



CCSBT-CC/2510/17

Potential Non-Member Fishing Activity

1. Introduction

This paper provides:

- a brief summary of communication with Non-Cooperating Non-Members (NCNMs) since the Thirty First Meeting of the Commission and Extended Commission (CCSBT 31);
- an update on any NCNM Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) catch reported to ICCAT¹ since CCSBT 31;
- analysis relating to potential non-Member catches of SBT; and
- an update concerning CCSBT's relationship with TMT (formerly Trygg Mat Tracking) and information about the existing contingency fund for ad-hoc analysis with TMT.

Consistent with the decision of the Eighteenth meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC18), this paper no longer contains a three-year summary and analysis of SBT trade information from the COMTRADE database².

2. Communications with Non-Members

CCSBT 31 tasked the Secretariat to invite Canada, China, Fiji, the Philippines, Seychelles, Thailand and the USA to participate as observers at CC20. All were invited to attend the Annual Meetings of the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission, and formal responses were received from Canada, Fiji, Thailand, and the USA. At the time of completing this paper, only the USA have confirmed that they will be attending CC20.

As noted in paper [CCSBT-CC/2510/10](#), the USA continues to cooperate voluntarily with the CDS and provide important quarterly CDS data submissions to the Secretariat. The USA also continues to engage, as needed, with the Secretariat on the eCDS development.

3. Reported SBT Catch and Trade by Non-Members

In 2019, CC14 requested that the Secretariat check ICCAT's website³ to confirm whether any new catches of SBT by CCSBT Non-Cooperating Non-Members (NCNMs) have been reported to ICCAT. The Secretariat re-checked ICCAT's website in 2025 and advises that Brazil has again⁴ reported SBT catch to ICCAT. In their Task 1 catch statistics provided to ICCAT, Brazil reported SBT catches of 1T in the Southeast Atlantic and 2T in the Southwest Atlantic in 2023. All catch was reportedly taken using longline gear. An examination of the available information on the areas fished by Brazilian flagged vessels in 2023 would again indicate that this is most likely Atlantic Bluefin tuna mistakenly reported as SBT. The only other SBT catches reported to ICCAT in 2023 were reported by CCSBT Members⁵.

¹ International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

² However, the most the recent calendar year's SBT fresh/frozen exports and imports from COMTRADE is provided in the Secretariat's Compliance with Measures paper ([CCSBT-CC/2510/04](#)).

³ <https://www.iccat.int/en/t1.asp>

⁴ In 2016 Brazil also reported 69t and in 2017 they reported 1t. 17t was also reported by Namibia in 2017. Brazil also reported SBT catches of 1T in the Southeast Atlantic and 16T in the Southwest Atlantic in 2022.

⁵ Japan, Korea and South Africa.

4. Information on Suspected Catches of SBT by Non-Member Flagged Vessels

The Secretariat prepared paper [CCSBT-ESC/2508/04](#) for the 30th Meeting of the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC30) which again notes that the Chinese and Seychelles fleets in the Indian Ocean have appeared “in recent years to have more effort and larger areas of overlap in areas where SBT could be expected to be caught”.⁶

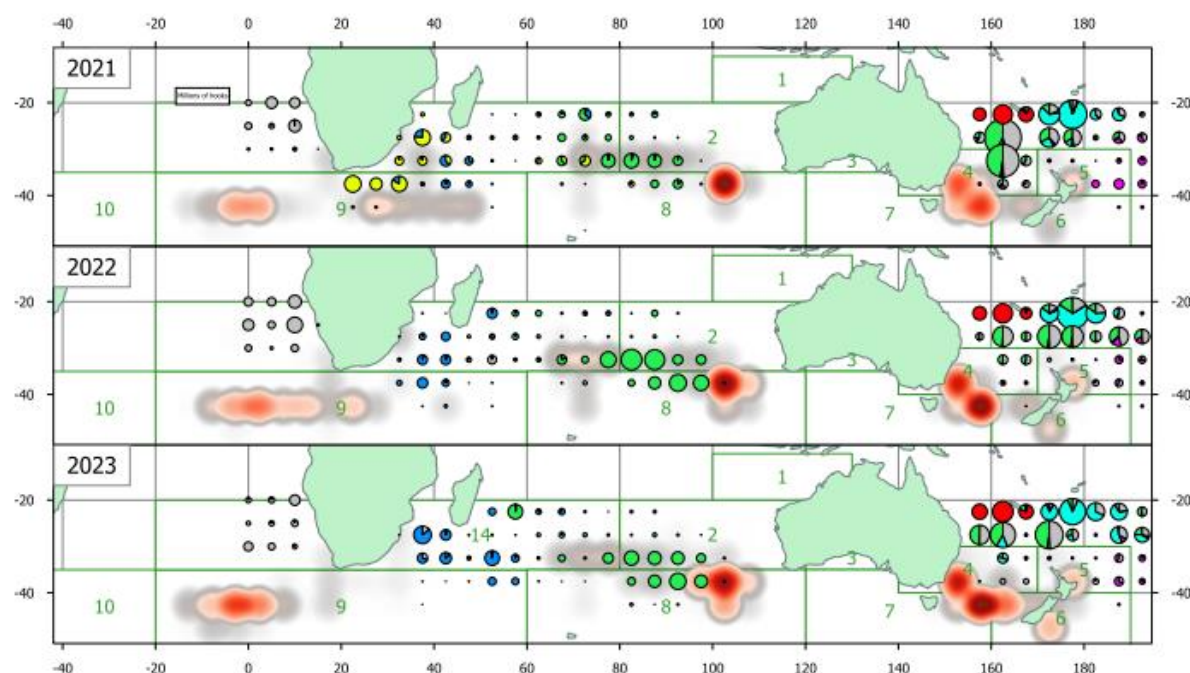


Image 1: Distribution of SBT catch (heat map of catch in weight from raised catch data) and proportion pies for longline effort for Non-Members for 2021 - 2023 from ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC catch and effort data (from CCSBT-ESC/2508/04 with catch and effort by Chinese flagged vessels is shown as green).

The Secretariat continues to collaborate with TMT in the monitoring of non-Member vessels and activity in areas consistent with catches of SBT. Using available AIS data, more than 35 Non-Member tuna longline vessels have again been identified as being active in the area around the intersection of CCSBT Statistical Areas 14, 2 and 8 between March and August 2025. Most of the Non-Member tuna longline vessels identified in this analysis were flagged to China⁷ and have been active in this area in previous years.

The vessels have demonstrated a similar patterns of activity to that reported in [CCSBT-CC/2410/17](#), however there were some small differences observed during 2025. The majority of these non-Member vessels seem to have arrived in the area earlier than they have in previous years, with most vessels already active in the area by February 2025. Most effort is concentrated in CCSBT Area 8 through February, March and April however, in 2025, the effort appears to remain further south for longer, with more vessels moving to more western areas of CCSBT Area 8 (often after port calls in Port Louis, Mauritius) through late April and

⁶ The paper notes that there were no Seychelles effort data available for 2022 or 2023, so Seychelles effort was unable to be included in the distribution maps for 2022 and 2023.

⁷ This year three Seychelles' flagged vessels were identified from available AIS data as being active in this area in 2025. Much of this activity occurred further to the west of the area of greatest reported SBT catches. The Seychelles has previously stated at the Compliance Committee that it does authorise longline vessels to fish for Albacore in areas where SBT may be caught and that these vessels are on the IOTC record of authorised vessels. It stated that the vessels are not allowed to catch or retain SBT onboard and mostly land or tranship in Port Louis, Mauritius, but they may sometimes tranship in Port Victoria in the Seychelles. Transshipments at sea are monitored by observers under the IOTC regional observer scheme and the vessels are also monitored on VMS.

early May. By the end of May, most vessels appear to have moved slightly further north and are active around the boundary of CCSBT Areas 2 and 14. The vessels then gradually move back further west during June and July (away from the areas of highest concentrations of SBT catches). At the time of completing this paper, the latest AIS data available for August shows more than half of the vessels still active in the southern portion of CCSBT Areas 2 and 14. The times of greatest overlap with known CCSBT authorised vessels appears to have again occurred during May, June, and July. As reported previously, many of these Chinese flagged vessels have been active in the area in previous years and images 2, 3, 4 and 5 below show the areas of activity for this fleet for the past four years.

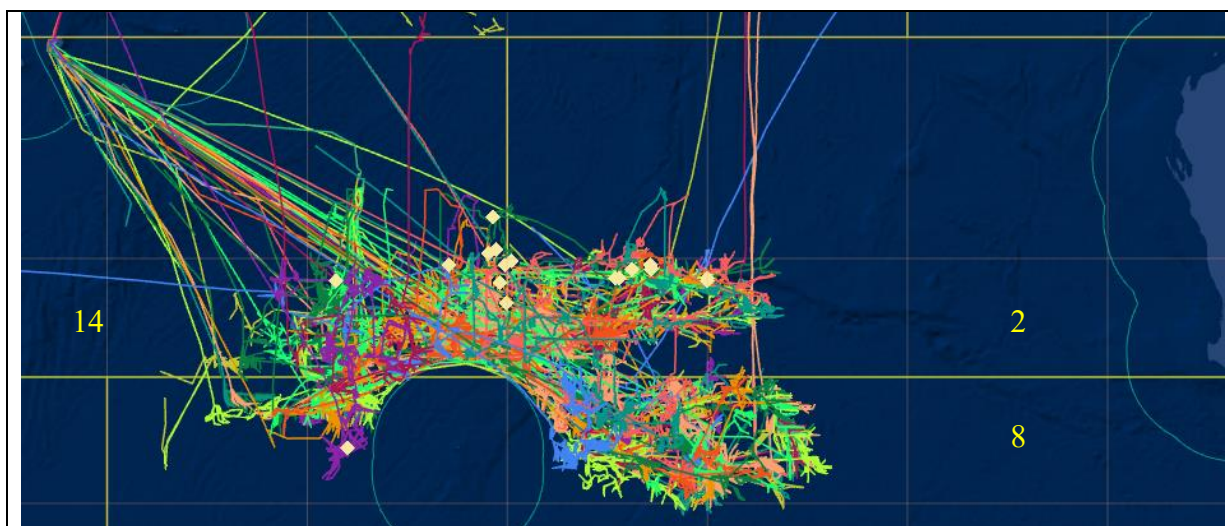


Image 2: AIS reported positions for Non-Member longline vessels active in areas consistent with SBT catches - March to August inclusive 2025

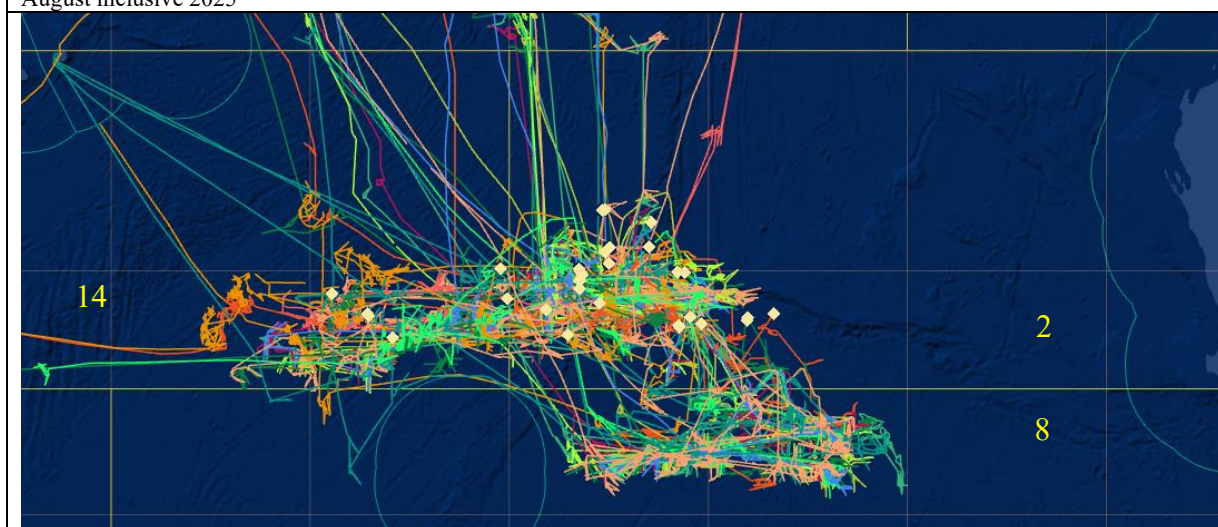


Image 3: AIS reported positions for Non-Member longline vessels active in areas consistent with SBT catches - March to August inclusive 2024

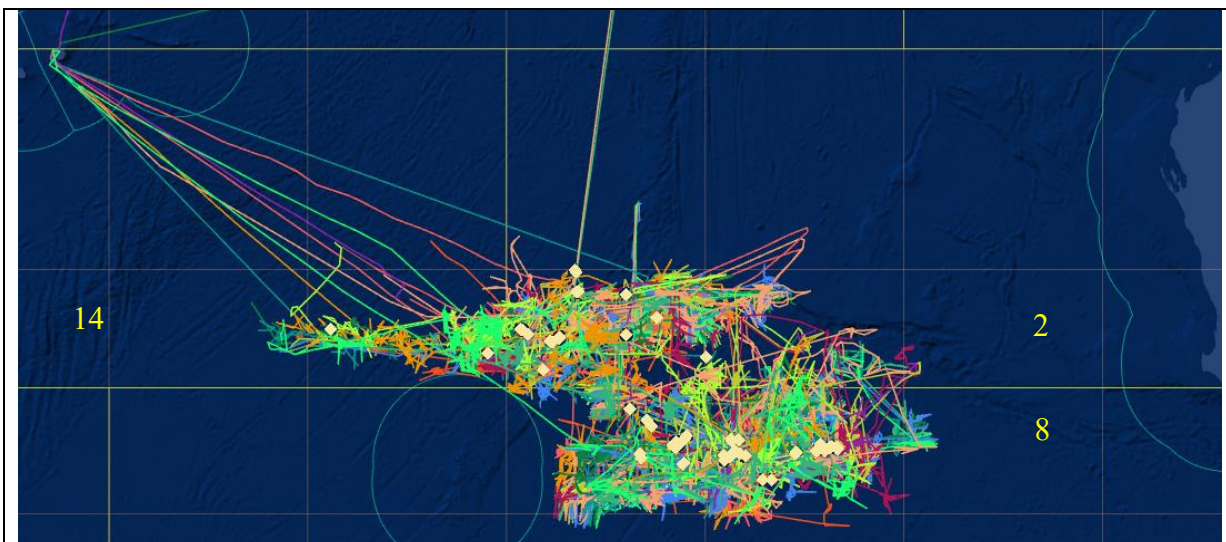


Image 4: AIS reported positions for Non-Member longline vessels active in areas consistent with SBT catches - March to August inclusive 2023

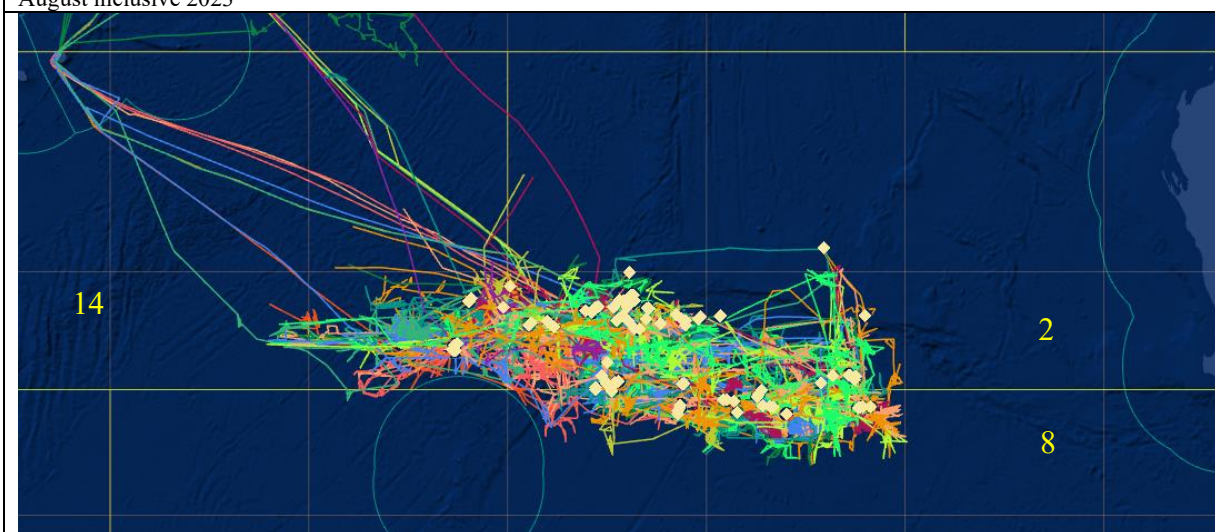


Image 5: AIS reported positions for Non-Member longline vessels active in areas consistent with SBT catches - March to August inclusive 2022

The reported AIS positions for these Non-Member tuna longline vessels between March to August (inclusive) 2024 show a strong correlation with the areas of reported SBT catches again in 2024 (see image 6)⁸.

⁸ Image 6 shows only a sample (six vessels) of the Non-Member flagged tuna longline vessels identified as active in the area to ensure that the heatmap areas showing SBT catch are still visible.

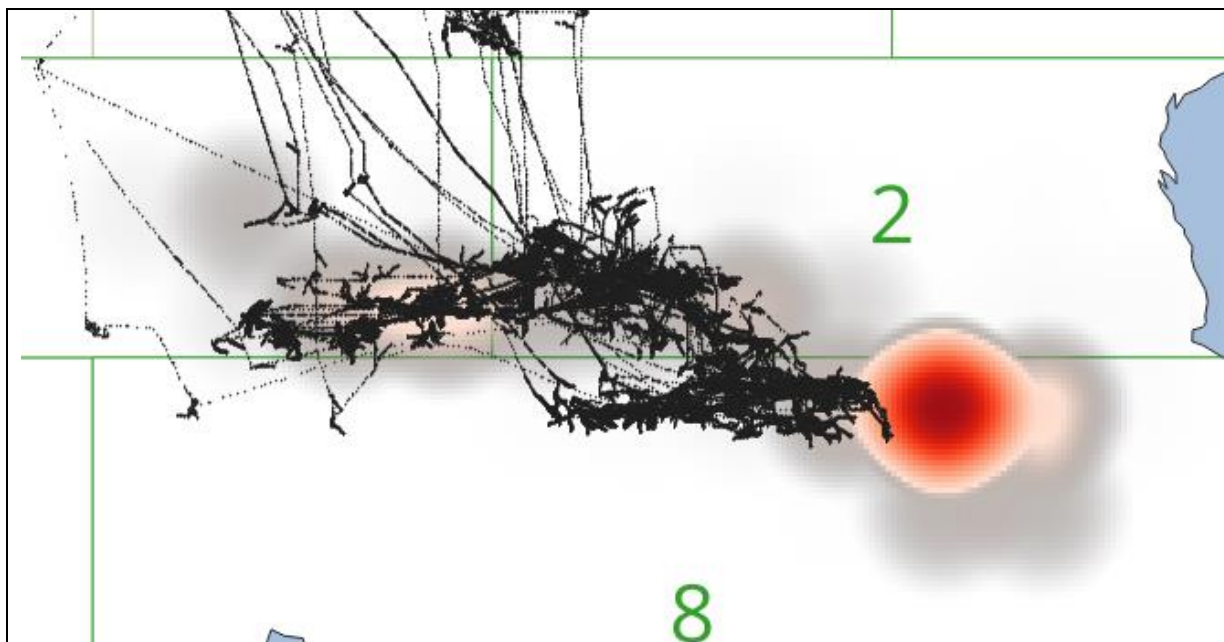


Image 6: AIS Reported Positions for nine non-Member longline vessels between March to August inclusive 2024 overlaid with CCSBT reported SBT catch heat maps for 2024

During 2025, it has been identified that port use by these vessels (outside of home ports) most often occurred in Port Louis, Mauritius. In 2025, there were a significant number of port calls in Port Louis, Mauritius during April 2025.

At sea transshipment has again been common for vessels during the period of interest, with one Panamanian flagged carrier vessel FENG LU, conducting 23 suspected transshipments with these vessels between 11 June 2025 and 23 July 2025. The Korean flagged carrier vessel SEIYU⁹ also appears to have transhipped with two non-Member flagged longline vessels in the area of interest during this period before making two port calls in China and then returning to Busan, Korea.

CV Name	CV IRCS	CV Flag	CV IMO Number
FENG LU	3ERI4	PANAMA	9003158
SEIYU	D8DK	KOREA	9172909

Table 1: Carrier vessel details for vessels identified as conducting encounters with Chinese Longline Vessels in Areas consistent with SBT Catches.

The locations of suspected encounters between these two carrier vessels and the Non-Member tuna longline vessels in the area of interest in 2025 are shown in the image 7 below.

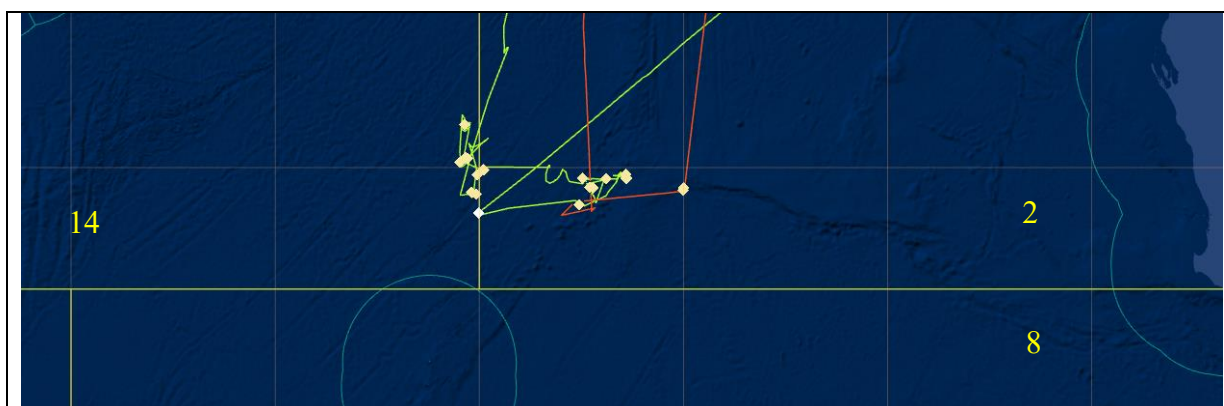


Image 7: Suspected vessel encounters between carrier vessels and Non-Member fishing vessels in area of interest (shown as

⁹ SEIYU is CCSBT authorised, but the vessel does not appear to have had any encounters with CCSBT authorised vessels while in the area of interest.

Consistent with previous years, the carrier vessels that conducted encounters with this fleet both transited directly back to ports in China¹⁰ following these encounters. So, the opportunities for Members to inspect the catch onboard these vessels continue to be limited. This is also the first time in recent years that a Member flagged carrier vessel has conducted suspected transshipments with this fleet.

5. TMT

Analysis Contingency Fund with TMT

In 2018, CCSBT 25 agreed to a small budget (AUD \$20,000) for the Secretariat to contract TMT on an ad-hoc basis to conduct analyses of Automatic Identification System (AIS) data and examine vessel company relationships. An agreement was signed on 1 February 2019 and an initial payment of AUD \$9,969 (USD \$7,000) was made to TMT, with this to be held in an operating fund pending CCSBT analysis requests. As reported last year, USD \$2,300 was used for an analysis completed in 2023 and there remained USD \$4,700 available for TMT analysis support. TMT have conducted some additional analysis on non-Member vessels and activity in 2025 which used a further \$580 USD. Therefore, at the time of writing there remains \$4,120 USD for TMT analytical support. As also reported to CC19, this can include using broader [Joint Analytical Cell](#) (JAC) data and resources, if and as required by CCSBT.

6. Summary

The Secretariat invites Members to:

- Note the communication with Non-Members since CC19;
- Note the balance remaining with TMT in the contingency fund for ad-hoc analysis;
- Note the continued high levels of activity by Non-Member tuna longline vessels in areas where SBT catches are common within the IOTC convention area;
- Note the continued high level of transshipment activity undertaken by these non-Member vessels when fishing in areas where SBT may be present;
- Encourage Members to conduct targeted inspections of any carrier vessels that has been potentially involved in transshipments with non-Member longline vessels fishing in the area of interest, focussing on identifying the presence of SBT;
- Report back to the CC on the result of any such targeted inspection; and
- Proactively seek opportunities to improve information on potential non-Member catches of SBT within IOTC, also considering the discussion in paper [CCSBT-CC/2510/09](#) on the feasibility of genetic testing (Section 4.2).

Prepared by the Secretariat

¹⁰ Seiyu at Qingdao around August 5 2025 and Weihai around August 12 2025 and Feng Lu at Weihai around August 9 2025.