



CCSBT–CC/2410/18

## Update on CCSBT’s Compliance Relationships with Other Bodies and Organisations

### 1. Introduction

This paper updates Members on CCSBT’s compliance relationships with the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (IMCSN) and its associated networks, as well as with RFBs<sup>1</sup>/ RFMOs<sup>2</sup>, including the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)<sup>3</sup>, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO) Fisheries and Aquaculture Division. An update is also included on the relationship with TMT (formerly Trygg Mat Tracking) including a fisheries intelligence report produced during 2024.

### 2. IMCSN

The IMCSN is a non-profit and informal organisation, established to facilitate bilateral and multilateral co-operation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and associated activities led by Executive Director, Mr. Mark Young. The CCSBT became a member of the IMCSN in November 2013. The IMCSN has grown its RFMO membership to now include six RFMOs/organisations with a conservation agreement with some of the attributes of an RFMO<sup>4</sup>. The IMCSN membership also includes the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) that both also have a regional fisheries focus.

The IMCSN also coordinates the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN) and Pan-Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network (PPFCN) and is a partner in the Joint Analytical Cell (JAC). The JAC is a collaborative initiative between nonprofit organisations established in 2022 by the IMCS Network, TMT and Global Fishing Watch and that now also includes the Allen Institute for AI (AI2) and C4ADS<sup>5</sup>. The JAC seeks to strengthen the access to data analytic tools, technology platforms and actionable intelligence to support more effective fisheries MCS and, through membership of the IMCSN, the Secretariat will continue explore opportunities to use the JAC and supported opensource tools to identify potential unreported catches of SBT.

#### ***Tuna Compliance Network (TCN)***

The TCN continues to function under the umbrella of the IMCSN. Mr Ricardo Belmontes from IATTC is the current Chair. The TCN held an in-person meeting in Victoria, Seychelles between 18 – 23 June 2024 under the guidance of previous chair,

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<sup>1</sup> Regional Fisheries Bodies

<sup>2</sup> Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

<sup>3</sup> Both the IOTC and the GFCM are part of the FAO

<sup>4</sup> CCAMLR, CCSBT, NEAFC, NPFC, SIOFA and SPRFMO are currently members of the IMCSN

<sup>5</sup> AI2 are the developers of the Skylight maritime monitoring tool and C4ADS are a nonprofit that seeks to identify and understand the illicit networks behind international security threats and environmental crime.

Ms Jenny Cheatle, Head of Compliance at ICCAT. The Compliance Manager was unable to attend but has continued to engage in the intersessional work of the TCN.

TCN meetings provide an opportunity for tRFMO compliance personnel to exchange information on relevant issues, in particular transshipment measure strengthening and issues, developments in the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) area, and opportunities for future work collaboration and analysis support including on updating IUU Vessel Lists.

It has been proposed that the next in-person meeting of the TCN be convened in Tokyo, Japan during the week of 8 to 15 June 2025. The Secretariat proposes that the Compliance Manager attend this meeting.

### ***Pan-Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network (PPFCN)***

Mr. Randy Jenkins of SPRFMO continues as the inaugural Chair of the informal PPFCN and the group met a couple of times during 2024. The Compliance Manager attended a virtual meeting of the PPFCN held on 6 March 2024, 7 June 2024 and will attend a further virtual PPFCN meeting on 13 September 2024. The group aims to meet virtually every quarter (where possible) to promote communication and cooperation between the RFMOs that have overlapping waters in the Pacific Ocean region.

### **3. ICCAT and IOTC**

The CCSBT Secretariat has had regular interactions with ICCAT and IOTC Secretariat compliance personnel since CC18, primarily concerning at-sea transshipment observer programmes and IUU Vessel Lists cross-listing matters.

#### **ICCAT**

As requested by CC17, the Compliance Manager collaborated with ICCAT's Head of Compliance to draft a proposed revised Transshipment Memorandum of Understanding that allows for the sharing of ICCAT's transshipment supply declarations with the CCSBT<sup>6</sup>.

#### **IOTC**

The Compliance Manager collaborated extensively with the IOTC Secretariat during 2024 to cross-check data received from Indonesia's CCSBT pilot at-sea transshipment programme which began on 1 November 2023, as well as to consider matters relating to the CCSBT's existing Transshipment LoU with the IOTC<sup>7</sup>. There was also ongoing collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat in relation to reports of potential unreported SBT catches in the Indian Ocean<sup>7</sup>.

#### ***IOTC Working Group on the Development of Electronic Monitoring Programme Standards (WGEMS)***

IOTC's WGEMS held a virtual meeting between 05-07 June 2024. Due to staff changes, the Compliance Manager was unable to attend the meeting this year but remains engaged with this working group and the development of EM standards in IOTC. The WGEMS is planning to meet again in 2025 to continue to advance EM implementation by the IOTC members and the Compliance Manager will attend this meeting when it is confirmed.

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<sup>6</sup> Paper CCSBT-CC/2410/12

<sup>7</sup> Discussed in paper CCSBT-CC/2410/17.

## **5. WCPFC**

A Transshipment Memorandum of Cooperation<sup>8</sup> (MoC) with WCPFC was signed by the CCSBT and WCPFC Chairs during 2017 but has not yet been operationalised as WCPFC transshipment observers cannot be cross-endorsed by CCSBT until CCSBT's transshipment observer standards are met. In the interim, SBT remains unable to be transhipped at-sea within the WCPFC Convention Area.

Since CCSBT 30, some further progress has been made in relation to WCPFC's transshipment observer standards, including:

- The IWG-ROP<sup>9</sup> has commenced work to review the agreed Minimum Data fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring and consideration of necessary revisions. This is an ongoing task in the IWG workplan across 2023-2025.

However, the latest update from the WCPFC Secretariat is that WCPFC regional observer programmes are still implementing their training and reporting requirements so they are still not at the point yet where more detailed discussions on data exchange opportunities can occur. The WCPFC Secretariat is hopeful they will be able to provide further updates following the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of their Technical and Compliance Committee.<sup>10</sup>

## **6. UN FAO**

There has been no specific compliance engagement with UNFAO since CCSBT30, however we anticipate increased engagement in the coming twelve months as work continues to update the existing LOU with IOTC.

## **7. TMT (formerly Trygg Mat Tracking)**

The Secretariat entered into an agreement for TMT to provide CCSBT with ad-hoc fishing vessel and company analysis on request in 2019. The funds provided to TMT under this agreement have yet to be exhausted and TMT remains available to provide analysis to CCSBT as required.

As noted earlier in this paper, TMT is one of the founding partners of the JAC collaborative initiative. In March 2024, the Secretariat received one Fisheries Intelligence Report from TMT as part of their work in the Joint Analytical Cell. This report analysed the activities of six fishing vessels that are not CCSBT authorised that the Secretariat had previously noted operating in locations<sup>11</sup> close to vessels known to be targeting South Bluefin Tuna (SBT).

The report was not specifically requested by the Secretariat but resulted from previous informal discussions between the Compliance Manager and TMT late in 2023. Therefore, no funds from the existing Agreement were provided to TMT to produce this report. The JAC report is discussed further in paper CCSBT-CC/2410/17 and is also provided as an attachment to that paper.

## **8. Recommendations**

CC19 is invited to:

- Note the CCSBT's Compliance Relationships with other bodies and organisations.

## **Prepared by the Secretariat**

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<sup>8</sup> Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on the Endorsement of WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Observers for Observing Transshipments of Southern Bluefin Tuna on the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area.

<sup>9</sup> WCPFC's Intersessional Working Group – Regional Observer Programme.

<sup>10</sup> WCPFC TCC20 is scheduled between Tuesday, September 24, 2024 - Tuesday, October 1, 2024.

<sup>11</sup> Based on Automatic Identification System (AIS) data but recognising the limitations of AIS data.