectual property for the TUFFMAN 2 platform on which the eCDS operates.

Discussions are now underway between the various parties involved to develop an instrument that would allow technical sharing while recognising the SPC contribution to date. The Secretariat will continue to support and engage in these discussions that are to the benefit of all organisations involved and our shared stakeholders.

(5) Convention on Biodiversity Secretariat

The Secretariat has had some preliminary engagement with the Convention on Biodiversity Secretariat through its Sustainable Oceans Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies. These discussions are focused on understanding the role and impact on CCSBT from the implementation of the BBNJ Treaty.

As the terms of implementation are being developed, it is important that the CCSBT remain engaged in these discussions given the potential impact that some of the proposed processes could have on its operations. The requirement to consult with Regional Fisheries Bodies on Area Based Management Tools (including Marine Protected Areas) is of particular significance for the CCSBT.

Prepared by the Secretariat

**Arrangement between
The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
and
The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources**

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (hereafter CCSBT) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (hereafter CCAMLR);

NOTING that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (hereafter CSBT Convention) is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna;

NOTING FURTHER that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (hereafter CAMLR Convention) is the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources, which includes rational use;

RECOGNISING that Article 12 of the CSBT Convention requires the CCSBT to collaborate with other inter-governmental organisations which have related objectives to, among other things, obtain the best available information including scientific information to further the attainment of the objective of the Convention and seek to avoid duplication with respect to the work of the other organisations.

CONSIDERING that the Preamble to the CAMLR Convention recognises that it is desirable for CCAMLR to establish suitable machinery for recommending, promoting, deciding on and co-ordinating the measures and scientific studies needed to ensure the conservation of Antarctic marine living organisms;

NOTING that provisions of the CAMLR Convention address the conservation of non-target, associated or dependent species which belong to the same ecosystem as the target species;

NOTING FURTHER that the Preamble to the 2008 CCSBT Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on Ecologically Related Species of Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna identifies that the CCSBT is determined to mitigate incidental harm to ecologically related species caused by fishing for southern bluefin tuna;

DESIRING to put into place arrangements and procedures to promote cooperation in order to enhance the conservation and rational use of stocks and species which are within the competence and/or mutual interest of both organisations so as to avoid duplication or conflict between the activities of the two organisations;

NOW THEREFORE the CCSBT and CCAMLR record the following arrangements:

1. OBJECTIVE OF THIS ARRANGEMENT

The objective of this Arrangement is to facilitate, where appropriate, cooperation between the CCSBT and CCAMLR ('the Commissions') with a view to enhancing the conservation and rational use of stocks and species which are of interest to both Commissions.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Commissions will establish and maintain consultation and cooperation in respect of matters of common interest to both organisations. In particular, the Commissions will:

- (i) exchange meeting reports, information, documents and publications regarding matters of mutual interest, consistent with the information sharing policies of each Commission;
- (ii) exchange data and scientific information in support of the work and objectives of both Commissions, consistent with the information sharing policies of each Commission including, but not limited to information on:
 - (a) vessels authorised to fish in accordance with the Commissions' conservation measures;
 - (b) illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing vessels;
 - (c) catch, bycatch and vessel information and/or data¹;
 - (d) an annual CCSBT report to CCAMLR covering the global stock assessment of southern bluefin tuna for that year; and the latest southern bluefin tuna catch data classified by ocean, gear and catching country; and
 - (e) an annual CCAMLR report to CCSBT detailing any catches (by flag and gear) of southern bluefin tuna from vessels fishing within the CAMLR Convention area.
- (iii) cooperate to harmonise approaches in areas of mutual interest and concern, most notably on bycatch of non-target, associated and dependent species (ecologically related species);
- (iv) where appropriate, collaborate on analyses and research efforts relating to species of mutual interest;
- (v) consider methods of recognising and cooperating with each other's conservation and management measures; and
- (vi) consistent with each Commission's rules of procedure, grant permanent reciprocal observer status to representatives of the respective Commissions in relevant meetings of each Commission.

¹ Noting that publicly available CCSBT bycatch data is currently limited to information provided in reports to the CCSBT; that the confidentiality classification of bycatch data exchanged between CCSBT Members prevents its release without explicit approval of the Members providing the data together with a signed confidentiality agreement; and that catch data relating to individual vessels is classified as confidential.

- (vii) encourage cooperation between the Secretariats in areas of common interest such as information management, compliance evaluation, CDS, website developments, data modelling and infrastructure, database development, data exchange protocols and secretariat-administrative matters.

3. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

To facilitate effective development, implementation and enhancement of cooperation, the Commissions may establish a consultative process between the two respective Secretariats that includes, telephone, email and similar means of communications. The consultative process may also proceed in the margins of meetings at which both Commissions' Secretariats are represented by appropriate staff.

4. MODIFICATION

This Arrangement may be modified at any time by the mutual written consent of both Commissions.

5. LEGAL STATUS

This Arrangement does not create legally binding rights or obligations.

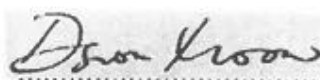
This Arrangement does not alter the obligations of members of either body to comply with the management and conservation measures of those bodies.

6. OTHERS

- (i) This Arrangement will commence on the date of signature.
- (ii) Either Commission may terminate this Arrangement by giving six months prior written notice to the other Commission.
- (iii) This Arrangement will continue to operate for three (3) years. At that stage the Commissions will review the operation of the Arrangement and decide whether it will be renewed.

7. SIGNATURE

Signed at HOBART this ..1...day of MAY2023



Dae-Yeon Moon
Chair CCSBT



Vitalii Tsymbaliuk
Chair CCAMLR

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME (CDS) TECHNICAL MEETING**

July 13th, 2023

Mr. Dominic Vallières
Executive Secretary
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

Dear Mr. Vallières,

Subject: Request for cooperation for the development of an e-CDS for Pacific bluefin tuna

I am writing as the Chair of the Catch Document Scheme Technical Meeting (CDSTM), a subsidiary body of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG), to seek cooperation of the CCSBT for the development of an electronic Pacific Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (ePBCD).

The CDSTM held its 4th meeting on 3 July 2023, participated by Canada, Fiji, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Philippines, United States of America and Japan. The 4th meeting discussed possible options for budgetary and administrative considerations for the development of the ePBCD, based on the paper submitted by Japan (IATTC-NC-CDS04-2023/02, available at <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/19307>). The participants expressed their strong interest in the e-SBT system that was developed and being tested by Members of the CCSBT, in particular its useful functions and relatively low cost for the development.

For the sake of the efficient and timely development of the ePBCD system by the WCPFC and the IATTC, the participants tentatively agreed that they wish to use resources from the CCSBT eSBT system. The participants also agreed that I send a formal letter to the CCSBT Secretariat to see if it is possible for us to obtain technical assistance and utilize part of the resources (programs etc.) for the future development of the ePBCD.

It would be greatly appreciated if the CCSBT could consider such possibility, including possible

costs, at its earliest convenience.

If you have any questions, please contact me at shingo_ota810@maff.go.jp. I can also set up an online meeting if necessary.

I thank you for your kind consideration on this request.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shingo Ota'.

Shingo Ota

Chair,

CDSTM, JWG