



CCSBT-EC/2510/12

Strategic Plan Progress Report (EC agenda item 8)

Purpose

To provide a progress report against the Strategic Plan workplan items, including feedback from relevant subsidiary bodies.

Background

At CCSBT 30, Members adopted a revised Strategic Plan¹ that outlines a common vision for how the Commission will operate in order to meet the overall objective of the Convention. The Strategic Plan also provides the following vision and set of goals in support of the overall objective.

Vision and goals

Management of SBT

The Commission agrees the SBT tuna stock is to be managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ecologically related species are mitigated.

- This includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation and ecologically related species.
- This also includes consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety.

Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat

It was agreed the Commission should operate effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT.

- This includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, including harmonisation with other RFMOs.

Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance.

Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions.

- This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries.

¹ www.ccsbt.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/file/docs_english/operational_resolutions/CCSBT_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Strategic Plan Items of Relevance to the Extended Commission

The Strategy includes several actions that are to be carried out by the Extended Commission (EC). The following elements of the Action Plan and Ongoing Work Plan have been identified as relevant to the work of the EC.

Action Plan

- **PR2021-29:** Due to the central importance of spawning and recruitment for stock rebuilding, additional efforts should be made to develop, in Indonesian waters, spatio-temporal restrictions, equitable and compatible with the rest of the management strategy.
- **PR2021-07:** Improve transparency by providing and making public, historical data and information that are not currently accessible in the public domain.
- **PR2021-72:** Formalise a reserve/savings fund to be utilised in extraordinary circumstances.
- **PR2021-73:** Develop mechanisms to improve communication between the Finance and Administration Committee and various subsidiary bodies.
- **PR2021-31:** Review the existing allocation mechanism to ensure that it reflects the current makeup of the Membership and principles of international law.
- **PR2021-32:** Modify the CCSBT Convention to include modern fisheries management concepts agreed by Members at the international level.
- **PR2021-34:** The CCSBT should consider alternative decision-making models in the CCSBT Convention modernising processes.
- The CCSBT should review transparency of decision-making by reviewing the CCSBT's Rules of Procedure or other options.
- **PR2021-35:** The CCSBT should consider developing an alternative approach to dispute settlement/ conflict resolution to avoid the potential for future stalemates that could significantly compromise the conservation and management of SBT resources.
- **PR2021-58:** Access to the CCSBT compendium of measures is made available on the public portion of the CCSBT website.
- Improve existing guidelines to determine what, if any, allocation should be made to new Members and CNMs.
- Consider the introduction of a science management dialogue to be held, as required, between scientists and fisheries managers
- **PR2021-22:** Using the recommendations from the Performance Review, formulate and implement a capacity-building work plan to improve data collection, scientific analysis, and compliance related activities.

Ongoing Work Plan

- **PR2021-01:** Members continue to support the MP, by remaining within their allocation limits, and eliminating areas of uncertainty such as Non-Member catches that could undermine its performance.

- **PR2021-24:** CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.
- **PR2021-71:** Maintain a healthy flow of income (through Member's contribution and other sources) that exceeds CCSBT's expenses.
- Apply the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Program to countries and/or entities who join the Commission in the future. Ongoing QAR program for existing Members is subject to the decision by the EC based on further advice from the Compliance Committee.
- **PR2021-74:** Encourage earlier nominations for Chair of CCSBT from hosting Members ahead of Commission meetings
- **PR2021-75:** Encourage the re-election of Chairs for up to 4 years as is allowed in 4(1) of the Rules of Procedure to provide better governance of the CCSBT.
- **PR2021-57:** Process for review of external documents, including possible non-compliance on the part of Members, should be monitored to ensure that it does not create a barrier for external engagement with the CCSBT.
- Encourage non-Members to increase engagement in CCSBT processes, including joining the CCSBT and utilising the CDS
- **PR2021-44:** Continue to formalise and strengthen information sharing with other RFMO secretariats and alternative information sources.
- **PR2021-56:** Use of head of delegation meetings at the EC should be minimised to the extent possible.
- **PR2021-64:** Members look for additional opportunities to engage with one another outside of the traditional meeting dates of the CCSBT to ensure that the limited time available at CCSBT meetings is maximised.
- **PR2021-63:** Members look for opportunities to continue and reinvigorate the cooperation instigated through the Kobe Process.
- **PR2021-68:** Continue to engage with Kobe intersessional processes, particularly as they relate to areas of shared interests.

Monitoring and Implementation

To ensure that the objectives of the Strategic Plan are met, the plan outlines a process that commits to annual monitoring and reporting against the actions agreed under the plan. The EC has been tasked to review the progress made with the Secretariat holding responsibility for compiling the information necessary for the EC to conduct its annual monitoring review.

The Strategic Plan states that "Subsidiary bodies holding responsibility for particular action items are expected to report back on the progress of those activities as part of their respective meeting reports".

As a subsidiary body, the ESC has reported back its progress and it is included in **Attachment A**. There is no progress report from the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (as no meeting in this year) and the Compliance Committee (as its meeting had not concluded at the time of writing).

Initial Recommendations from Secretariat

The Secretariat has provided draft responses to some of the actions in the Action Plan which relate to the upcoming year. Some of the items worth noting include the following:

1. An action that would move the existing CCSBT compendium from the Private Area of the website to make it available to the public. **PR2021-07**
 - This recommendation is based on previous discussions with Members on this topic. The information currently available in the compendium is generated entirely from meeting reports and intersessional decisions. This information is therefore not sensitive and can be released with minimal risk to the Commission.
2. To continue FAC pre-meeting engagement along with participation from subsidiary body Chairs in the FAC. **PR2021-73**
 - Earlier FAC engagement is encouraged as it may stimulate inter-delegation conversations between managers and scientists ahead of each year's ESC. Participation from subsidiary body Chair also provides the FAC with the ability to seek clarification on the advice received from subsidiary bodies.

The Secretariat is also not recommending any further action in relation to potential changes to CCSBT's Rules of Procedure.

The EC was asked to consider revising the Rules of Procedure (or other alternatives) to bring increased transparency to the decision-making process. The Secretariat has found that although broad criticisms relating to the lack of RFMO transparency are common across civil society organisations, these are not directly targeted at CCSBT and often lament practices that are not carried out in this Commission. For instance, the CCSBT allows observers to engage in the proceedings of all subsidiary bodies, which is not always the case in other RFMOs. Decision of the Commission are also typically available to the public within days of the close of the meeting.

It appears that what criticisms were received as part of the Performance Review process were primarily related to the use of Heads of Delegation meetings where observers are excluded. In its review, the Secretariat has found that the use of Heads of Delegations is largely constrained to those instances where allocation negotiations are involved or discussions relating directly to personnel appointments. The Secretariat argues that maintaining confidentiality around sensitive topics such as allocation is essential to reaching consensus and/or allowing candid conversations between Members. The Secretariat further suggest that this item is largely addressed through the actions undertaken under **PR2021-56**, which aim to minimise the use of Heads of Delegation meetings.

Review of Strategic Plan

The current Strategic Plan covers the period from 2023 to 2028 and consideration should now be given to its next iteration. The past practice at CCSBT has been to undertake an independent Performance Review to support the development of the Strategic Plan. Should Members wish to retain this approach then preparations for this process will need to begin in 2026 with the development of revised Terms of Reference. Once Terms of Reference for the next review have been adopted, the Secretariat will be able to develop a workplan and budget for the work required. An indicative timeline for the next review is provided below:

Proposed Action	Timing
Secretariat to draft revised Terms of Reference for next Performance Review	Q2 2026
Members to comment on initial draft Terms of Reference as part of intersessional process	Prior to CCSBT 33
Secretariat to develop draft budget for Performance Review	Prior to CCSBT 33
Members to adopt Performance Review Terms of Reference and budget	CCSBT 33
Secretariat to seek nominations from Members for potential Panel Members	Q1 2027
Performance Review Panel Members appointed	Q2 2027
Performance Review begins	Q2 2027
Performance Review Report presented to Members	CCSBT 34
Members to work intersessionally to draft update of Strategic Plan	Q4 2027 to Q2 2028
Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group to finalise update of Strategic Plan	Q3 2028

Next Steps

In 2024, the EC considered relevant items of the Strategic Plan following the agreed template and adopted its “Report from the Extended Commission on Progress Against Strategic Plan” as Attachment 12 of the report of EC 31.

For the EC’s discussion to update this progress report, the Secretariat has provided some initial views on updates against items assigned to the EC as tracked changes (see **Attachment B**). Members are asked to update the assessment of progress against those activities assigned to the EC, by updating the previously agreed reporting template in Attachment B.

The Secretariat recommends that:

- 1) As a part of the pre-meeting discussion process, Members provide their suggested changes/additions to **Attachment B**. The Secretariat will send a link to the shared document so that Members may edit the same file.
- 2) The Secretariat will submit the initial edited version to the EC as a Working Paper,
- 3) During the EC meeting, the EC will determine if further discussion of the Working Paper is required. If necessary, the EC convenes a small group to discuss the Working Paper, and the Small Group will meet in the margins of the plenary meeting and finalise the draft progress report.
- 4) If required, the small group submits a draft revised progress report as a new working paper for the EC’s plenary discussion.
- 5) EC includes the agreed report as an Attachment to its final meeting report.
- 6) The EC considers the proposed process for the next review of the Strategic Plan

Prepared by the Secretariat

Report from CCSBT Subsidiary Bodies on Progress Against Strategic Plan	
Subsidiary Body: ESC	Year: 2025
Vision and Goals	
	Comments from Subsidiary Body
Management of SBT The Commission agrees the SBT tuna stock is to be managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ecologically related species are mitigated. • This includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation and ecologically related species. • This also includes consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety.	ESC supports the vision as described here. ESC has contributed to SBT stock rebuilding and management advice based on scientific evidence. The ESC considers that the SBT tuna stock is being rebuilt towards a biomass level that will support the MSY. The most recent stock assessment indicates that the stock is rebuilding at approximately 5% per year and is currently estimated to be at 23% of TRO₀. The ESC notes that demonstrating progress towards stock rebuilding has and will continue to rely on the substantial investment in innovative science including in genetic studies that has allowed a robust estimate of population size to support decision making on TACs, monitoring stock recovery and demonstrating progress towards the rebuilding targets. The current MP is based on sound science and processes which are unique in their approach to tuna fisheries management relative to approaches in other related RFMOs. The ESC provides advice on TACs based on a fully tested management procedure (MP). The ESC also applies an annual metarule framework to the MP that includes an annual review of indicators and a process to assess whether or not exceptional circumstances have occurred. The ESC notes advice from the ERSWG to the EC on ecologically related species, including seabirds. While not the responsibility of ESC, marine pollution and human safety is an important issue.
Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat It was agreed the Commission should operate effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT.	ESC supports the strategic goals on the operation/administration of the Commission and Secretariat, and considers that opportunities for harmonising with other RFMOs should continue to be pursued, including for developing electronic monitoring (EM) standards. The ESC has regularly reviewed and updated the Scientific Research Plan as well as the associated schedule and budget implications.

This includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, including harmonisation with other RFMOs.	The Commission and Secretariat should be aware of any implications that arise from the BBNJ agreement.	
Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions. This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries.	The ESC also considers there has been progress with participation in ESC meetings and will continue to work toward the goal of maximising participation by all Members. The ESC notes that a robust monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) program is critical to the assessment of the SBT and its recovery. The ESC also notes the importance of adequate observer coverage. The ESC has encouraged timely data collection and submission, and there has been some improvement recently. The ESC notes the importance of identifying any non-compliance, and the reasons for that non-compliance.	
Action Plan		
Action	Progress since previous report	Planned work
PR2021-02: Explore the need for additional measures (such as protected areas and area closures) to support spawning and recruitment.	As noted in the ESC28 Report, the ESC considers that there is no need for protected areas or area closures to protect the SBT spawning grounds.	Nil for ESC.
Further increase efforts, including analysis on the application of electronic monitoring, to improve and supplement observer coverage in accordance with Scientific Observer Program Standard (SOPS).	The ESC recently undertook a review of the potential impacts of EM on the collection of the data currently required under the existing SOPS. Members agreed to include an agenda item to address issues relating to EM/S in future meetings of the ESC. At ESC 29, Members with operational EM programs agreed to work together intersessionally and to present to ESC 30 regarding how information is collected by EM and how this meets the requirements of the SOPS.	The ESC considers that there is merit in ensuring the development of the CCSBT EM standards is aligned with other relevant RFMOs. The ESC notes that the work planned is taking place as part of the Seabird Project to support capacity development in the area of electronic monitoring.

	Intersessional work is ongoing and Members intend to present this at ESC 31.	
Prioritise the establishment and ongoing review of long-term research strategic planning in the ESC.	Each ESC includes this as a standing item on the Scientific Research Plan, including a procedure for evaluating new research proposals.	Continue current annual process.
Ongoing Work Plan		
Action	Changes since previous report	Planned work
PR2021-01: Members continue to support the MP, by remaining within their allocation limits, and eliminating areas of uncertainty such as Non-Member catches that could undermine its performance.	ESC Members actively participated in the MP development and implementation through their research activities. This also includes assessing whether there have been exceptional circumstances. ESC30 concluded there are exceptional circumstances due to the changes in the gene tagging program resulting from the budget reduction. This has the potential to undermine the MP. The ESC recommends that this be addressed immediately by reinstating the budget for the 2026 gene tagging program. The ESC considered non-member catches in the 2023 stock assessment and recommended a TAC to CCSBT based on an estimated level of unaccounted mortality.	The ESC notes the importance of a strong compliance framework to ensure that catch limits are maintained. Consider further analysis of markets to better understand possible non-member catch. Non-member catch estimation is planned for 2026 as part of CCSBT's SRP project.
PR2021-26: Continue monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the rebuilding strategy for SBT	The ESC supports this action and notes that this has been made possible through the implementation of the Close Kin, Gene Tagging and efforts to improve the standardisation of CPUE projects.	ESC recommends continued support for and implementation of science projects to meet this action under the CCSBT Strategic Plan. Funding priority should be given to the monitoring programs that provide input data to the MP and implementation of the MP, to ensure that robust advice is given to the

	The ESC strongly recommends establishing a long-term funding arrangement for the GT program and other monitoring programs that provide input data to the MP. The ESC has monitored and discussed the national reports and results, and progress of the research activities. Ongoing work around development of EM standards for CCSBT.	Commission to meet the objectives of conservation and optimal utilisation of the stock.
PR2021-12: Continue to develop and embed innovative methods such as gene-tagging and close kin mark-recapture to improve scientific processes.	Updates to the Operating Model have been progressed. ESC has discussed and reviewed the progress and results of gene-tagging and Close Kin regularly. As described above in PR2021-01, the ESC recommends the gene tagging budget be reinstated for 2026 .	Finalise upgrades to the operating model which will be used for the stock assessment in 2026.
PR2021-24: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.	Implementation of CMM's has been possible given a robust stock assessment conducted in 2023. Updates to the operating model have progressed in preparation for running the stock assessment in 2026. The Management Procedure has been run in 2025 to provide advice on the SBT TAC for the next CMM. ESC 30 also considered opportunities to strengthen the relationship between ERSWG and ESC.	The ESC supports progress towards this action and notes effective monitoring of fishing activity, including through observer coverage or EM programs, is essential. The ESC also notes that implementation of CMM's relies on a strong compliance program.
PR2021-55: ESC to improve accessibility of reports to non-technical readers.	ESC has developed and made available each meeting report. This has included a Chair's summary for each ESC in non-technical language to help facilitate communication with the EC/other subsidiary bodies.	Continue the current process.
Ensure members are submitting high quality, clear, consistent, and completed reporting.	ESC has encouraged all Members to submit annual reports, and there have been some improvements recently.	The ESC will continue to encourage all Members to submit high quality, clear, consistent and completed reports.

	The ESC notes that not all Members submit reports as required.	
PR2021-16: Continue to study the spatial aspects of the SBT stock structure and movements, and the fleets that exploit SBT.	Tagging projects continue to be delivered to improve understanding of stock structure. The ESC now has a standing Agenda Item “Potential impacts of climate change”.	Work developing a multiple fleet CPUE index (addressing effects of contraction of the spatial distribution of the core Japanese fleet) is proposed in the SRP.

Report from the Extended Commission on Progress Against Strategic Plan 2025⁵⁴

Vision and Goals

	Comments from Extended Commission
Management of SBT The Commission agrees the SBT tuna stock is to be managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ecologically related species are mitigated. • This includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation and ecologically related species. • This also includes consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety.	<i>Strategies concerning stock rebuilding</i> The EC has adopted and implemented measures to rebuild the SBT stock based on the scientific advice/recommendation from ESC, EC supports continuation of the scientific studies and research which would enable the ESC to come up with a robust estimate of population size and more precise stock assessment and risks on future assessments. The implementation of the commission decisions are evaluated in the compliance meeting. <i>Strategies concerning ecologically related species</i> The level of interaction between seabirds and SBT fisheries remains a significant concern for the EC. Although the EC has been prioritising seabirds in considering mitigation measures for ecologically related species and CCSBT requires vessels to comply with the measures of the RFMO in the Convention area of which the vessels are fishing, targeted action to mitigate the risk of SBT fishing to seabirds in areas with a high risk of interaction with endangered seabird species is under discussion. CCSBT Members have been advised by the ERSWG to consider taking further actions that would ensure robust seabird mitigation measures and effective monitoring of implementation of the mitigation measures, whilst minimising impacts on SBT surface longline fisheries effort but to date no actions have been taken by the EC regarding that advice. The ERS Tech 2025 Progress has been made towards completing a Spatially Explicit Fisheries Risk Assessment (SEFRA) for seabirds. Further refinement of this assessment together with actioning the Commission's Multi-year Seabird Strategy is expected to guide much needed action to ensure robust seabird mitigation measures and effective monitoring, whilst minimising impacts on SBT surface longline fisheries effort.

	<i>Consideration and review of other risks (pollution and human safety)</i> Although there have not been discussions in the Extended Commission recently on the issues such as marine pollution, and human safety, the EC may wish to consider adopting the rules of other relevant RFMOs on these issues. The EC recognises that all SBT fishing operations need to promote human safety.
Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat It was agreed the Commission should operate effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT. • This includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, including harmonisation with other RFMOs.	The EC developed the Strategic Action Plan to ensure that the Commission operates effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage SBT fisheries, and updates the Plan regularly. CCSBT maintains compliance relationships with relevant bodies and organisations, and ensures effective and ongoing engagement with other tuna RFMO Secretariats where SBT is harvested. Recognising the need to build capacity for coastal developing states and to improve data collection, scientific analysis, and compliance related activities, the EC agreed a Capacity Building Workplan at CCSBT 31, and first Needs Assessments were completed at ESC and CC in 2025.
Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions. • This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries.	CCSBT has Meeting Participation Fund and Corrective Actions Policy in place. EC will review them from time to time and make improvements/revisions if necessary.
Action Plan	

Action	Progress since previous report	Planned work
PR2021-29: Due to the central importance of spawning and recruitment for stock rebuilding, additional efforts should be made to develop, in Indonesian waters, spatio-temporal restrictions, equitable and compatible with the rest of the management strategy.	Shared responsibility with the ESC and scheduled for delivery in 2026/27. Advice from the ESC to date (see Attachment A) suggests no further action be taken under this recommendation. The CCSBT Strategic Plan has identified that protected areas and spatial-temporal restriction in the spawning ground will be very challenging and put it as low priority.	<u>Based on the most recent advice from ESC, no further actions planned at this stage.</u>
PR2021-07: Improve transparency by providing and making public, historical data and information that are not currently accessible in the public domain.	Scheduled for delivery in the longer term (2028 and beyond). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date.	<u>The CCSBT Compendium, including the EC's intersessional decisions, will become publicly available after EC 32.</u>
PR2021-72: Formalise a reserve/savings fund to be utilised in extraordinary circumstances.	Reports to EC/FAC now include greater transparency on the availability of funds for savings. The CCSBT is currently drawing down on its savings.	Current priority is to bring balance to income and expenditure so that savings can be rebuilt.
PR2021-73: Develop mechanisms to improve communication between the Finance and Administration Committee and various subsidiary bodies.	Main mechanism for communication continues to be the attendance of the CC and ESC Chair at the FAC and through the Membership.	<u>Continue the FAC's pre-meeting discussion process and participation from subsidiary body Chairs in the FAC.</u>
PR2021-31: Review the existing allocation mechanism to ensure that it reflects the current makeup of the Membership and principles of international law.	Allocation is a standing agenda item at the EC where Members can review existing allocation mechanisms. At CCSBT 30, Members expressed an openness to discussing a possible way forward to address the position that Indonesia is in, which may include a review of allocation percentages.	The allocation discussion should be concluded as soon as possible, recognising the challenges of developing States.

	Indonesia initiated the discussion on the review of the existing allocation. Members were asked to submit any proposals and documents on allocation by 1 August 2025.	
PR2021-32: Modify the CCSBT Convention to include modern fisheries management concepts agreed by Members at the international level.	Scheduled for delivery in the longer term (2028 and beyond). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date. No proposal was made before EC 32.	
PR2021-34: The CCSBT should consider alternative decision-making models in the CCSBT Convention modernising processes.	Scheduled for delivery in the medium to long term (2027/28). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date. No proposal was made before EC 32.	
The CCSBT should review transparency of decision-making by reviewing the CCSBT's Rules of Procedure or other options.	Identified as a low priority for short-term (2024/25). Secretariat presented its initial review at CCSBT 32.	Secretariat to present initial review at CCSBT 32. No further action required.
PR2021-35: The CCSBT should consider developing an alternative approach to dispute settlement/ conflict resolution to avoid the potential for future stalemates that could significantly compromise the conservation and management of SBT resources.	Identified as a low priority for delivery in the longer term (2028 and beyond). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date. No proposal was made before EC 32.	
PR2021-58: Access to the CCSBT compendium of measures is made available on the public portion of the CCSBT website.	Scheduled for delivery in the medium term (2025/6). Secretariat presented options at CCSBT 32 for possible implementation in 2026.	Secretariat to publish the CCSBT Compendium after present options at CCSBT 32 for possible implementation in 2026.

Improve existing guidelines to determine what, if any, allocation should be made to new Members and CNMs.	At CCSBT 30, Japan suggested revising provisions related to allocations for new Members or CNMs to remove any ambiguity and improve the procedures. Members collaborated on a revised draft of the proposal put forward by Japan and agreed to the amended resolution	No further action planned.
Consider the introduction of a science management dialogue to be held, as required, between scientists and fisheries managers	Scheduled for delivery in the medium-term (2025/6). Members were requested to provide initial consideration at CCSBT 32.	Members to provide initial consideration at CCSBT 32.
PR2021-22: Using the recommendations from the Performance Review, formulate and implement a capacity-building work plan to improve data collection, scientific analysis, and compliance related activities.	CCSBT 31 has agreed to a Capacity-Building Workplan. ESC and CC completed their initial needs assessments for consideration at CCSBT 32.	Implementation of the Capacity Building Workplan. ERSWG 16 in 2026 will complete its initial needs assessment.
Ongoing Work Plan		
Action	Changes since previous report	Planned work
PR2021-01: Members continue to support the MP, by remaining within their allocation limits, and eliminating areas of uncertainty such as Non-Member catches that could undermine its performance.	All Member catches are currently within their respective allocations.	Continue the current regime.
PR2021-24: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.	At CCSBT 30, Members set the TAC based on the advice received from ESC. CCSBT Members have been advised by the ERSWG to consider taking further actions that would ensure robust seabird mitigation measures and effective monitoring of implementation of the mitigation	

	measures, whilst minimising impacts on SBT surface longline fisheries effort but to date no actions have been taken by the EC regarding that advice. ERS initiatives and measures need to align with works from other tuna RFMOs such as WCFPC and IOTC.	
PR2021-71: Maintain a healthy flow of income (through Member's contribution and other sources) that exceeds CCSBT's expenses.	Recently, expenses have exceeded income. Members agreed on a 5% increase in Member contributions at CCSBT 3¹⁹. <u>Members to consider new Member fee proposal at CCSBT 32.</u>	
Apply the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Program to countries and/or entities who join the Commission in the future. Ongoing QAR program for existing Members is subject to the decision by the EC based on further advice from the Compliance Committee.	CCSBT 31 agreed to draft Terms of Reference for a targeted QAR of the Indonesian transshipment observer trial. for consideration at CC 20 <u>discussed the QAR report.</u>	
PR2021-74: Encourage earlier nominations for Chair of CCSBT from hosting Members ahead of Commission meetings	CCSBT 31 Chair nomination received in April, which was sufficiently early to avoid impacting on Commission processes.	<u>Executive Secretary to engage with EU as host of 2026 meetings to secure commitment for Chair.</u>
PR2021-75: Encourage the re-election of Chairs for up to 4 years as is allowed in 4(1) of the Rules of Procedure to provide better governance of the CCSBT.	At CCSBT 31, Members chose to maintain rotation of Chair with hosting Member in 202⁵⁴.	
PR2021-57: Process for review of external documents, including possible non-compliance on the part of Members, should be monitored	One paper was reviewed as part of this process at CCSBT 30 and was accepted. No papers have	

to ensure that it does not create a barrier for external engagement with the CCSBT.	been subject to review as part of CCSBT 31 and CCSBT 32 .	
Encourage non-Members to increase engagement in CCSBT processes, including joining the CCSBT and utilising the CDS	On the advice of Members, the Secretariat continues to reach out to non-Members and encourage cooperation. CCSBT members have agreed for the United States to participate in the electronic Catch Documentation Scheme (eCDS).	
PR2021-44: Continue to formalise and strengthen information sharing with other RFMO secretariats and alternative information sources.	Secretariat maintains relationships with several RFMOs through both formal and informal agreements. Updates have also been proposed to the ICCAT and IOTC MoU. WCPFC attended the CCSBT EC31 meeting as an observer.	ContinueSupport proposal for more -regular t-RFMO engagement in lieu of Kobe Process. Renew MoU with CCAMLR
PR2021-56: Use of head of delegation meetings at the EC should be minimised to the extent possible.	Heads of Delegation meetings were used as part of CCSBT 31 ¹⁰ , but it was only one time before the EC meeting starts and was limited to the initial conversation on important matters from each Member's perspectiveparticularly in relation to allocation discussions. All further discussions took place in plenary.	
PR2021-64: Members look for additional opportunities to engage with one another outside of the traditional meeting dates of the CCSBT to ensure that the limited time available at CCSBT meetings is maximised.	Bilateral engagement continues to occur between Member administrations. Additional engagement was also supported as part of the Seabird Project. New Zealand provided its support for workshops in South Africa, Indonesia and Korea, and Australia for a workshop in Indonesia.	

PR2021-63: Members look for opportunities to continue and reinvigorate the cooperation instigated through the Kobe Process.	In lieu of the Kobe process, cooperation opportunities now centred around Regional Secretariat's Network and Tuna Compliance Network. Support proposal for more regular t-RFMO engagement in lieu of Kobe Process.	Continue Support proposal for regular t-RFMO engagement in lieu of Kobe Process.
PR2021-68: Continue to engage with Kobe intersessional processes, particularly as they relate to areas of shared interests.	See earlier recommendation	