



Update on Seabird Project to Enhance Awareness of and Implementation of Seabird Measures (CC Agenda item 8)

1. Summary

The Seabird Project has concluded work under Elements 1 and 2. Additional workshops are planned under Elements 3 and 4. Under Element 1 (skipper training), and Element 2 (Port inspector and observer training) all 6 planned workshops have been completed, including several that were delivered jointly with BirdLife International and the International Sustainable Seafood Foundation. Under Element 3 (Automated seabird bycatch mitigation monitoring), the project continues to facilitate a series of bi- or trilateral engagements between Member administrations. These were initially capacity building and roadmapping exercises, but may include more tangible activities/developments as they unfold. However, there remains very little time under the current project arrangements with FAO, and Members are encouraged to take maximum advantage of the funding and opportunities before the scheduled end-of-project in March 2026. Element 4 (risk assessment) transitioned from the ERSWG-led process to the Seabird Project in April. Chile and Brazil have confirmed their intention to contribute data to the SEFRA and their inclusion is being facilitated in coordination with the consultant modeller. Members are thanked for their engagements with the project to date.

2. Introduction

The CCSBT Seabird Project commenced in February 2023 and is expected to terminate in early 2026. There has been much progress since the Secretariat reported to this forum (CCSBT-CC/2408/20).

To remind Members, the project aims to assist Members to meet existing obligations that relate to the recording of and reporting on interactions with seabirds and the use of bycatch mitigation measures. Funding is provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), via the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

The project plan provides an integrated and holistic approach to assist Members to meet the stated ambition of the project, namely to be able to demonstrate that their fleets are using mandatory seabird bycatch mitigation measures. The project aims to build capacity within industry and administrations to:

- Improved national systems for the education of fishers, observers and compliance officers;
- Enhanced monitoring of seabird bycatch mitigation measures through technical innovation in automated monitoring systems; and
- Reduction of seabird bycatch in CCSBT fisheries.

3. Progress

The significant progress that was reported at CC19 (2024) has continued. This report covers progress since CC19.

The Project Coordinator attended the Project Steering Committee meeting at FAO headquarters in Rome, 15-17 July 2025. Progress towards stated goals from all Common Oceans' tuna projects was evaluated through a formal Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) process. CCSBT progress was rated as Satisfactory, with no concerns. .

4. Detailed progress

Element 1:

Specific activity: Industry education and outreach on seabird bycatch mitigation measures.

In addition to Element 1 training previously reported, workshops were delivered to skippers from the Taiwanese fleet based in Kaohsiung and the Indonesian fleet operating from Denpasar. In Taiwan, CCSBT and BirdLife International delivered separate skipper training and train-the-trainer workshops (16 and 17 October 2024, respectively), with support from the Taiwan Fisheries Agency and Overseas Fisheries Development Council. The Indonesian skipper workshop (18 February 2025) was delivered with support from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and the Indonesian Tuna Longline Association.

In keeping with the pattern established in previous workshops, Members' officials both attended and contributed substantially to the programs. This active support for the Seabird Project has greatly enhanced the value that participants can gain. These workshops, together with those previously reported, complete the 6 trainings envisaged and funded under the project. Element 1 activities have now concluded.

As previously reported, the educational infographics on seabird mitigation measures for distribution to fishers are available from the [CCSBT website](#).

Element 2:

Specific activity: Capacity-building to enhance monitoring – observer training and compliance officer training.

Several Inspector Training Workshops were held since reporting at CC19 (2024). Two were in Taiwan for inspectors and observers (15 October 2024) and train-the-trainer (16 October 2025). In South Africa, workshops were held for inspectors and other officials based at/near Port Elizabeth (9 December 2024) and Durban (11 December 2024). In Indonesia, workshops were delivered for port inspectors (Jakarta, 10 February) and observers (Denpasar, 19 February 2025). These, together with previously reported training, completes planned Element 2 activities, which has now concluded.

Members are reminded of the mechanism for sharing port inspection information, Item 36, Annex B of the CCSBT Resolution for a Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port. Materials for inspector training are readily available for Members, on request.

Elements 1 and 2 presentation materials are available on request.

Element 3:

Specific Activity: Innovation of automated systems for vessel-level monitoring of seabird bycatch mitigation measures

As has been reported previously, the project continues to strive towards meeting explicit requests from Members in relation to EM capacity building. Initial national workshops have been delivered

for South Africa (9-13 September 2024), with support from New Zealand, Indonesia (12-13 February 2025) with support from Australia and New Zealand, and South Korea (26-27 March 2025), supported by New Zealand. Both the South African and Indonesian workshops produced roadmaps for further engagement. There is no further progress to report regarding South Africa's engagements with this opportunity. Indonesia has requested a second workshop, which will be held in Bali, immediately following the Extended Commission meeting in October 2025.

Element 4:

Specific activity: Updated global seabird risk assessment.

The collaborative work on the Spatially Explicit Fisheries Risk Assessment (SEFRA) model that was developed by CCSBT Members through the ERSWG will be utilised as the basis of Element 4 activity, as noted in the ERSWG Chair's report from the ERS-tech meeting held in Wellington, New Zealand in April (CCSBT-EC/2510/14, including the CCSBT SEFRA Technical Report 2025).

Given the conclusion to the ERSWG-led SEFRA process, including consensus that the model structure, parameterisation and provisional results were appropriate, no changes to any of these aspects will be considered. The Coordinator was tasked to secure participation from data holders representing fleets with sizeable levels of effort in areas south of 20°S, and which also hold representative observer datasets covering those geographies. Those efforts have now concluded. With notable support from Project partners BirdLife International and ACAP, Chile and Brazil have confirmed their intention to contribute data to the SEFRA. The inclusion of those fleets is being facilitated in coordination with the consultant modeller and with support from the ERSWG Chair. Members are congratulated for working constructively through the ERSWG and ERS-Tech processes to achieve a fully functioning SEFRA model. The Secretariat extends its special thanks to Dr Cryer (ERSWG Chair) for his willingness to participate in further Seabird Project Element 4 activities and the overall support and guidance.

Prepared by the Seabird Project Coordinator