Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna

みなみまぐろ保存委員会

CCSBT-ERS/2603/10

Report Against Strategic Plan
(ERSWG Agenda Item 6)

Background

At CCSBT 30 in 2023, Members adopted a revised Strategic Plan[1] 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 ERSWG

The Strategy also includes several actions that are to be carried out by the Commission's various subsidiary bodies. The following elements of the Action Plan and Ongoing Work Plan have been identified as relevant to the work of the ERSWG.

Action Plan

- Noting the Multi-year Seabird Strategy adopted at ERSWG 14, develop an Ecologically Related Species and Bycatch Action Plan based on the recommendations from the Performance Review.

Ongoing Work Plan

- **PR2021-24**: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.
- **PR2021-25**: CCSBT members should continue to strengthen the implementation of the IPOAs and FAO guidelines in fishing operations.
- **PR2021-13**: Achieve a better balance between the scientific efforts dedicated to SBT and ERS.

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 Extend Commission (EC) will 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". The ERSWG needs to complete this assessment and report to the EC in accordance with this requirement.

Next Steps

In 2024, the ERSWG considered ERSWG-relevant items of the Strategic Plan following the agreed template and provided its "Report from the ERSWG on Progress against Strategic Plan" to the Extended Commission, as Attachment 6 of the report of ERSWG 15.

At ERSWG 16 in 2026, Members are asked to update their assessment of progress against those activities assigned to the ERSWG, by updating the previously agreed progress report in **Attachment A**.

In **Attachment A**, the Secretariat provided some preliminary updates as tracked changes. Yellow-highlighted sections must be updated following the ERSWG 16's discussion.

The Secretariat recommends that:

1) As a part of the pre-meeting discussion process, Members provide their suggested changes/additions to **Attachment A** by 17 February 2026 (two weeks before the ERSWG meeting starts).

2) The Secretariat will, in consultation with the ERSWG Chair, submit the initial edited version to the ERSWG as a Working Paper by 24 February 2026 (a week before the ERSWG meeting starts).
3) During the ERSWG meeting, Members will determine if further discussion of the Working Paper is required. If necessary, the ERSWG will convene a small group to discuss the Working Paper. The Small Group will work, through in-person and online discussions as appropriate (given the hybrid format for ERSWG16), to reflect on outcomes from ERSWG 16 and finalise the draft progress report.
4) The Small Group will submit a draft revised progress report as a new working paper for the ERSWG's plenary discussion.
5) ERSWG will include the agreed report as an Attachment to its meeting report.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Attachment A

Report from CCSBT Subsidiary Bodies on Progress Against Strategic Plan	
Subsidiary Body: ERSWG	**Year: 2026~~4~~**
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.	• ERSWG ~~is~~ developed~~ing~~ an ERS and Bycatch Action Plan, ~~for consideration~~ and EC 32 adopted~~ion by EC~~ the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Bycatch Strategy. • ERSWG has adopted and is in the process of actioning the Multi-year Seabird Strategy • ERSWG is undertaking a SEFRA risk assessment for seabirds.~~,~~ The CCSBT SEFRA model was finalised in 2025, and the EC 32 approved the 2025 SEFRA Technical Report. • ~~which could~~The CCSBT SEFRA model ~~eventually~~ contributed to the ~~ongoing FAO work~~the Global Risk Assessment for Seabirds under the CCSBT Seabird Project funded by ~~previous~~ Common Oceans ABNJ II project.
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.	• ERSWG 15 has developed and agreed on new Terms of Reference for the ERS Technical Group, and ERSTech2025 was held in April 2025 in Wellington as a hybrid meeting. • ERSWG has agreed to meet on an annual basis by including a technical working group in the years where ERSWG does not meet to continuously advance the work outlined under such initiatives as the Seabird Strategy and the Bycatch Reduction Strategy.

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 CCSBT Seabird Project has~~is~~ actively engaged~~ing~~ with Members to improve on MCS measures, specifically emphasising engagement with developing countries. • Members reported ERS data submission[2], mitigation measures and education. In addition, some members took part in the evaluation on mitigation measures, assesment of SBT-fishery-bird interaction, and outreach activities through the Seabird Project.	
Action Plan		
Action	**Progress since previous report**	**Planned work**
Noting the Multi-year Seabird Strategy adopted at ERSWG 14, develop an Ecologically Related Species and Bycatch Action Plan based on the recommendations from the Performance Review.	• ~~ERSWG has developed and agreed to an~~ CCSBT 32 in 2025 adopted the ERS ~~and~~ Bycatch Strategy~~Action Plan~~.	• This Action is completed. • ERSWG and Members are~~is~~ committed to actioning the adopted~~objectives of the~~ ERS ~~and~~ Bycatch Strategy~~Action Plan per the timeline agreed to at the ERSWG15~~.
Ongoing Work Plan		
Action	**Changes since previous report**	**Planned work**
PR2021-24: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.	• ERSWG15 updated its advice to EC on seabirds.	
PR2021-25: CCSBT members should continue to strengthen the implementation of the IPOAs and FAO guidelines in fishing operations.	• In 2024, Members noted that some NPOAs have been adopted ~~since the previous report~~, e.g. Australia's NPOA-Sharks, South Africa's NPOA-Sharks.	• Members continue to review NPOAs in line with IPOAs and FAO guidelines.

[2] The inablitiy of some Members to reach the target level of observer coverage is constraining availablity of useful ERS data for analysis.

	• Indonesia planned to update its NPOA-Seabirds in 2025.	
PR2021-13: Achieve a better balance between the scientific efforts dedicated to SBT and ERS.	• ERSWG has undertaken a technical SEFRA risk assessment examining the risk to ACAP seabirds from CCSBT fisheries. ~~ERSWG15 made recommendations to the EC on the future of the SEFRA initiative for consideration at EC31.~~ • Members provided extensive effort to the intersessional SEFRA work in 2024 and 2025, including many meetings of the SEFRA Technical Group and the ERSTech, and the CCSBT SEFRA model was finalised. • CCSBT 32 approved the 2025 SEFRA Technical Report to support the ERSWG's ongoing work in line with the CCSBT's Multi-Year Seabird Strategy.	• The future of the SEFRA initiative will be dependent on the decision of the EC, however, could entail additional iterations using supplementary Member data, implementing additional mitigation/monitoring measures in high risk areas, and/or socialising the work with other RFMOs.