Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna

みなみまぐろ保存委員会

CCSBT-CC/2610/19

Report Against Strategic Plan
(CC Agenda item 9)

Background

At CCSBT 30, 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 CC

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 CC.

Action Plan

- 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).
- **PR2021-36**: Update or revise the 2018-2020 Action Plan to the next five-year phase as a matter of urgency based on the recommendations from the Performance Review[2].
- Improve arrangements to collect and analyse the information of SBT distributed in the global market, and consider strengthening relevant measures to monitor and control trade of SBT products in the markets.

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.
- **PR2021-26**: Continue monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the rebuilding strategy for SBT
- **PR2021-25:** CCSBT members should continue to strengthen the implementation of the IPOAs and FAO guidelines in fishing operations.
- 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.
- **PR2021-57:** 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.
- Ensure members are submitting high quality, clear, consistent and completed reporting

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

[2] This action has been completed, and the updated Compliance Action Plan has been developed and is being implemented as part of the updated CCSBT Compliance Plan.

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 CC needs to complete this assessment and report to the EC in accordance with this requirement.

Next Steps

In 2025, the CC considered CC-relevant items of the Strategic Plan following the agreed template and updated its "Report from CCSBT Subsidiary Bodies on Progress Against Strategic Plan" to the Extended Commission, as Attachment 11 of the report of CC 20.

At CC 21 this year, Members are asked to update their assessment of progress against those activities assigned to the CC, by updating the previously agreed table in **Attachment A**.

In **Attachment A**, the Secretariat provided some preliminary updates as tracked changes. Yellow-highlighted sections will need to be updated following, and based on, the CC 21's discussion.

The Secretariat recommends that:

1) During the CC meeting, the CC will convene a small group to discuss the Working Paper. The Small Group will meet in the margins of the plenary meeting to reflect outcomes from CC 21 as appropriate and to finalise the draft progress report.
2) The Small Group submit a draft revised progress report as a new working paper for the CC's plenary discussion.
3) CC includes 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: CC	**Year**: 2026~~5~~

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.	The CCSBT continues to collaborate with its Members to promote and provide capacity building to support members ~~including educational training on seabird mitigation measures~~. The Commission agreed to an MP, with targets and relevant resolutions in place, which are monitored by the CC. This is through annual reporting of compliance against CMMs and ERS measures, and capacity building activities including on ~~seabird mitigation measures and~~ EM.
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.	CC (and other meetings) could expand mix of in person/virtual discussion, noting budget constraints. A virtual Technical Compliance Working Group meeting was completed in 2026 [may include any decision on TCWG meetings to be held in 2027] Live streaming of CCSBT meetings has commenced this year on a trial basis, and the Terms of Reference for live streaming of CCSBT official meetings will be considered at CCSBT 33~~The Secretariat will submit cost estimates for broadcasting the in-person meeting for FAC/EC's consideration~~.

	The Secretariat and Members will continue to use the pre-meeting discussion process.
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.	Most, but not all, Members are participating in CC meetings (EU not participating). Capacity Building Action Plan was agreed by EC 31 in 2024, and the CC 21~~20~~ completed its initial needs assessment. Note the recent support to SA, ID and KR around EM through the Seabird Project. [May reflect the outcomes from intersessional consultations between Indonesia and New Zealand on EM capacity building initiative] CC20 ~~will~~ discussed the reporting on compliance with measures that is provided to the CC as part of the CPG3 review and agreed to close the review of the Corrective Action Policy. ERSWG 16 referred to CC a request to discuss persistent non-compliance issue of Members with seabird mitigation measures, in the context of the ERSWG's recommendations regarding the need to reduce seabird bycatch.

Action Plan

Action	Progress since previous report	Planned work
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).	CC acknowledges the work of the ESC and ERSWG regarding EM and SOPS. CC regularly reviews Members report regarding their observer programme including work around EM.	This Action item was completed in 2025. Now t~~T~~his work is ongoing including of review integration of EM data to meet SOPS.
PR2021-36: Update or revise the 2018-2020 Action Plan to the next five-year phase as a matter of urgency based on the recommendations from the Performance Review.	CCSBT 31 agreed the updated Compliance Action Plan 2025 – 2029 (CAP). ~~CC20 agreed to recommend the EC~~CCSBT 32 adopted an updated CCSBT Compliance Plan which establishes an annual review process for the CAP. CC21~~0~~ completed its~~the first~~ annual monitoring process and reviewed progress against the CAP.	This Action item was completed in 2025. Implement the Compliance Action Plan 2025 – 2029 and undertake annual monitoring and reporting to the Compliance Committee.

Improve arrangements to collect and analyse the information of SBT distributed in the global market, and consider strengthening relevant measures to monitor and control trade of SBT products in the markets.	CC regularly reviewed the Members report regarding their CDS implementation. Market analysis was conducted utilising Tag survey data following the direction from CC 20 and was reviewed in CC21~~0~~.	This Action item was completed in 2025. Preparation to introduce eCDS is ongoing. Tag Number Search website will be launched once eCDS is implemented. Continue market survey.
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.	CC regularly review Members' compliance with allocation limit. In the case of excessive catch, CC monitored the progress of pay-back plan. Through regular contacts with NCNMs, CC reviewed related information such as SBT trade and suspected SBT catch. Also ongoing refinements to CDS and CC identification of vessels in CCSBT areas. [CC20 noted information and analysis relevant to CMF/REEF overutilisation, as defined in the Resolution on the Implementation of a CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme.] CC21 completed a review of Members reporting to ensure they meet CCSBT requirements as they relate to describing how they monitor, estimate and report all SBT mortalities.	Ongoing CC considers this analysis is important and should continue. CC recommends work be undertaken to improve the ability to reconcile information across CDS forms.
PR2021-26: Continue monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the rebuilding strategy for SBT.	This work is conducted by ESC using stock assessment and the MP.	This work is ongoing.

	CC regularly review Members' compliance with allocation limit. In the case of excessive catch, CC monitored the progress of pay-back plan. CC ongoing focus on CDS and improvements. Routine evaluation of non-Member reporting.	
PR2021-25: CCSBT members should continue to strengthen the implementation of the IPOAs and FAO guidelines in fishing operations.	CC regularly reviews Members' report which also includes implementation of the IPOAs and FAO guidelines through their NPOAs.	Ongoing, there is a need to encourage Members to review their national plans of action, routinely and as required.
Apply the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Program to countries and/or entities who join the Commission in the future.	In CC18 it was concluded that preferred approach is to utilise QARs for any new Members joining CCSBT and to also utilise targeted QARs if appropriate.	N/A (noting no new Members)
Ongoing QAR program for existing Members is subject to the decision by the EC based on further advice from the Compliance Committee.	In 2025, a QAR to examine Indonesia's at-sea transhipment activities for CCSBT was concluded, and CC 20 discussed the report of 2025 QAR. [CC 21 reviewed Indonesia's detailed plan and timeline for the implementation of measures to address the key recommendations from the 2025 QAR on at-sea transhipment.]	The CC Chair will report the recommendation by CC to EC 332. [May reflect next steps following Indonesia's detailed plan/QAR recommendations]
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.	External documents can be reviewed in CC.	Ongoing
Encourage non-Members to increase engagement in CCSBT processes, including joining the CCSBT and utilising the CDS.	Continued engagement with non-Members, including inviting ~~Canada,~~ China, Fiji, Philippines, Seychelles,	Invite [China, Fiji, the Philippines, Seychelles, Thailand, and the USA] to participate as observers at CC221~~+~~ and CCSBT 343~~3~~.

	Thailand and USA to participate as observers at CC21~~0~~/CCSBT33~~2~~.	
PR2021-44: Continue to formalise and strengthen information sharing with other RFMO secretariats and alternative information sources.	An updated Memorandum of Understanding with ICCAT has been executed and is now being implemented.	Continue development of a high-level MOU with the UN FAO to support the further development of an updated IOTC collaboration agreement. [may be updated to incorporate updates provided to CC 21]
Ensure members are submitting high quality, clear, consistent and completed reporting.	Although some Members do not meet reporting requirements, each Member's reporting is reviewed in CC every year. ~~EC 31 agreed the Capacity Building Action Plan, and~~ CC 21~~0~~ completed its~~the initial~~ capacity building needs assessment that may include addressing challenges in fulfilling report requirements.	Members are considering the mechanism for capacity building to address their challenges in fulfilling report requirements. Develop Capacity Building Initiative following the outcome of the needs assessment, which the CC chair will put forward to the FAC.