Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna

みなみまぐろ保存委員会

CCSBT-ERS/2603/05

Progress on Action Items from the ERSWG 15 Workplan
(ERSWG Agenda Item 4)

Introduction

The last meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG 15) was held from 4-7 June 2024 in Tokyo, Japan. That meeting developed a workplan for activities to be conducted between ERSWG 15 and ERSWG 16. This paper provides a brief update on progress with the workplan.

Progress against Workplan

The first three columns of the table below represent the workplan from ERSWG 15. The additional columns of the table indicate the ERSWG 16 agenda item in which the activity may be further discussed together with a brief description of progress made.

Completed items are shaded in the table below.

Activity	Approximate Period	Resource	Agenda Item	Progress to date
Share the result of the project investigating new tori line designs once it is completed.	When the work completed	Australia	Agenda item 2.1	Australia will provide an update.
Indonesia to provide answers to questions to Indonesia's national report by other Members.	As soon as possible	Indonesia	Agenda item 2.1	Indonesia provided its national report to ERS Tech 2025, but no answers to questions were included.
Progress collaborative SEFRA work in accordance with Attachment 5 of the ERSWG15 report (SEFRA workplan, including resource requirements)	As specified in Attachment 5 of the ERSWG15 report	Members, ACAP, BLI, Secretariat	Agenda item 5.1.2	Completed. The 2025 SEFRA Technical Report was adopted by EC 32.

Activity	Approximate Period	Resource	Agenda Item	Progress to date
Safety guidance about HPAI H5N1 zoonotic affecting wild bird populations on how best to handle seabirds in a way that minimises the risk to both the seabird and the fishing crew would be publicly available once completed.	When the work completed	ACAP	Agenda item 5.1.4	Completed. The safety guidance infographic was published in December 2024 and is available at this link[1].
Submit the Report from ERSWG on Progress Against Strategic Plan to EC.	EC31	Secretariat	Agenda item 6	Completed. ERSWG 16 will update the progress report.
Develop a list of non-target shark species to be covered by the ERS and Bycatch Action Plan.	ERS-Tech 2025	Members	Agenda item 5.2.3 and 5.3	Completed. ERSWG 16 will review the progress against the agreed ERS Bycatch Strategy.
Add hook-shielding devices as one of the mitigation types captures as part of the EDE.	EC31	Secretariat	Agenda item 2.2	Completed.
Progress Multi-Year Seabird Strategy Action items in accordance with Attachment 8 of the ERSWG15 report including by convening an intersessional working group	As specified in Attachment 8 of the ERSWG15 report	Members, ACAP, BLI, Secretariat	Agenda item 5	Intersessional SEFRA Technical Group and ERS Tech 2025 finalised the CCSBT SEFRA model. CC20 considered Objective 4 items.
Members utilise the FAO funded Seabird Project to Enhance the Implementation of Seabird Measures.	2024–2025	Members	Agenda item 8	Planned Element 1–3 activities completed. Element 4 report will be finalised before ERSWG 16. Members to provide update to ERSWG16 on any activities to enhance implementation of seabird measures.

Prepared by the Secretariat

[1] https://www.acap.aq/resources/disease-threats/avian-flu/4874-avian-flu-alert-for-fishers/file