Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Annual Report to the CCSBT Compliance Committee and Extended Commission 2026



Australia

Prepared for the 21st Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC21) and the Extended Commission for the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT33)

September 2026

Template for the Annual Report
to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission

(Revised at the Thirty-First Annual Meeting: 10 October 2024)

If there are multiple SBT fisheries, with different rules and procedures applying to the different fisheries, it may be easier to complete this template separately for each fishery. Alternatively, please ensure that the information for each fishery is clearly differentiated within the single template.

This template sometimes seeks information on a quota year basis. Those Members/CNMs that have not specified a quota year to the CCSBT (i.e. the EU), should provide the information on a calendar year basis. Within this template, the quota year (or calendar year for those without a quota year) is referred to as the "fishing season". Unless otherwise specified, information should be provided for the most recently completed fishing season. Members and CNMs are encouraged to also provide preliminary information for the current fishing season where the fishing for that season is complete or close to complete.

Contents

		Page
1	**Summary of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Improvements**	**3**
1.1	Improvements achieved in the current fishing season	3
1.2	Extraordinary Circumstances	3
1.3	Future planned improvements	3
1.4	Progress with actions taken to rectify any non-compliance	3
2	**SBT Fishing and MCS**	**3**
2.1	Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna	3
2.2	Monitoring catch of SBT	5
2.3	SBT Towing and transfer to and between farms (farms only)	8
2.4	SBT transhipment (in port and at sea)	9
2.5	Port Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels/Carrier Vessels (FVs/CVs) with SBT/SBT Products on Board	9
2.6	Monitoring of trade of SBT	10
2.7	Coverage and Type of CDS Audit undertaken	10
3	**Changes to sections in Annex 1**	**11**
Annex 1. Standing items: details of MCS arrangements used to monitor SBT catch in the fishery		**12**
1	**Monitoring catch of SBT**	**12**
1.1	SBT Towing and transfer to and between farms (farms only)	16
1.2	SBT Transhipment (in port and at sea)	18
1.3	Port Inspections of Foreign FVs/CVs with SBT/SBT Products on Board	20
1.4	Landings of Domestic Product (from both fishing vessels and farms)	21
1.5	Monitoring of trade of SBT	22
1.6	Other	24
2	**Additional Reporting Requirements Ecologically Related Species**	**24**
Appendix 1. CCSBT Authorised Vessel Resolution		**31**

1 Summary of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Improvements

1.1 Improvements achieved in the current fishing season

Australia has no significant improvements to report from the current fishing season since the SBT farm and longline sectors were independently accredited under the Marine Stewardship Council framework in 2025

1.2 Extraordinary Circumstances

There were no incidents where extraordinary circumstances contributed to non-compliance with any of the Commission's conservation and management measures during the current fishing season.

1.3 Future planned improvements

AFMA continues to implement electronic logbooks across its commercial fisheries. Electronic versions of logbooks used by the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery (SBTF) farm sector have been developed and will be mandatory for the 2026/27 fishing season.

1.4 Progress with actions taken to rectify any non-compliance

We note that as the stock improves, more SBT is being imported to Australia. We have previously advised the CCSBT that we are taking steps to improve the timely return of import Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) forms. This includes the consideration of implementing legislative change. We have initiated discussions within government, however, we are assessing the implications from the introduction of the electronic Catch Documentation Scheme before proceeding. In the meantime, Australia will continue to work closely with importers to support the timely submission of CDS forms.

Australia has contributed to CCSBT discussions regarding changes associated with the implementation of electronic Catch Documentation Scheme to improve Australia's ability to monitor and report on SBT imports.

2 SBT Fishing and MCS

2.1 Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna

2.1.1 Catch and allocation

Specify the Effective Catch Limit, carry-forward of quota, total available catch, and attributable catch for the three most recently completed fishing seasons in Table 1. All figures should be provided in tonnes.

Table 1. Effective catch limit, carry-forward, total available catch, and attributable catch.

A	B	C	D	E
Fishing Season	Effective Catch Limit[1] (tonnes)	Quota Carried Forward to this Fishing Season (tonnes)	Total Available Catch[2] (B+C) (tonnes)	Attributable catch[3] (tonnes)
2024/25	7,295	1,178.7	8,473.7	6,697.7
2023/24	7,295	572.7	7,867.7	6,688.8
2022/23	6,238.4	681.7	6,920.1	6347.4

2.1.2 Allowances and SBT mortality for each sector

Specify the allowances and SBT mortality for each sector during the three most recently completed fishing seasons in Table 2. If information on SBT mortality is not available for a particular sector, use the best estimates of catch. All figures to be provided in tonnes.

Table 2. Allowances and SBT mortality for each sector.

Sector Fishing season	Commercial fishing operations whether primarily targeting SBT or not			
	Sector 1: (Farm)		Sector 2: (Longline/minorline)	
	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)
2024/25	6,930.2	4,447.7	6,930.2	1,885.2
2023/24	6,930.2	4,505.4	6,930.2	1,818.6
2022/23	5,926.5	4,696.6	5,926.5	1,338.9

Sector continued	Releases and/or discards		Recreational fishing		Customary and/or traditional fishing		Artisanal fishing	
	Sector 3:		Sector 4:		Sector 5:		Sector 6:	
Fishing season	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)
2024/25			364.8	Up to 364.8				
2023/24			364.8	Up to 364.8				
2022/23			311.9	Up to 311.9				

2.1.3 SBT Catch (retained and non-retained)

For the three most recently completed fishing seasons, specify the weight (in tonnes) and number of SBT for each sector (e.g. commercial longline, commercial purse seine, commercial charter fleet, commercial domestic fleet, recreational fishing, customary and/or traditional fishing and artisanal fishing) in Table 3. Provide the best estimate if reported data is not available. Figures should be provided for both retained SBT and non-retained SBT. For all non-farming sectors, "Retained SBT" includes SBT retained on vessel and "Non-Retained SBT" includes those returned to the water. For farming, "Retained SBT" includes SBT

[1] Effective catch limit is the Member's allocation plus any adjustments for agreed short term changes to the National Allocation. For example, see column 3 of Table 1 at paragraph 87 of the Report of CCSBT 24.
[2] Total available catch means a Member's Effective Catch Limit allocation for that quota year plus any amount of unfished allocation carried forward to that quota year.
[3] 'A Member or CNM's attributable catch against its national allocation is the total Southern Bluefin Tuna mortality resulting from fishing activities within its jurisdiction or control including, inter alia, mortality resulting from: commercial fishing operations whether primarily targeting SBT or not; releases and/or discards; recreational fishing; customary and/or traditional fishing; and artisanal fishing.'

stocked to farming cages and towing mortalities. If possible, provide both the weight in tonnes and the number of individuals in square brackets (e.g. [250]) for each sector. Table cells should not be left empty. If the value is zero, enter "0".

Table 3. SBT catch (retained and non-retained)

Fishing Season	Retained and discarded SBT							
	Commercial sectors (all weights are in tonnes)							
	Sector 1 (Farm)		Sector 2 (Longline/minorline)		Sector 3: Recreational sector		Sector 4: Customary/artisanal sector	
	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT
2024/25	4,447.7	N/A	1,885.2	[8,750]	Up to 364.8	unknown	N/A	N/A
2023/24	4,505	N/A	1,819	[7,143]	Up to 364.8	unknown	N/A	N/A
2022/23	4,696.6	N/A	1,338.9	[3,601]	Up to 311. 9	unknown	N/A	N/A

2.1.4 The number of vessels in each sector

Specify the fishing season and number of vessels that caught SBT in each sector during the three most recently completed fishing seasons in Table 4.

In cases where vessel numbers are not able to be provided, specify the best estimate.

Table 4. Vessels by Sector

	Number of vessels			
	Commercial sectors		Sector 3: Recreational sector	Sector 4: Customary/artisanal sector
Fishing season	Sector 1 (Purse Seine)	Sector 2 (Longline/minorline)		
2024/25	5	40	Unknown	N/A
2023/24	5	36	Unknown	N/A
2022/23	6	41	Unknown	N/A

2.2 Monitoring catch of SBT

2.2.1 Daily logbooks

i. If daily logbooks are not mandatory, specify the % of SBT fishing where daily logbooks were required.

N/A, Daily logbooks are mandatory for all Commonwealth managed fisheries in Australia.

ii. Specify whether the effort and catch information collected complied with that specified in the "Characterisation of the SBT Catch" section of the CCSBT Scientific Research Plan (Attachment D of the SC5 report), including both retained and discarded catch. If not, describe the non-compliance.

Effort and catch information collected by AFMA logbooks for the SBTF, Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) comply with that specified in the 'Characterisation of the SBT Catch' section of the CCSBT Scientific Research Plan.

2.2.2 Additional reporting methods (such as real time monitoring programs)

i. If multiple reporting methods exists (e.g. daily, weekly and/or month SBT catch reporting, reporting of tags and SBT measurements, reporting of ERS interactions etc) then, for each reporting method, specify if it was mandatory, and if not, specify the % of SBT fishing the reporting method covered.

All relevant information is collected in the mandatory daily logbooks.

2.2.3 Scientific Observers

i. Provide the percentage of the SBT catch and effort observed in the three most recently completed fishing seasons for each sector (e.g. longline, purse seine, commercial charter fleet, and domestic fleet) in Table 5. The unit of effort should be hooks for longline and sets for purse seine.

Table 5. Observer coverage of SBT catch and effort

Fishing season	Sector 1 (Purse seine)		Sector 2 (Longline)	
	% effort obs.	% catch obs.	% effort obs.	% catch obs.
2024/25	13.8	17.5	8.8	8.1
2023/24	13.8	12.8	11.6	11.7
2022/23	8.1	12.7	9.0	9.5

ii. Specify whether the observer program complied with the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards. If not, describe the non-compliance. Also indicate whether there was any exchange of observers between Members.

All data required under the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standard is collected by Australia and reported, where relevant, to the CCSBT.

2.2.4 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

For the most recently completed fishing season for Member-flagged authorised carrier vessels and fishing vessels fishing for or taking SBT specify:

i. Was a mandatory VMS that complies with CCSBT's VMS resolution in operation?

Yes. Since 1 July 2007, all boats operating in Australia's Commonwealth fisheries must be fitted with an operational VMS. This includes all boats authorised to take SBT under the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995 (SBT Plan), boats that provide support to SBT farming operations (e.g., tow boats) as well as all boats fishing on the high seas under the competence of a regional fisheries management body to which Australia is a party. All vessels that were authorised to fish for SBT and that fished on the high seas were compliant with VMS requirements (no Australian vessels caught SBT on the high seas during this period).

ii. If a mandatory VMS that complies with CCSBT's VMS resolution was not in operation, provide details of non-compliance and plans for further improvement.

N/A. All vessels that were authorised to fish for SBT were compliant with VMS requirements.

iii. The number of its flag 1) fishing vessels (FVs) and 2) carrier vessels (CVs) that were required to report to a National VMS system:-
1) FVs: 96
2) CVs: N/A

iv. The number of its flag 1) fishing vessels (FVs) and 2) carrier vessels (CVs) that actually reported to a National VMS system:-
1) FVs: 96
2) CVs: N/A

v. Reasons for any non-compliance with VMS requirements and action taken by the Member.

N/A. All vessels that were authorised to fish for SBT were compliant with VMS requirements.

vi. In the event of a technical failure of a vessel's VMS, the vessel's geographical position (latitude and longitude) at the time of failure and the length of time the VMS was inactive.

N/A. There were no technical failures of VMS on vessels authorised to fish for SBT. Note also in the event that a VMS stops reporting, AFMA contacts the boat's master and instructs them to manually report their position on a four hourly basis for the duration of the trip. Once a boat returns to port, AFMA requires that the VMS be operational before the boat is allowed to return to sea.

vii. A description of any investigations initiated in accordance with paragraph 3(b) of the CCSBT VMS resolution including progress to date and any actions taken.

N/A.

2.2.5 At-sea inspections

Specify the coverage level of at sea inspections of SBT authorised fishing vessels by Member's patrol vessels during the most recently completed fishing season (e.g. the percentage of SBT trips inspected).

Australian fisheries officers conduct inspections of landings at key SBT ports, as well as during sea boarding and inspections of Australian boats taking SBT in its domestic longline and farm sectors. In 2024/2025 Australian fisheries officers conducted at-sea inspections of four Australian vessels that had SBT onboard.

Australian fisheries officers conduct high seas boardings and inspections of foreign flagged vessels on the high seas under the auspices of the WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures (WCPFC CMM 2025-07). In 2024/2025 Australian fisheries officers conducted five WCPFC inspections which had SBT catch onboard the vessel. This MCS information was shared promptly with the flag States, two of which were CCSBT members. One of the Members responded and provided information on the response taken for potential non-compliance, the other Member has not provided a response to date.

2.2.6 Authorised vessel requirements

Report on the review of internal actions and measures taken in relation to the authorised vessel requirements provided at Appendix 1, including any punitive and sanction actions taken.

All Australian vessels licensed to fish for SBT were compliant with the CCSBT Authorised Vessel Resolution.

2.2.7 Monitoring of catch of SBT from other sectors (e.g. recreational, customary, etc)

Provide details of monitoring methods used to monitor catches in other sectors.

Five percent of Australia's national allocation is set aside for the Australian recreational fishing sector. This equated to 364.8 tonnes for the 2024/25 fishing season. The amount set aside for Australia's recreational sector is far greater than the total annual recreational catch estimated by the survey completed in 2020 (the survey estimated an annual Australian recreational catch of 270 tonnes). Compared to the 2020 recreational catch estimate, the additional allocation now being set aside by Australia provides a very conservative buffer for growth and fluctuation in catches of the Australian recreational fishing sector.

Australia has no other sources of mortality (artisanal, customary, or traditional)

2.3 SBT Towing and transfer to and between farms (farms only)

i. Specify the percentage of the tows that were observed and the percentage of the transfers of the fish to the farms that were observed during the three most recently completed fishing seasons in Table 6.

Table 6. Observer coverage of towing and transfer to and between farms

Fishing season	Observer coverage of tows (%)	Observer coverage of transfers (%)
2024/25	8.0	100
2023/24	7.7	100
2022/23	11.5	100

ii. Provide updates on plans to allow adoption of the stereo video systems for ongoing monitoring.

In 2023 and 2024, Australia conducted a trial of stereo video technology in Australia's tuna farms. Outcomes of the trial were reported to CCSBT 32 in October 2025.

Since CCSBT 32 Australia understands work has been undertaken with the use of stereo video in Pacific Bluefin Tuna (Thunnus orientalis) farms in Mexico (Side Event - Industry | WCPFC Meetings). We are unaware of the outcomes from this work including system performance, accuracy and cost being publicly available. In parallel, the *Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission IATTC-Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee Joint Working Group* has been considering the monitoring and control for the conservation and management of the Pacific Bluefin Tuna fishery including measures for farming. Further consideration of MCS measures including measures to monitor farming activities (including rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities) will be considered by IATTC in September 2026 and WCPFC in November 2026.

Australia is not aware of any further developments in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna in the past 12 months.

2.4 SBT transhipment (in port and at sea)

In accordance with the Resolution on Establishing a Program for Transhipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels, report:

i. The quantities and percentage of SBT transhipped at sea and in port during the three most recently completed fishing seasons in Table 7.

Table 7. SBT transhipment (in port and at sea)

Fishing season	Kilograms of SBT transhipped at sea	Percentage of the annual SBT catch transhipped at sea	Kilograms of SBT transhipped in port	Percentage of the annual SBT catch transhipped in port
2024/25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023/24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022/23	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

ii. The list of the tuna longline fishing vessel with Freezing Capacity (LSTLVs) registered in the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List which have transhipped at sea and in port during the most recently completed fishing season.

During the reporting period, Australian-flagged boats did not tranship to, or receive SBT from large scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs) with freezing capacity.

iii. A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received at-sea transhipments from their LSTLVs during the most recently completed fishing season.

N/A

2.5 Port Inspections of Foreign Fishing Vessels/Carrier Vessels (FVs/CVs) with SBT/SBT Products on Board

For the three most recently completed **whole calendar years**, provide information about the number of landing/ transhipment operations that foreign FVs/CVs carrying SBT or SBT product made in port, the number of those landing/ transhipment operations that were inspected, and the number of inspections where infringements of CCSBT's measures were detected in Table 8.

Table 8. Port inspections of foreign FVs and CVs with SBT/SBT products on board

Calendar year	Foreign Flag	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations (that occurred)	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations Inspected	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations where an Infringement of CCSBT's Measures was Detected
2025	N/A	0	0	0
2024	N/A	0	0	0
2023	N/A	0	0	0
	TOTAL NUMBER	**0**	**0**	**0**

2.6 Monitoring of trade of SBT

For the most recently completed whole calendar year or fishing season:

i. Record the calendar year/ fishing season.

2024/25

ii. Provide the percentage of landings of SBT that were inspected.

100% of landings in the farm sector are inspected by AFMA or its contractor. AFMA fisheries officers also conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea and in port, and conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export/import establishments. Inspection includes both the purse seine and longline sectors.

iii. Provide the percentage of exports of SBT that were inspected.

100% of exports were inspected. AFMA fisheries officers conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea and in port, and conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export/import establishments.

iv. Provide the percentage of imports of SBT that were inspected.

Australia typically imports small amounts of SBT annually, although this may fluctuate according to market conditions. In the 2024/25 reporting year, imports of SBT from NZ were 37.9t. AFMA fisheries officers conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea and in port, and conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export/import establishments. Australia has developed a process to identify imports in a timely manner and notify importers of CDS reporting obligations to the CCSBT which seeks to improve Australia's reporting. This process is currently being reviewed as Australia continues to consider alternatives to further improve compliance.

2.7 Coverage and Type of CDS Audit undertaken

As per paragraph 5.9 of the CDS Resolution, specify details on the level of coverage and type of audit undertaken, in accordance with 5.8[4] of the Resolution, and the level of compliance.

Copies of all CDS documents issued and received are provided to the CCSBT on a quarterly basis to be compiled in an electronic database. This is an effective auditing mechanism which allows AFMA to analyse, identify discrepancies, reconcile and report all CCSBT CDS documents submitted by Australia. In conjunction with this process, AFMA audits fish tagging in accordance with the CCSBT CDS in the 2010/11 financial year. At the end of each fishing season AFMA conducts a level 1 audit of all SFR holders that have caught SBT.

The level 1 audit includes the following:

- monthly breakdowns of receipt and sale of SBT including mortalities;

[4] *Paragraph 5.8 of the CDS Resolution specifies that "Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall undertake an appropriate level of audit, including inspections of vessels, landings, and where possible markets, to the extent necessary to validate the information contained in the CDS documentation."*

- verified counts of SBT conducted during transfer from tow pontoons into farms;
- CCSBT CDS figures and domestic sales; and mortalities recorded by the SBT fish receiver.
- Level 1 audits were conducted on 36 entities that received SBT in the 2024/2025 fishing season. No offences were detected.

Each season selected farming companies and wild caught fish receivers also undergo a level 2 audit, aiming to capture more than 10% of all commercially landed SBT. This audit includes a full assessment conducted by AFMA officers who review company records which may include spreadsheets, feed boat logs, dive logs, sales and export documentation, including CDS documentation. SFR holders must retain original copies of each CDR and CCSBT CDS documents for five years from the date of completion to meet audit requirements. As part of the level 2 audit, two AFMA officers independently recount all video/DVD recorded by AFMA's agent during the verified count of SBT transferred into those farms included in the audit. Audits for the 2025/2026 season will be conducted in October/November 2026.

In addition, compliance with the CCSBT CDS is monitored in accordance with AFMA's National Compliance and Enforcement Policy. AFMA conducts a biennial risk assessment process to determine those prioritised areas that require targeted compliance and enforcement activity. This risk assessment process is conducted across major Commonwealth Fisheries, such as the SBT fishery. As a result, Australian fisheries officers conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea, in port, and conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export/import establishments. The inspection process includes the inspection of relevant documentation such as CDS documents. Refer to section 2.2.5 above for inspections undertaken in 2024/2025 and findings.

3 Changes to sections in Annex 1

If this is not the first year of completing Annex 1, list any sections of Annex 1 that have changed since the previous year.

Section 2,c,i (page 31) on monitoring usage of bycatch mitigation measures has been updated to provide the number of inspections undertaken in the 2024/25 fishing season.

Annex 1. Standing items: details of MCS arrangements used to monitor SBT catch in the fishery

1 Monitoring catch of SBT

Describe the system used for controlling the level of SBT catch. For ITQ and IQ systems, this should include details on how the catch is allocated to individual companies and/or vessels. For competitive catch systems this should include details of the process for authorising vessels to catch SBT and how the fishery is monitored for determining when to close the fishery. The description provided here should include any operational constraints on effort (both regulatory and voluntary).

Complete the table below to provide details of methods used to monitor catching in the fishery.
Details should also be provided of monitoring conducted of fishing vessels when steaming away from the fishing grounds (this does not include towing vessels that are reported in Section 1.1 of this Annex).

Monitoring Methods	Description
Daily log book	*Specify:* *i. Whether this was mandatory.* It is a provision under Section 42 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (FM Act) that AFMA may require SFR holders to keep and maintain logbooks. The following logbooks are mandatory for the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF: **Farm Sector** • Australian Purse Seine and Pole Daily Fishing Log (TPB03) – for purse seine and pole fishing boats for farming purposes; • Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Farm Transit Log (SBT03B) – for SBT tow boats. **Longline Sector** • Australian Pelagic Longline Daily Fishing log (AL06) – pelagic longline method only; • Purse Seine Daily Fishing Log (PS01A) – purse seine method only for non-farming purposes; • Australian Tuna Purse Seine and Pole Logbook (TPB01) – pole method only for non-farming purposes. *ii. The level of detail recorded (shot by shot, daily aggregate etc):* The catch data collected by AFMA logbooks for the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF is on a shot-by-shot basis. *iii. What information on ERS is recorded in logbooks:* AFMA logbooks provide for the recording of ERS interactions. Further, all AFMA logbooks contain specific reporting forms for protected species. Interactions with ERS are also recorded by scientific observers. *iv. Who are the logbooks submitted to[5]:*

[5] *If the reports are not to be submitted to the Member's or CNM's government fisheries authority, then also specify whether the information will later be sent to the fisheries authority, including how and when that occurs.*

Farm Sector
All logbooks are submitted to AFMA.

Longline Sector
All logbooks are submitted to AFMA.

v. What is the timeframe and method[6] for submission:

Farm sector
- TPB03 – must be submitted by the 14th day of the following month;
- SBT03B – must be submitted immediately on arriving at location where the fish are transferred to farm pontoons.

Longline sector
- AL06 – must be submitted within three calendar days of the completion of each fishing trip;
- PS01A – must be submitted within three calendar days of the consignment being unloaded;
- TPB01 – must be submitted by the 14th day of the following month.

Currently copies of all hard copy logbooks must be submitted to AFMA. Logbooks in the ETBF and WTBF are electronic and are submitted via online submission. It is anticipated that the purse seine sector will have electronic logbooks available for use at the start of the 2025/2026 fishing season and with e-logs becoming mandatory at the commencement of the 2025/26 season

vi. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:

Farm sector
At the end of each fishing season, all farming companies are audited by AFMA to review compliance with SFR holdings. Further information on these audits is provided in Section 2.

Longline sector
At the end of each fishing season, all SFR holders that have caught SBT are audited by AFMA to review compliance with SFR holdings. Further information on these audits is provided in Section 4.

vii. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:

CCSBT obligations are given effect via concession conditions. Breaching a condition of a concession is an offence under Section 95 of the FM Act. Penalties include fines (under Section 95(5) of the FM Act), suspension or cancellation of concessions (under Section 98(3) of the FM Act), an order directing a person not to be on a boat for a specified time (under Section 98(1) of the FM Act) and forfeiture of the boat, equipment, catch and/or proceeds of catch (under Section 106 of the FM Act).

viii. Other relevant information[7]:

Nil

[6] In particular, whether the information is submitted electronically from the vessel.
[7] Including information on ERS, and comments on the effectiveness of the controls or monitoring tools and any plans for further improvement.

Additional reporting methods (such as real time monitoring programs)	*If multiple reporting methods exists (e.g. daily, weekly and/or month SBT catch reporting, reporting of tags and SBT measurements, reporting of ERS interactions etc), create a separate row of in this table for each method. Then, for each method, specify:* *i. Whether this is mandatory.* All relevant information is collected in the mandatory daily logbooks. *ii. The information that is recorded (including whether it relates to SBT or ERS):* N/A *iii. Who the reports are submitted to and by whom (e.g. Vessel Master, the Fishing Company etc)[5]:* N/A *iv. What is the timeframe and method[6] for submission:* N/A *v. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:* N/A *vi. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:* N/A *vii. Other relevant information[7]:-* N/A
Scientific Observers	*Specify:* *i. The system used for comparisons between observer data and other catch monitoring data in order to verify the catch data:* Scientific observers are briefed before and after each trip by AFMA. Issues identified in these briefings and in observer reports are analysed by AFMA on a case-by-case basis and may be investigated if necessary. For longline vessels an audit process is undertaken using EM footage to verify the accuracy of catch data. *ii. What information on ERS is recorded by observers:* Observer and EM reports include details of daily fishing operations, the mitigation measures employed and any non-target species interactions. In terms of ERS interactions, the number (and weight where appropriate) of each species caught is recorded for each shot observed as well as the life status (alive, dead, injured) and whether it was retained or discarded. *iii. Who are the observer reports submitted to:* Observer reports are submitted to AFMA

	iv. Timeframe for submission of observer reports: Observer reports are submitted at the completion of each fishing trip. Data from observer reports is provided to the CCSBT Secretariat by the Australian Government Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES). v. *Other relevant information (including plans for further improvement – in particular to reach coverage of 10% of the effort):* Australia has implemented compulsory EM in the ETBF and WTBF and has committed to the future use of EM in other fisheries.
VMS	*i. For Member-flagged authorised carrier vessels and fishing vessels fishing for or taking SBT provide references to applicable legislation and penalties:* CCSBT obligations are given effect via concession conditions. See vii in *Daily logbook* section above.
Other (for example, use of electronic monitoring etc.)	EM has been mandatory in the ETBF and WTBF fleets since 2015. EM provides the potential to monitor 100% of fishing activities on each vessel and is used to verify catch data, ensure mitigation measures are employed and record any non-target species interaction. Review of 10% of the recorded footage is undertaken to ensure daily catch reporting (logbooks) is accurate.

1.1 SBT Towing and transfer to and between farms (farms only)

(a) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring towing of SBT from the fishing ground to the farming area. This should include details of:

i. *Observation required for towing of SBT*

Under the SBT Plan, SFR holders must carry a scientific observer on a nominated boat if instructed by AFMA. The scientific observer coverage target is 10% of purse seine operations and 10% of towing operations. This is communicated to SFR holders each year in the SBTF farm sector pre-season briefing guide.

ii. *Monitoring systems for recording losses of SBT (in particular, SBT mortality).*

SFR holders are required to progressively record SBT mortalities as follows:

- during catching – in the TPB03 logbook;
- when transferring to a tow boat – in the SBT02 CDR;
- during the tow to a farm – in the SBT03B CDR;
- following final count into farm – in the SBT04B CDR.

(b) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transferring of SBT from tow cages into farms. This should include details of:

i. *Inspection/Observation required for transfer of SBT*

AFMA (or its agent) observes and verifies the count and weight estimate for 100% of transfers from tow pontoons into farms. SFR holders are required to record details of each transfer in the SBT04B CDR.

ii. *Monitoring system used for recording the quantity of SBT transferred:*

SFR holders who capture SBT for farming purposes using purse seine must record daily catch activity in an approved TPB03 logbook. Details to be recorded include date of fishing, search details (including the use of a spotter plane), fishing location, and estimated weight of SBT per shot and, if transferring to a tow pontoon, the carrier boat name and date and weight of transfer. Any interactions with ERS must also be reported. Copies of TPB03 must be forwarded to AFMA on a monthly basis.

On transfer to a tow pontoon, catcher boats must also complete the SBT02 CDR. This form is designed to meet the requirement that operators provide a catch estimate at the start of the tow operation. This form must be faxed to AFMA within 24 hours of the carrier boat commencing the operation to tow the catch to a farm. Information provided must include

- the name of the SFR holder;
- purse seine boat name;
- date and time of last transfer to a tow pontoon;
- tow boat name, pontoon identification;
- estimated total weight of fish transferred to that pontoon; and
- estimated weight of mortalities during each catch and transfer.

AFMA uses this catch estimate to deduct quota from an operator's holdings at the time the estimate is provided, to later be replaced by the estimate obtained from the average weight sample and verified count in the SBT04B CDR.

Tow boats must complete details in the SBT03B logbook. Information to be collected in this book includes details of the permit holder and boat, transfer details including name of purse seine boat, estimate of weight of SBT and a reference to the SBT02 book used and page number, a record of mortalities for each day of the tow operation, and details of transfer of pontoon to another tow boat or to a SBT fish receiver. This form must be updated daily commencing on the day of the first transfer of fish to the tow pontoon or on the day that the permit holder accepts responsibility for towing the tow pontoon from another boat. Separate SBT03B forms must be completed for each tow pontoon if a boat is towing more than one pontoon.

If the tow pontoon is transferred to another carrier boat, AFMA must be notified within 24 hours of the transfer. A separate SBT03B form must be completed by each carrier boat. If the tow pontoon returns immediately to the farm pontoon(s) or when the tow pontoon reaches the farm pontoon(s), the SBT03B form(s) must be completed and forwarded to an AFMA official or agent acting on AFMA's behalf before the transfer of fish into the farm pontoon(s) commences.

A verified count of SBT transferred from each tow pontoon into a farm must be conducted by AFMA or a government contractor (the agent) acting on AFMA's behalf. A weight estimate is obtained for each transfer by sampling at least 100 live fish of 8kg or greater then multiplying the average weight by the verified number of fish in the transfer. The methods by which the verified count and weight estimate must be conducted are described in Clause 22B of the SBT Plan. The details of the average weight sample and verified count must be recorded in the SBT04B CDR.

The SBT04B CDR is used to determine the number of fish to be deducted from quota. The following information must be recorded by an AFMA official or agent acting on AFMA's behalf: details of the catcher boat, tow boat and tow pontoon identification number (obtained from the SBT02 CDR), a reference to the SBT02 book and page number, mortalities during pursing, transfer to tow pontoon and tow operations (obtained from the SBT02 CDR), average weight sample from the tow pontoon (obtained through the above counting method), and count of fish transferred from tow pontoon to farm. The number of fish taken from the tow pontoon to obtain the sample of fish of 8kg or greater must also be recorded. The AFMA official (or agent acting on AFMA's behalf) who carried out the sampling procedure must be identified on the SBT04B CDR. The form must be forwarded to AFMA as soon as it is completed.

The CMAU02C form must accompany all transhipments, landings of domestic products, exports, imports and re-exports of SBT. This form must be completed on catch or harvest of SBT (Catch/Harvest Section), at the point of transhipment or export (Intermediate Product Destination Section), and on receivership of SBT product at its final destination (Final Product Destination Section). AFMA authorises competent authorities to validate and verify CMAU02C forms.

The CTAU02A form must be completed and submitted to AFMA when completing the associated CMAU02B form. Details include the boat or farm name, boat or farm registration number, unique document number of the associated CMAU02C form, CCSBT tag number, weight, fork length, gear code (if applicable), CCSBT statistical area of catch, and month of harvest.

With respect to the REAU02 form, it must be specified whether product is being re-exported or exported after landing of domestic product and whether the document accompanies a full shipment or partial shipment. The form details the port of export, any applicable catch tagging form document numbers, a description of fish from previous CCSBT CDS forms, a description of the fish being exported, the export destination, and final point of importation. AFMA authorises competent authorities to validate and verify REAU02 forms.

(c) For "a" and "b" above, describe the process used for completing, validating[8] and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Farm Stocking Form, Farm Transfer Form):

See section 2.7 above for details of CDS audit undertaken by AFMA

With respect to the FSAU (farm stocking) form, at the end of each catching season conducted by the purse seine boats, a FSAU is compiled detailing the catch caught by each boat in the farm sector. Details collected include

- purse seine boat details;
- date range of fishing operations;
- tow boat details, date tow commenced;
- mortalities during tow details:
- Farm transfer details, name of farm, transfer dates, total weight and number of fish: and
- certification and validation

With respect to the FTAU (Farm Transfer) form, if SBT transfers occur between different farm entities during the farming season, an FTAU is required. Details collected include:

transferring farm details:
towing details, such as tow boat details, date of transfer, estimated weight and number of fish transferred:
receiving farm details:
certification.

AFMA authorises competent authorities to certify, validate and verify these forms.
Both FTAU and FSAU forms must be forwarded to AFMA as soon as they are completed, and copies of all documents issued and received are provided to the CCSBT on a quarterly basis to be compiled in an electronic database.

(d) Other relevant information[7]

Australia has submitted a list of authorised SBT farms to the CCSBT Secretariat, as required. Australia notifies the Executive Secretary of any addition to, deletion from or modification required to the CCSBT Record of Authorised Farms as soon as this information becomes available. Through its domestic implementation of the CCSBT CDS, Australia has taken measures to not permit landings of domestic product, exports, imports and/or re-exports of SBT into and from farms which are not registered on the CCSBT Record of Authorised Farms.

1.2 SBT Transhipment (in port and at sea)

(a) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transhipments in port. This should include details of:

[8] *Including the class of person who conducts this work (e.g. government official, authorised third party)*

i. Flag State rules for and names of:

- designated foreign ports where SBT may be transhipped, and

- foreign ports where in-port transhipments of SBT are prohibited:

During the reporting period, all SBT product from the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF were landed in Australian ports. Further the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019* require that all fish must be landed to an AFMA authorised SBT fish receiver. Should an operator of an Australian-flagged boat seek to land Australian SBT product at a foreign port, Australia will notify the CCSBT Executive Secretary of the nominated and approved port.

Australia will notify the CCSBT Executive Secretary if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that Australian-flagged boats not on the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List are engaged in commercial fishing for and/or transhipment of SBT.

ii. Flag State inspection requirements for in-port transhipments of SBT (include % coverage):-

N/A

iii. Information sharing with designated Port States:

A foreign fishing vessel must seek and be issued a port permit to access an Australian port to unload or tranship SBT (except in cases of force majeure). In addition, landing of fish and fish products by foreign vessels is prohibited unless written approval is given by the Australian Government Minister for Agriculture, through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Information on any inspection or other action that is undertaken is shared with relevant States in accordance with Australian Government legislation, recognising that Australia has ratified the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

iv. Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT transhipped:

N/A

v. Process for validating[8] and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, Catch Tagging Form):-

N/A

vi. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:

Section 95(5) of the FM Act lists the maximum penalty to be applied in the event of an offence.

vii. Other relevant information[7]:

N/A

(b) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transhipments at sea. This should include details of:

i. The rules and processes for authorising transhipments of SBT at sea and methods (in addition to the presence of CCSBT transhipment observers) for checking and verifying the quantities of SBT transhipped:

In accordance with Clause 24.10 of the SBT Plan, SFR holders must not tranship SBT that is not alive to a boat unless the transhipment is monitored by an officer appointed under the FM Act and acting under direction by AFMA. SBT must not be transhipped to a boat unless the boat is being used by a person who is, or is acting for, the holder of a fishing permit (or foreign fishing licence if applicable) for the SBTF that authorises receipt of the transhipped tuna.

ii. Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT transhipped:

N/A

iii. Process for collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, Catch Tagging Form):

N/A

iv. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:

Section 95(5) of the FM Act lists the maximum penalty to be applied in the event of an offence.

v. Other relevant information[7]:

N/A

1.3 Port Inspections of Foreign FVs/CVs with SBT/SBT Products on Board

This section provides for reporting with respect to the CCSBT's Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port. It should be filled out by Port State Members that have authorised foreign Fishing Vessels/Carrier Vessels carrying SBT or SBT products to enter their designated ports for the purpose of landing and/or transhipment. Only information for landings/transhipments of SBT or SBT products that have NOT been previously landed or transhipped at port should be included in the table below.

(a) Provide a list of designated ports into which foreign FVs/ CVs carrying SBT or SBT product may request entry:

Australia allows foreign fishing vessels into its ports and the landing of catch from such vessels only with explicit approval. Applications for port access are considered against AFMA's *Guidelines for Operators Seeking Access to Australian Ports* under Section 94 of the FM Act.

Australia's has provided details of its designated ports in accordance with CCSBT's Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port.

(b) Provide the minimum number of hours of notice required for foreign FVs/CVs carrying SBT or SBT product to request authorisation to enter these designated ports:

Permits are issued on a case-by-case basis. The guidelines referred to in 1.3(a) above state AFMA has up to 7 days to consider an application.

1.4 Landings of Domestic Product (from both fishing vessels and farms)

Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring domestic landings of SBT. This should include details of:

(a) Rules for designated ports of landing of SBT:

SBT product from the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF can be landed in any Australian port. Boats are monitored through VMS and may be inspected upon arrival in port.

(b) Inspections required for landings of SBT.

AFMA fisheries officers conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea and in port, and conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export/import establishments.

(c) Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being landed as a different species:

Australian catches of Pacific Bluefin Tuna *Thunnus orientalis* (PBT), the species most commonly mistaken for SBT have increased in recent years. All Bluefin Tuna less than 220cm FL and caught north of 28°S are deemed to be SBT. Bluefin tuna caught less than 200cm FL and south of 28°S are deemed to be SBT. All fish caught in the ETBF or WTBF that meet the criteria above, are deemed SBT unless the operator obtains genetic testing or exports the fish to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market and it is deemed to be a PBT on the sales documentation.

(d) Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT landed:
The below information relates to the longline sector. Please refer to Section 1.1 and Appendix 1 for details on the landings of domestic product from the farm sector.

SFR holders who capture SBT for non-farming purposes using pelagic longline, purse seine or pole must record daily catch activity in an AL06, PS01A or TPB01 logbook, respectively. Details to be recorded include date of fishing, fishing location and estimates of weight of SBT discarded/retained. Any interactions with ERS must also be recorded.

The PT02B CDR is for recording pelagic species including SBT and PBT taken for non-farming purposes. A separate PT02B CDR form must be completed each time a boat disposes of SBT or PBT. Relevant details in the PT02B CDR must be completed before the fish are taken onto the premises of a SBT fish receiver. Where catch is disposed of to multiple locations or buyers, separate PT02B forms must be completed for each consignment. A consignment is defined as fish taken from a single unloading and sent to a single receiver. A copy of the PT02B form must be forwarded to AFMA within three days of unloading. As with the farm sector, the longline sector is also required to complete and submit CMAU02C, CTAU02A and REAU02 forms.

(e) Process for validating[8] and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, and depending on circumstances, Catch Tagging Form):

As with the farm sector, copies of all documents issued and received by Australia are provided to the CCSBT. Further, at the end of each fishing season AFMA conducts a level 1 audit of all SFR holders that have caught SBT. AFMA fisheries officers also conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea, in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export establishments.

AFMA has developed a CCSBT CDS handbook for SFR holders in the SBTF including the longline sector, describing the procedures that must be followed to comply with the CCSBT CDS. Compliance with the CCSBT CDS and other obligations is monitored in accordance with AFMA's National Compliance and Enforcement Policy. SFR holders must retain original copies of each CDR and CCSBT CDS document for five years from the date of completion to meet audit requirements. A schematic detailing the systematic verification of catch data for SBT and ERS for the longline sector is provided at Appendix 2.

(f) Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:

CCSBT obligations are given effect via concession conditions. Breaching a condition of a concession is an offence under Section 95 of the FM Act. Penalties include fines (under Section 95(5) of the FM Act), suspension or cancellation of concessions (under Section 98(3) of the FM Act), an order directing a person not to be on a boat for a specified time (under Section 98(1) of the FM Act) and forfeiture of the boat, equipment, catch and/or proceeds of catch (under Section 106 of the FM Act).

(g) Other relevant information[7]:

Nil

1.5 Monitoring of trade of SBT

1.5.1 SBT Exports

Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring exports of SBT (including of landings directly from the vessel to the foreign importing port). This should include details of:

(a) Inspections required for export of SBT

To export SBT and other fish products from Australia for consumption, all processing establishments (land based and boats) require registration with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. All fish and fish products that are exported from Australia are prescribed goods and all registered establishments must meet the requirements of the *Export Control Act 2020*, Export Control (Prescribed Goods General) Orders and the Export Control (Fish and Fish Products) Rules 2021 in order to export these goods. Registered establishments and boats are audited by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry food auditors to ensure compliance with the above legislation. The number of audits annually is linked to the level of risk and performance of the establishment to meet the appropriate legislation.

(b) Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being exported as a different species:

See section 1.4 (c) above

(c) Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT exported:

The CMAU02C form must accompany all transhipments, landings of domestic products, exports, imports and re-exports of SBT. The CTAU02A form must be completed and submitted when completing the associated CMAU02C form. In addition, the REAU02 form must specify whether product is being re-exported or exported after landing of domestic product and whether the document accompanies a full shipment or partial shipment. The form details port of export, any applicable catch tagging form document numbers, a description of fish from previous CCSBT CDS documents, a description of the fish being exported, the export destination and final point of importation.

(d) Process for validating[8] and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form and depending on circumstances, Catch Tagging Form or Re-export/Export after landing of domestic product Form):

Copies of all documents issued and received are provided to the CCSBT on a quarterly basis to be compiled in an electronic database. This is an effective auditing mechanism which allows AFMA to analyse, identify discrepancies, reconcile and report all CCSBT CDS documents submitted by Australia. In conjunction with this process, AFMA commenced audits of fish tagging in accordance with the CCSBT CDS in the 2010/11 financial year. At the end of each fishing season AFMA conducts a level 1 audit of all SFR holders that have caught SBT.

(e) Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:

See section 1.4(f) above

(f) Other relevant information[7]:

Nil

1.5.2 SBT Imports

Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring imports of SBT. This should include details of:

(a) Rules for designating specific ports for the import of SBT:

SBT product can be landed in any Australian port by Australian fishing boats but must be landed to a registered fish receiver. Foreign fishing boats wishing to enter an Australian port must have a port permit issued by AFMA however landing of fish and fish products is prohibited unless written approval is given by the Australian Government Minister for Agriculture, through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

(b) Inspections required for imports of SBT

Australia typically imports small amounts of SBT annually, although this may fluctuate according to market conditions. The importation of some products is, by law, subject to certain biosecurity conditions. Australia's biosecurity policy is based on risk assessment and management of the potential introduction of exotic pests or diseases.

(c) Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being imported as a different species:

Nil

(d) Process for checking and collecting CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form and depending on circumstances, Re-export/Export after landing of domestic product Form):

The appropriate CCSBT Catch Monitoring and Re-Export/Export After Landing of Domestic Product Forms are forwarded onto AFMA or the Department by the receiver of any SBT import consignment for forwarding to the Secretariat. The Department monitors SBT import records to ensure CDS forms are returned and follows up with importers where forms are not returned.

(e) Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:

Section 94 of the FM Act requires a foreign fishing boat to apply for a permit to access and make use of port services. Section 103 of the FM Act the landing of fish by a foreign boat is prohibited – with a penalty attached – without prior approval by the Minister or their delegate.

(f) Other relevant information[7]:

Nil

1.5.3 SBT Markets

(a) Describe any activities targeted at points in the supply chain between landing and the market:

As previously provided (Section 2.7), AFMA fisheries officers conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea and in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export establishments.

(b) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring of SBT at markets (e.g. voluntary or mandatory requirements for certain documentation and/or presence of tags, and monitoring or audit of compliance with such requirements):

CCSBT CDS documents are required to accompany all movements of SBT both domestically and internationally from capture to first point of sale.

(c) Other relevant information[7]

Nil

1.6 Other

Description of any other MCS systems of relevance.

Nil

2 Additional Reporting Requirements Ecologically Related Species

(a) Reporting requirements in relation to implementation of the 2008 ERS Recommendation:

i. Specify whether each of the following plans/guidelines have been implemented, and if not, specify the action that has been taken towards implementing each of these plans/guidelines:

- *International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries:*

Australia has endorsed the International Plan of Action (IPOA) - Seabirds and has put in place the Threat Abatement Plan 2018 for the Incidental Catch (or bycatch) of Seabirds During Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations (2018 TAP). The 2018 TAP is a legislative instrument that directs mandatory seabird bycatch management measures and applies to all longline fisheries managed by the Australian Government. The 2018 TAP is Australia's key measure for mitigating the impact of longline fisheries on seabird populations and is consistent with the IPOA-Seabirds. The 2018 TAP replaced the previous 2014 TAP.

A National Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (NPOA-Seabirds) has also been developed by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The NPOA-Seabirds outlines a series of actions to be taken to reduce the likelihood of seabird mortalities within Australian longline fisheries and provides a clear direction for the collection of information on seabird interactions.

Considerable progress has been made under successive TAPs to reduce the impact of pelagic longlining on seabirds. The incidental bycatch rates for several fisheries are well below 0.01 or 0.05 birds per 1000 hooks, which are the maximum permissible levels set as performance criteria for different fisheries under the current plan, and which apply to individual fishing seasons and fishing areas, as relevant. This reduction in bycatch rates has been achieved through the combined efforts of the fishing industry, researchers and non-governmental stakeholders working with government to reduce seabird bycatch in longline fisheries in a feasible, effective and efficient way. The prescriptions in the current plan recognise this success and seek to further reduce the incidental capture of seabirds.

As a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), which have adopted the following measures for the conservation and management of seabirds, Australia is compliant with the following measures adopted by these Commissions:
The WCPFC adopted:

- CMM 2025-05 - Conservation and Management Measure to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds

The IOTC has adopted:

- Resolution 23/07 On reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries.

- *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks:*

Australia first adopted a National Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) in 2004. The NPOA-Sharks has since been reviewed and the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2012 (Shark-plan 2) was released in July 2012. Shark-plan 2 encourages improved management of shark populations and aligns with international commitments, including the International Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks. Shark-plan 2 focuses on a range of issues for action, including five high priority issues. These five issues relate to species identification: data collection and research, stock assessments, and management performance. The Australian Government finalised a review of Shark-plan 2 in 2018 and agreed to continue the current approach. Legislation of some Australian States and the Commonwealth provides for the listing and protection of threatened shark species. Currently there are nine shark species that are protected in Australian waters. A Shark-plan Representative Group (SRG)

monitors implementation of Shark-plan 2 and provides updates and progress reports against actions.

ABARES published the Shark Assessment Report 2022 (SAR 2018) on 18 July 2024. The report provides a synthesis of management arrangements, catch and sustainability of sharks across Australia. This report is a commitment under the UN FAO IPOA Sharks and Australia's National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks. Shark assessment report 2022 - DAFF

The Report found that the standard of Australian fisheries management processes is widely acknowledged to be high, and Australia can demonstrate progress against the goals outlined by the FAO. The next Shark Assessment Report has been circulated to members of the Shark-plan Representative Group, including state and Northern Territory governments and will be publicly released in due course.
As a member of the IOTC and WCPFC, which have adopted the following measures for the conservation and management of sharks, Australia is compliant with the following measures adopted by these Commissions:
The WCPFC adopted:

- CMM 2025-06 - Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks

The IOTC has adopted:

- Resolution 25/08 On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC.
- Resolution 25/09 On the conservation of shortfin and longfin mako sharks caught in association with IOTC fisheries.

- *FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations:*

  Interactions between sea turtles and pelagic longline fisheries in the Australian Fishing Zone are rare, particularly in areas where SBT are targeted. Australia considers that current sea turtle bycatch management and mitigation measures in place in its pelagic longline fisheries, principally the ETBF and WTBF fulfil Australia's obligations with FAO-Sea turtles.

  Australia is also compliant with IOTC Resolution 12/04: On the Conservation of Marine Turtles and WCPFC CMM 2018-04 - Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles. Additionally, the Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia was developed by the then Department of the Environment and Energy and adopted in 2003 and has been updated in 2017. The primary objective of the plan is to reduce the detrimental impacts on Australian populations of sea turtles and promote their recovery in the wild.

ii. *Specify whether all current binding and recommendatory measures[9] aimed at the protection of ecologically related species[10] from fishing of the following tuna RFMOs are being complied with. If not, specify which measures are not being complied with and the progress that is being made towards compliance:*

- *IOTC, when fishing within IOTC's Convention Area:*

  As provided previously Australia complies with all current binding and nonbinding measures adopted by IOTC aimed at the protection of ERS (including

[9] *Relevant measures of these RFMOs can be found at: https://www.ccsbt.org/en/content/bycatch-mitigation.*
[10] *Including seabirds, sea turtles and sharks.*

seabirds, sharks and sea turtles) from fishing. Australia collects data on ERS and reports these on an annual basis to the scientific committees of IOTC and CCSBT. Australia's national reports to meetings of the scientific committees of IOTC provide full details on Australia's efforts to mitigate the impact of fishing for SBT on ERS. Australia's report to the ERSWG also presents this information for all Australian fisheries in which SBT is targeted or interacted with.

- *WCPFC, when fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area:*

  As provided previously Australia complies with all current binding and nonbinding measures adopted by WCPFC aimed at the protection of ERS (including seabirds, sharks and sea turtles) from fishing. Australia collects data on ERS and reports these on an annual basis to the scientific committees of WCPFC and CCSBT. Australia's national reports to meetings of the scientific committees of WCPFC provide full details on Australia's efforts to mitigate the impact of fishing for SBT on ERS. Australia's report to the ERSWG also presents this information for all Australian fisheries in which SBT is targeted or interacted with.

- *ICCAT, when fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*

  Australia does not fish in the ICCAT area.

iii. *Specify whether data is being collected and reported on ecologically related species in accordance with the requirements of the following tuna RFMOs. If data are not being collected and reported in accordance with these requirements, specify which measures are not being complied with and the progress that is being made towards compliance:-*

- *CCSBT[11]:*

  Yes

- *IOTC, for fishing within IOTC's Convention Area:*

  Yes

- *WCPFC, for fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area:*

  Yes

- *ICCAT, for fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*

  Australia does not fish in the ICCAT area.

  Australia collects data on ERS and reports these on an annual basis to CCSBT and its subsidiary bodies (including the Compliance Committee on an annual basis, and the Ecologically Related Species Working Group when the working group meets).

  Australia's national reports to meetings of the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group provides full details on Australia's efforts to mitigate the impact of fishing for SBT on ERS.

[11] *Current CCSBT requirements are those in the Scientific Observer Program Standards and those necessary for completing the template for the annual report to the ERSWG.*

Australia endeavours to comply with all IOTC and WCPFC data requirements. In one case, for the IOTC in 2024, Australia was found non-compliant for size frequency data for coastal fisheries. Australia did not report this data as it is currently not available.

(b) Mitigation – describe the current mitigation requirements:

Seabird mitigation requirements

As provided previously (Annex 1 Section 2a), the 2018 TAP is a legislative instrument that directs mandatory seabird bycatch management measures and applies to all longline fisheries managed by the Australian Government.

The following mitigation measures are prescribed for Australian longline boats in accordance with the requirement of the 2018 TAP:
At all times the holder must ensure:

a) The boat nominated to this concession carries on board more than one assembled tori line. Each tori line must be constructed and used in accordance with the following specifications:
    i. must be 100 meters in length
    ii. must be deployed from a position on board the boat and utilise an additional towed line, material or object to create drag and ensure that it remains above the water surface for a minimum of 75 metres from the stern of the boat;
    iii. must have streamers attached to it with a maximum interval between the streamers of 3.5 metres;
    iv. all streamers must be maintained to ensure their lengths are as close to the water surface as possible.
b) When fishing south of the parallel of latitude 25 degrees South:
    i. non-frozen baits are attached to the hooks; and
    ii. prior to longlines entering the water he/she deploys a separate tori line at each point at which hooks enter the water. All tori lines must comply with part (a) above;
    iii. a tori line is not required to be deployed when performing fishing operations between the hours of nautical dusk and nautical dawn; and
    iv. longlines are set with either a minimum of:
        a. 40-gram weights immediately adjacent to the hook, or at no more than 0.5 metres from each hook
        b. 60-gram weights at a distance of no more than 3.5 metres from each hook; or
        c. 98-gram weights at a distance of no more than 4 metres from each hook; or
        d. a hook-shielding device attached and deployed directly to each hook according to ACAP specifications.
c) The boat nominated to this concession carries on board a minimum of one dehooking device, the purpose of which is to enable hooks embedded in bycatch species to be removed with minimum damage to the fish or protected species. The device must be constructed and used in accordance with the following specifications:
    i. The device must enable the hook to be secured and the barb shielded so that the barb does not re-engage with the

fish or protected species while the hook is being removed;
ii. The device must be blunt with all edges rounded;
iii. Where more than one size of hook is to be carried, a dehooking device (or devices) must be carried that can be used with all hooks on the boat; and
iv. The shaft of the device must be a minimum of 1.5 metres in length.

d) The boat nominated to this concession carries on board a minimum of one line cutting device. The line cutting device must be constructed and used in accordance with the following specifications:
i. The device must be constructed to allow the line to be cut as close to the hook as possible;
ii. The blade of the device must be enclosed in a blunt rounded (arc-shaped) cover with the hook exposed on the inside of the arc;
iii. The shaft of the device must be a minimum of 1.5 metres in length.

Shark mitigation requirements

Australia is fully compliant with the IOTC and WCPFC conservation and management measures outlined in Annex 1 Section 2(a) i.

The following mitigation measures are prescribed for concession holders of Australian longline boats:

- a ban on the use of wire leaders;
- must not take more sharks than the number of tuna and billfish quota species taken per trip to a maximum limit of 20 sharks per trip, excluding school shark, gummy shark, elephant fish (*Callorhinchidae*), chimaerids (*Chimaeridae* and *Rhinochimaeridae*) and sawshark which are quota managed species. This limit does not apply to great white sharks and grey nurse sharks, which are no-take TEP species;
- prohibited from carrying, retaining, or landing all shark dorsal, pectoral and caudal, fins that are not attached to their carcass;
- prohibited from carrying, retaining and landing livers obtained from sharks unless the individual carcasses from which the livers were obtained are also landed;
- prohibited from retaining oceanic white tip sharks and silky sharks.

Turtle mitigation requirements

As provided previously (Annex 1 Section 2a), Australia is also compliant with IOTC Resolution 12/04: On the Conservation of Marine Turtles and WCPFC CMM 2018-04 - Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles. The concession holder must use large circle hooks if less than 268 hooks per bubble are set. It is also compulsory to carry line cutters and de-hookers. In addition, a video 'Crossing the line: sea turtle handling guidelines for the longline fishing industry' has been produced by the Australian Fisheries Research and Development Corporation to help the Australian longline fishing industry minimise its impact on sea turtle populations. It shows how to use de-hooking devices on deck and on turtles still in the water, how to safely bring turtles aboard and handle them on deck, how to help comatose turtles recover and how to release them back into the water. Similarly, AFMA conducts regular port visits in the ETBF to provide de-hookers to all boats with instructions on how to use

them and on safe handling of sea turtles. Interactions with the purse seine fishery are negligible and there has been no need to develop mitigation measures for this sector.

Australia continues to support research on mitigation measures to reduce interactions with ERS including methods to increase line sink rates; new tori line designs; weighting regimes and underwater bait setting regimes. Australia reports the status and results of this research to the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group.

(c) Monitoring usage of bycatch mitigation measures:

i. *Describe the methods being used to monitor compliance with bycatch mitigation measures (e.g. types of port inspections conducted and other monitoring and surveillance programs used to monitor compliance). Include details of the level of coverage (e.g. proportion of vessels inspected each year):*
Australia uses a number of methods to monitor compliance, including compliance with bycatch mitigation measures. These methods include electronic monitoring, observer reports, vessel monitoring system, aerial surveillance, at sea inspections and port inspections.

Australian fisheries officers conduct inspections of landings at key SBT ports, as well as at sea boarding's and inspections of boats taking SBT in the longline and farm sectors. In 2024/25 Australian fisheries officers conducted 20 SBT inspections, 4 at sea and 16 in port. Two minor logbook offences were detected; a warning was issued to one operator for failing to record a SBT mortality and the other operator was educated when they failed to complete their log due to a system error. AFMA Management officers also attended ports during the course of the season to ensure fishers were aware of their obligations in relation to bycatch mitigation.

ii. *Describe the type of information that is collected on mitigation measures as part of compliance programmes for SBT vessels:*

The information collected on mitigation measures includes;

- whether bycatch mitigation, such as tori lines, is being carried on board the vessel,
- whether bycatch mitigation has been deployed appropriately
- whether the bycatch mitigation complies with specifications.

Appendix 1. CCSBT Authorised Vessel Resolution

The flag Members and Co-operating Non-members of the vessels on the record shall:

a) authorize their FVs to fish for SBT only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the CCSBT Convention and its conservation and management measures;

b) take necessary measures to ensure that their FVs comply with all the relevant CCSBT conservation and management measures;

c) take necessary measures to ensure that their FVs on the CCSBT Record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish and/or tranship;

d) affirm that if those vessels have record of IUU fishing activities, the owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that they will not conduct such activities anymore;

e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their FVs on the CCSBT Record are not engaged in or associated with fishing activities for SBT conducted by FVs not entered into the CCSBT Record;

f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the FVs on the CCSBT Record are citizens or legal entities within the flag Members and Co-operating Non-members so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.