Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna

みなみまぐろ保存委員会

CCSBT–ERS/2603/12

Update on Seabird Project to Enhance Awareness of and Implementation of Seabird Measures

(ERSWG Agenda Item 8)

1. Introduction

Updates to Members on activities of the Seabird Project since the 20th meeting of the Compliance Committee in October 2025 (the previous report to Members). The four elements of the project are:

1) Skipper/Vessel Owner/Crew training and train-the-trainer workshops
2) Compliance Officer/Observer training and train-the-trainer workshops
3) Novel EM tools for monitoring seabird bycatch mitigation measure use
4) Global risk assessment (of seabirds to tuna longline bycatch)

As the project is approaching the terminal phase, as planned for the end of March 2026, there has been relatively little activity. Specifically, a final workshop under Element 3 (on EM) was held in Indonesia, and activities under Element 4 (the Global Risk Assessment for Seabirds).

2. Project Management

General

The annual report to FAO was submitted in January 2026, and was accepted without comment from FAO. A final project report will be completed after the Element 4 report is finalised.

(1) Element 1 – Skipper/Vessel Owner/Crew training

All planned work has been completed and no activities under this Element have been undertaken since the previous report to Members.

(2) Element 2 – Compliance Officer/Observer training

All planned work has been completed and no activities under this Element have been undertaken since the previous report to Members.

(3) Element 3 – Electronic Monitoring

Completed workshops

Immediately following last year's Compliance and Extended Commission meetings, a 2-day EM capacity building workshop was held in Bali, Indonesia, for officials and invited experts. The Project Manager convened and chaired the workshop, and together with an EM expert from New Zealand, formerly an official responsible for aspects of New Zealand's EM program, Dr Shelton Harley, delivered the workshop content. The workshop covered conceptual aspects of a regulated EM program, and Indonesian participants identified critical system requirements that an EM program should meet. Work with Indonesian officials is ongoing, to complete a questionnaire that defines key aspects of Indonesia's EM program.

(4) Element 4 – Seabird risk assessment

General

Efforts to secure participation and contributions of observer datasets by other Members and non-Members concluded with limited success, despite multiple efforts from officials from several Member administrations. However, two privately held datasets from Brazil were included.

An online discussion in November clarified several aspects of the SEFRA approach and allowed the consultant modellers to complete the compilation of data, including effort data from other RFMO holdings for fleets not participating in the SEFRA. The final model run was completed, and results shared with the Secretariat, in early January. At the time of the development of this report (early February 2026), the Draft Global Risk Assessment Report was nearly ready for circulation to participants for their inputs.

3. Conclusion

The Seabird Project has successfully concluded all planned activities under 3 of 4 Elements, and is on track to successfully complete the final aspects of the 4th Element (the Global Risk Assessment work). By the end of February 2026, the project will have delivered everything that Members requested through the Project Document and Letter of Agreement with FAO, on time and within budget. The only outstanding activities will be delivered in March, specifically the concluding reports to FAO. All the consultants, Project Partners, Member administrations and the individual officials who supported the project and engaged with the Secretariat to effect a successful project, are thanked for their efforts and contributions.

Prepared by the Secretariat